

(Even Logic, akin to Reason, suggests one of the strongest arguments, apart from the Bible, for immortality.) Who can watch by a deathbed and believe in extinction, especially when the dying one is enabled to cross the chilly waters of death sustained by vision and voices from the other side? Transition to another world is overwhelmingly borne in upon one's mind as we witness the old house being vacated and the tenant leaving for another country. Before we come to the scriptural evidence regarding the indestructibility of personality, let us take a look at the witness of the races to the continuity of existence after death.

Professor James Orr in his great work, *The Christian View of God*, reminds us “that nearly every tribe and people on the face of the earth, savage and civilized, has held in some form this belief in a future state of existence”. (Writing on their catholic belief, M. Renouff expresses a similar observation: “A belief in the persistence of life after death and the observance of religious practices founded upon the belief, may be discovered in every part of the world, in every age, and among men representing every degree and variety of culture.”) Pagan ideas may appear to be crude, but the crudity does not invalidate the value of the ideas. While we cannot squeeze perfect conceptions of Eternity into the band-box of one generation of many, and (no two nations may agree as to the exact nature of the after-life, nevertheless the light is there, although it may not be as full as we have it.)

When men reject the Bible as their guide, and fail to seek the light of a Divine revelation on such a solemn theme as *The Hereafter*, how they grope in darkness! The unproved and unproven theory of Evolution has the tendency to present man as a self-evolved, self-sustained being, a highly-evolved animal who, like all other animals, moulders into dust at death, and becomes extinct. Homer, the traditional Greek epic poet of 850 B.C., (expressed such extinction in his pathetic picture of the fading and

falling autumn leaves, and then swept away by winter winds).

More than any other Old Testament writer, David lived in the realm of certainty regarding the glorious future once the numbering of his days on earth was finished. When his child by Bathsheba died, King David surprised the mourners by saying, “I will go to him, but he will not return to me” (2 Sam. 12:23). The bereaved father had no doubt in the continued existence of his infant son beyond death; and the expected reunion with the child, David, with his intense, emotional nature dearly loved, along with identity and recognition are directly implied in David’s beautiful expression. Principal Garvie wrote that “Human affection is the measure of its intensity, elevation and purity demands continuance, challenges death’s right to end the loving fellowship of kindred souls.” Tennyson offers us the same line of reason in his *In Memoriam*. The poet felt that his deep love for another would not have been called into being simply to be mocked by death. The deep love binding Tennyson and young Hallam together compelled the poet to declare his belief that his much-loved companion lived, and so concludes his remarkable poem:

Dear heavenly friend, that canst not die;
Mine, mine, forever, ever mine ...
Far off thou art, but ever nigh;
I have thee still, and I rejoice;
I prosper, circled with thy voice;
I shall not lose thee tho’ I die.

All through *The Psalms* hope springs eternal and the fore-gleams of a conscious existence in the House of the Lord forever are numerous. Here are a few passages that speak for themselves:

“My flesh also shall rest in hope. For Thou wilt not leave my soul in the grave; neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see

corruption. ... At Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore” (Psalm 16:9-11).

Luke cites this portion as a prophecy of the Resurrection of Christ (Acts 2:24-31), as, of course, it was. But what David wrote is likewise true of every born-again believer: Death is only a transition into the presence of God where the fullness of joy is to be experienced.

There is a heritage of joy,
That yet I must not see.
The Hand that bled to make it mine,
Is keeping it for me.

The consummation of the believer’s satisfaction can be found in David’s prayer, “As for me, I will behold Thy face in righteousness, I shall be satisfied, when I awake, in Thy likeness” (Psalm 17:15). Here we have the same high, exultant assurance of an after-life, with its complete identification with the Lord of Glory.

A World Without Tears

“He hath swallowed up death for ever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the reproach of His people will He take away from off all the earth: for Jehovah hath spoken it” (25:8).

The certainty of Heaven as a tearless world can be found in the latter phrase, Jehovah hath spoken it. Isaiah’s language is laid hold of both by Paul and John to declare Christ’s grand victory and ringing cry of triumph over death (see 1 Cor. 15:56-57; Rev. 7:17; 21:4).

