

LESSON TEN

THE FINAL DESTINY OF MAN

A. JESUS TAUGHT THAT THERE IS LIFE AFTER DEATH:

Scriptural References:

"And it came to pass, that the beggar died...And in hell he lift up his eyes being in torment..." (Luke 16:22-23).

"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (Matthew 25:46).

"And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).

On many occasions Jesus taught immortality—that there was life after death.

Jesus spoke of this existence in eternity as being "life eternal" and "everlasting punishment." If life is eternal and punishment is everlasting, then there is no end to eternity, and there is no end to the existence of the human soul.

Jesus taught this truth very clearly in the story of the beggar and the rich man and also in His words to the thief on the cross.

B. JESUS TAUGHT THAT THERE IS A RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD:

Scriptural References:

"...And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:29).

"Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:54).

"And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just" (Luke 14:14).

Jesus did more than teach a resurrection, He actually raised people from the dead. He demonstrated the fact that He had power over death and was the great resurrector. He declared to Martha, *"I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead yet shall he live."*

In teaching that there would be a resurrection, Jesus said that there would be a (1) Resurrection of life and (2) Resurrection of damnation. He spoke about the resurrection of life as being the resurrection of the just. In dividing the resurrection thus, Jesus did not teach that these two resurrections were identical with the First and Second Resurrections taught elsewhere in the

Scriptures. As far as the time element was concerned, He simply said, "*at the last day.*" The meaning is simply that both the saved and the unsaved would be resurrected at the proper time.

C. JESUS TAUGHT THAT THERE IS A JUDGMENT AFTER DEATH:

Scriptural References:

"For unto every one that hath shall be given...And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 25:29-30).

"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (Matthew 25:46).

In the above Scriptures we read that Jesus taught two distinct judgments.

The first Scripture is taken from the Parable of the Talents and here Jesus taught a judgment, which would take place for our faithfulness. Rewards will be handed to the saints on the basis of faithfulness. Jesus also taught this truth in the Parable of the Pounds (Luke 19:11-28) and the Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16).

In the parable of the laborers every man received one penny. The time spent in the field did not affect his wages. It was faithfulness to that to which he had been called that counted.

In Matthew 25:46 Jesus was speaking of the Judgment of the Nations. This judgment takes place here upon earth at Armageddon. However, we must note the significance of the fact that the judgments were eternal in nature.

D. JESUS TAUGHT ONLY TWO DESTINIES OF MAN:

Scriptural Reference:

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13-14).

Jesus made it very clear that there are only two destinies for man. This one Scripture is actually all that we need although there are many other Scriptures to verify this truth.

All men are travelling upon one of two roads: the narrow road and the broad way. The strait and narrow road leads to life; the broad way leads to destruction.

E. JESUS TAUGHT THAT THERE IS AN ETERNAL HOME PREPARED FOR THE REDEEMED:

Scriptural Reference:

"...In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you..." (John 14:1-3).

Jesus taught that Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. He described this eternal home as being:

1. Father's house with many mansions;

2. Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:22);
3. Paradise (Luke 23:43).

Jesus told His disciples that there were many mansions in His Father's house and He assured them that if this were not a fact He would tell them.

Paradise is the place where the redeemed await the resurrection. It is a place of conscious rest. In the story of the beggar and the rich man Jesus taught that Paradise was a compartment of Sheol with a gulf separating it from Hades. It was because of this that Jesus was able to visit both Paradise and Hades during the three days that He was in the tomb (Luke 23:43; Acts 2:31).

F. JESUS TAUGHT THAT THERE IS A LAKE OF FIRE PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS:

Scriptural References:

"Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41).

"...To go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched..." (Mark 9:43-48).

It would seem that Jesus taught more about the eternal destiny of the wicked than He did about the eternal home of the redeemed. Jesus described the horrors of hell in very vivid language. He taught the following facts about this terrible place:

1. There will be memory there (Luke 16:25);
2. There will be torment there (Luke 16:24);
3. There will be remorse there (Luke 16:27-28);
4. The worm never dies (Mark 9:46);
5. The fire is never quenched (Mark 9:46);
6. There is outer darkness (Matthew 25:30);
7. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 25:30);
8. It was prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41).

LESSON TEN

SELF HELP TEST

- A. By using Scripture prove that there are only TWO destinies for man.
- B. For whom is Heaven prepared?
- C. Quote Scripture to prove your answer.
- D. For whom is Hell prepared?
- E. Quote Scripture to prove your answer.
- F. What two persons did Jesus teach were living in eternity? Give Scripture reference for each.
- | <u>NAME:</u> | <u>SCRIPTURE:</u> |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ |
- G. Write a paragraph describing Hell as Jesus described it.