

GLIMPSE OF THE AFTERLIFE

WEEK 2: THE HEAT IS ON (IT'S NO JOKE)

Welcome

Answer **one** of the following questions: If there was a “Heavenly Yelp” or “Hellish TripAdvisor,” what do you think the reviews would say? Suppose you’re an angel or demon tasked with marketing Heaven or Hell to humans... what’s your pitch?

Worship

When it comes to your spiritual growth in a Life Group, transparency is paramount. The fallout from pretending like “you have it all together” can be catastrophic for those you love the most. So, if the Lord leads you, share something that you’re currently struggling with in life. While you don’t have to share details or specific context of your struggle if you don’t want to, you shouldn’t go through your struggles alone. Then, have a time of prayer for those struggles that were spoken and unspoken.

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Word

1. How do Mark 9:43-48 and Luke 16:24-26 describe Hell? What does Jesus' use of the word Gehenna teach us about Hell?

2. In the video lesson, Caleb indicated the existence of Hell underscored God's holiness. How does the reality of Hell underscore the holiness of God, the seriousness of sin, and the importance of personal responsibility?

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3. Read **Isaiah 14:12-15** and **Revelation 12:7-9** and answer the following: What specifically caused Lucifer to rebel against God and fall from heaven? (HINT: **Proverbs 16:18** and **1 Timothy 3:6**)
How do our sinful decisions imitate Lucifer's rebellion?

4. Read **Zechariah 3:1-5** and answer the following: Who are the characters in this story? What's happening in this story? Have you ever felt like Joshua—standing in filthy garments before God? How so? Where do you see grace and redemption in this story?

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5. What do 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9 say about Christians and God's wrath? How can Christians effectively communicate the hope of redemption through Jesus to those who have created their own personal Hell on earth or are uncertain about their standing with God?

Witness

Give an update on the person that you want to share Jesus with and discuss the following question: How should the reality of Hell influence our passion and willingness to share Jesus with unbelievers?

If you or others in your group are struggling alone in life, please check out some of our short-term and long-term support groups: <https://shepherdchurch.com/supportgroups>

Personal Reflection & Deeper Study for the Week

- Memorize 1 Thessalonians 1:10 or 1 Thessalonians 5:9 or both.
- Read Revelation 12:1-12; Isaiah 14:12-15; and Ezekiel 28:13-17 (where God is using the King of Tyre as a metaphor for Satan) and reflect on the following prompts:

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Personal Reflection & Deeper Study for the Week (cont.)

- o How is Satan described before he fell from heaven?
- o How is Satan's fall from heaven described?
- o Why do some assume that Satan is equal to God in power?
- o When Satan was in heaven, what kind of influence did Satan have over other angels?

• How do you reconcile the existence of Hell with the notion of a loving and merciful God? How can God's justice and mercy coexist?

• In Zechariah 3:1-5, the Angel of the Lord is present for Joshua's judgment before God. There are times in the Old Testament when the "Angel of the Lord" seems to be God (a theophany—an appearing of God on earth). More specifically, the Angel of the Lord appears to be Jesus as many scholars believe anytime God dealt with humanity, it was through the second Person of the Trinity (a Christophany—an appearing of Jesus on earth under the Old Covenant times). Read Genesis 16:7-14; Exodus 3; Numbers 22:21-41; Judges 2:1-5; Zechariah 3:1-5; and reflect on the following prompts:

- o How does the Angel of the Lord speak as if He is God Himself?
- o What characteristics does the Angel of the Lord share with God?
- o How do the humans who are interacting with the Angel of the Lord seem to be reacting (or not reacting) as if they are speaking to God Himself?