At the funeral of Dr. John Mason Neale, of whom Archbishop Trench said, “He is the most profoundly learned hymnologist of our Church,” his friends sang a special favourite of his, the first verse of which reads:

Safe home, safe home, in port!
Rent cordage, shattered deck,
Torn sails, provisions short,
And only not a wreck;
But oh! The joy upon the shore,
To tell our voyage – perils o'er!

Another Pauline figure of “Death” is that of a Removal in which a tent is exchanged for a house. “If the earthly house of our tent be taken down, we have from God a building, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Cor. 5:1). As the striking of a tent when he wrote:

Fold up the tent! The sun is in the west;
This house was only lent
For my apprenticeship,
And God knows best.

Fold up the tent!
Its slack ropes all undone,
It's pole all broken, and its cover rent,
Its work is done.

Life below is a pilgrimage, with the temporary abode of a fragile tent. Here we have no permanent residence, we seek one to come, and Death will be the pulling up of the tent pegs, the rolling up of the canvas and a journey into an abiding place above.

Here in the body pent
Absent from Him I roam,
Yet nightly pitch my moving tent
A day's march nearer Home.

We shall not be in Heaven for more than one-five minutes before we discover that –

SECONDS

Christ is the heart of Heaven,
Its fullness and its bliss;
The centre of the heavenly throng,
The object of the ransomed's song,
Is Jesus in the midst.

John, the Apostle of Love, who had leaned on Jesus' bosom, lived so close to Heaven that a breath could have wafted him there. What a longing he had to see the Lamb in all His Glory in Immanuel's Land (Rev. 5:6-14; 7:9, 10, 17; 14:1-3; 15:3, 4). Had he known the lines of Horatius Bonar, he would have sung them from his heart:

When I shall gaze upon the Face of Him
Who died for me, with eye no longer dim,
And praise Him with the everlasting hymn,
I shall be satisfied.

How assuring and comforting are the following anonymous verses:

He and I together entering
Those fair courts above,
He and I together sharing,
All the Father's love.

Where no shade nor stain can enter,
Nor the gold be dim,
In that holiness unsullied
I shall walk with Him.

CREEDS OF THE CHRISTIANITY

CHURCHES HAVE BELIEVED – TAUGHT
THAT CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD – GOD VERY
GOD
THAT HE WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD
THAT HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN
THAT HE IS COMING AGAIN
THAT ALL THE DEAD WILL BE RAISED
BOTH WICKED AND RIGHTEOUS
THAT THE LIVING WILL BE CHANGED
INTO ANOTHER FORM
THAT THERE WILL BE A GENERAL JUDGMENT
ALL WILL GIVE ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF TO GOD
THAT THE RIGHTEOUS WILL INHERIT HEAVEN
FOR EVER AND EVER
THAT THE WICKED WILL INHERIT HELL
FOR EVER AND FOR EVER

WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED UP YONDER
WE WILL BE THERE –
THE END OF TIME

**RELIGIOUS GROUPS WHO BELIEVE
IN THE
SECOND COMING OF CHRIST
RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD
A GENERAL JUDGMENT DAY
CONSIGNMENT TO
HEAVEN OR HELL**

**Allegheny Wesleyan Methodist Connection,
(Original Allegheny Conference)**

Christ's Return: Members believe in Christ's imminent, bodily return. This will include a triumph over all evil.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven is the final home of every righteous person. Hell is the final doom of ungodly believers.

American Association of Lutheran Churches

Christ's Return: Christ will return in glory on the last day to judge the living and the dead.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven is the reality of eternal life in the presence of God. Hell is the reality of eternal separation from the presence of God.

American Baptist Association

Christ's Return: American Baptists believe in the premillennial, personal, bodily return of Christ as the crowning event of the Gentile age.

Heaven/Hell: The bodily return of Christ will include the resurrection of the righteous to eternal heaven. The Millennium will be followed by the resurrection of the unrighteous into eternal

punishment in the lake of fire and then the righteous shall enter into the heaven age.

American Evangelical Christian Churches

Christ's Return: The next great event in the fulfillment of prophecy will be the imminent, personal return of the Lord in the air to receive into heaven those who are alive and remain on earth at His coming, and those who have fallen asleep in Him.

American Rescue Workers

Christ's Return: The Lord Jesus will come again. Those alive at His coming shall not precede those that are asleep in Christ Jesus. Those abiding with Him will be caught up with the risen saints to meet with the Lord in the air and will be with Him forever.

Heaven/Hell: Glorious and everlasting life is assured to all who believe in, and obediently follow, Jesus Christ. The impenitent shall suffer eternally in hell.

Angelic Orthodox Church

Christ's Return: Christ is now seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven and He shall one day return in glory to claim those who have trusted in Him. Regarding the time of His return, no one knows either the day or the hour.

Heaven/Hell: God has created a heavenly home for those who love Him and who come to Him by faith in Christ. God also made people with free will, so they

may choose to accept or reject Him. Those who do not accept Christ as their Savior must pay the penalty for their own sins in a place of eternal torment known as hell.

Apostolic Christian Church of America

Christ's Return: At the return of Christ, his bride, the glorious church (which includes the saints of all ages), will become fully manifested.

Heaven/Hell: Both the saved and the lost will be resurrected—the saved unto eternal life in heaven and the lost unto eternal damnation in hell.

Armenian Church, The

Christ's Return: The church believes in the second coming of Jesus Christ as specified in the Nicene Creed, which states, "He is to come with the same body and with the glory of the Father to judge the living and the dead; of His kingdom there is no end."

Heaven/Hell: The Kingdom of heaven is specified in the Armenian version of the Nicene Creed. The church also believes in the existence of hell and in the concept of eternal damnation for sinners.

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, The

Christ's Return: He shall come again to judge the living and the dead.

Heaven/Hell: Both are literal places.

Association of Independent Methodists

Christ's Return: Christ's return will be premillennial and pretribulation.

Heaven/Hell: Both are scriptural.

Association of Seventh Day Pentecostal Assemblies

Christ's Return: His second coming is personal, imminent, and the blessed hope of the church.

Heaven/Hell: Seventh Day Pentecostal Assemblies believe in a literal heaven, hell, and a lake of fire.

Baptist Bible Fellowship, International

Christ's Return: Jesus shall return bodily, personally, and visibly. The dead in Christ shall rise first. The living saints shall be changed in a moment of the last trump.

Heaven/Hell: The Baptist Bible Fellowship believes in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

Baptist General Conference

Christ's Return: The church believes in the personal and visible return of Jesus to earth and the establishment of His Kingdom.

Heaven/Hell: The BGC believes in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the felicity of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

Baptist Missionary Association of America

Christ's Return: Jesus Christ will return personally in bodily form to receive His redeemed unto Himself. His return is

imminent. After Jesus returns, all the dead will be raised bodily, each to his own order; the righteous: dead in the resurrection of life and the wicked dead in the resurrection of damnation.

Bible Fellowship Church

Christ's Return: Christ's return will be personal and premillennial.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven and hell are both eternal places and states.

Bible Holiness Church

Christ's Return: The church is looking for Christ's return anytime.

Heaven/Hell: There is a literal heaven and hell.

Bible Methodist Connection of Churches

Christ's Return: The doctrine of the second coming is a very precious truth and this good hope is a powerful inspiration to holy living and godly effort for the evangelization of the world. The imminent coming of Christ will be a bodily return to the earth and He will cause the fulfillment of all evil.

Heaven/Hell: The righteous dead will be resurrected at Christ's second coming and the resurrection of the wicked will occur at a later time. Resurrection will be the reuniting of soul and body preparatory to final reward or punishment. There is a literal heaven and hell.

Bible Missionary Church

Heaven/Hell: The church believes in a literal heaven, the eternal abode of all redeemed and purified believers, and a literal hell for all who would reject Christ as a personal Savior, the final punishment for all who are disobedient to God's Word.

Brethren in Christ Church

Christ's Return: The return of Christ in power and glory is certain and may occur at any time. No one knows when He will come. The conflict between God and Satan, and good and evil, will intensify at the approach of the end of this age. At Christ's return, the enemies of God will be conquered and the reign of God will be established forever.

Heaven/Hell: Both are realities: the former for those who have trusted Christ and obediently followed Him, the latter for those who have rejected Christ and His offer of salvation. Those who reject Christ will be punished with everlasting destruction in hell, eternally shut out from the presence of God.

Bruderhof Communities, Inc.

Christ's Return: No one knows the date and hour when the end will be. Only the Father knows.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven and hell are realities.

Charismatic Episcopal Church

Christ's Return: Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

Christian and Missionary Alliance

Christ's Return: The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent and will be personal, visible, and premillennial. This is the believer's blessed hope, and it is a vital truth which is an incentive to holy and faithful service.

Heaven/Hell: There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust. For the former, there will be a resurrection to life; for the latter, resurrection to judgment. The prospect for the impenitent and unbelieving person is existence forever in conscious torment. That of the believer in Christ is to have everlasting joy and bliss.

Christian Churches and Churches of Christ

Christ's Return: Christian Churches believe in the future punishment of the wicked and the future reward of the righteous.

Heaven/Hell: Christian Churches believe in the future punishment of the wicked and the future reward of the righteous.

Christian Church of North America, The General Council

Christ's Return: Before the millennium, the Lord will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God. The dead in Christ shall rise first. Then, those that are alive and are left shall together with them be caught

up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

Heaven/Hell: There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and unjust. The righteous will have eternal life but the unjust shall go into everlasting punishment. There they will be thrust out from the presence of God, away from the light, the joy, and everlasting presence of the Savior. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth with agony, wrath, and despair.

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, The

Christ's Return: Christ, who ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father, will come again to judge the living and the dead. No one knows when.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven and hell are terms that convey everlasting human relationships with God. Heaven is the eternal enjoyment of a perfect relationship with God and others. Hell is to be without a perfect relationship with God here and beyond time.

Christian Pilgrim Church

Christ's Return: Christ will return again.

Heaven/Hell: There is a literal heaven and hell – heaven to gain, hell to shun.

Christian Reformed Church in North America

Christ's return: Christ will return bodily and take to Himself all believers. This one-time return will thereby establish His eternal, perfect Kingdom.

Heaven/Hell: Those who have been saved by grace through faith will live with Christ in eternal paradise. Those who reject Him will suffer the pains of hell.

Church of Christ (Holiness) of the United States of America

Christ's Return: The Lord Jesus Christ will return to rapture the church and to judge the living and the dead.

Heaven/Hell: There is an actual place called heaven (the eternal home of the Christian) and a place called hell (the eternal home of the lost).

Church of Christ (No Sunday School)

Christ's Return: Christ will come again. The time of His return is unknown.

Heaven/Hell: The Church of Christ believes in heaven as the eternal home of the redeemed. Hell is the final abode of the devil and his angels and all those who serve him.

Church of God, The

Christ's Return: The blessed hope of the gospel is the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the resurrection and change of the righteous of the earth.

Heaven/Hell: There is eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

Church of God (Anderson, IN), The

Christ's Return: Christ will return a second time, but that return is not connected to the millennium. The Kingdom of God is ongoing.

Heaven/Hell: There will be rewards for the righteous and punishment of the unrighteous.

Church of God by Faith, Inc.

Christ's Return: Jesus Christ will return again. He will come quickly and His reward is with Him.

Heaven/Hell: The saints will be with the Lord forever. Those whose names are not found in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire.

Church of God (Cleveland, TN)

Christ's Return: Christ's return will be premillennial. At that time, all believers will be caught up in the air to be with Him.

Heaven/Hell: There is a literal heaven and hell. All God's children go to heaven. All others go to hell, where they will experience eternal torment.

Church of God (Evening Light)

Christ's Return: Someday Christ will return. At that time, every person will be brought forth and awarded with heaven or hell.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven is the eternal dwelling place of God, as well as the reward for those who accept the redemption which was purchased at Calvary by Christ. Hell is the dwelling place of the devil and his angels, and the place of punishment for those who reject Christ.

Church of God (O'Beirn), The

Christ's Return: Christ's return will follow a great chaotic period in the

future. He will return to save His people and establish His Kingdom.

Heaven/Hell: The resurrection will occur according to 1 Corinthians 15, after which the wicked will receive their retribution.

Church of God of Prophecy

Christ's Return: Christ will personally return in power and glory before the millennium to resurrect the dead saints and to catch away the living saints to meet Him in the air.

Heaven/Hell: There is eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

Church of God of the Union Assembly, The

Christ's Return: Christ will return, and this second coming will signal the end of time.

Heaven/Hell: There is a literal heaven and hell. Those who profess Christ will go to heaven. Those who reject Him will go to hell.

Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America

Heaven/Hell: Scripture teaches the eternal reality of both heaven and hell. Heaven is the eternal destiny, the gift of God, to all those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior. Hell is the destiny of all those who do not believe in Jesus Christ as Savior.

Church of the Lutheran Confession

Christ's Return: Christ will return again to judge the quick and the dead as confessed in the Apostolic Creed.

Heaven/Hell: There is a literal heaven and hell. One's personal judgment occurs at death.

Church of the Nazarene

Christ's Return: The Church of the Nazarene affirms that Christ will physically come again, but it takes no official stand on millennial theories.

Heaven/Hell: The dead will be resurrected to be joined with their spirits. Every person will be judged according to their deeds in life. Glorious and everlasting life is assured to all who savingly believe in, and obediently follow, Jesus Christ. The finally impenitent shall suffer eternally in hell.

Church of the United Brethren in Christ

Christ's Return: Jesus Christ will come again on the last day to judge the living and the dead.

Heaven/Hell: The Church of the United Brethren in Christ believes in a literal heaven and hell.

Congregational Holiness Church

Christ's Return: The church believes in the imminent, personal, and premillennial second coming of Jesus Christ.

Heaven/Hell: All who die out of Christ will be punished eternally, but those who die in Him shall share in His glory forever.

Congregational Methodist Church

Christ's Return: At the last day, Christ will return in bodily form to judge all men. The first resurrection

of the dead shall occur at His premillennial second coming in which the saved dead shall be resurrected and living saints raptured. The second resurrection shall be after the millennium when the unsaved dead shall be resurrected at the great white throne judgment.

Heaven/Hell:

The wicked suffer forever in the lake of fire. There is no purgatory where a sinner gets a second chance to redeem himself.

Conservative Baptist of America (CBAmerica)

Christ's Return:

Jesus Christ will return to take His bride, the church, out from the wrath promised for this world into heaven (this is called the rapture or relocation of the body of Christ). This second coming occurs when Jesus Christ returns from heaven, with His church to the earth, to victoriously conclude the battle of Armageddon and begin the millennial reign.

Heaven/Hell:

There is a very literal heaven and hell, as the permanent dwelling place of all living creatures. Heaven is for God's righteous chosen people, born-again believers in Jesus Christ, and unfallen angels. Hell, or the lake of fire, is for all unrepentant sinners, unbelievers in Jesus Christ, and fallen angels. Heaven and Hell are everlasting and permanent for their inhabitants.

Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

Christ's Return: The church expects Christ's personal return in power and glory, but individuals differ as to the sequence of events associated with His return.

Heaven/Hell: Both the saved and the lost will be resurrected: the saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

Conservative Lutheran Association

Christ's Return: Jesus will return when he chooses one more time. At His coming, there will be a simultaneous resurrection of the dead and the living.

Heaven/Hell: At the second coming of Christ, all will be judged. There is a literal heaven and hell.

Conservative Mennonite Conference

Christ's Return: The return of Christ is personal, certain, and imminent.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven is the place of everlasting glory and bliss to which the regenerated and cleansed children of God are ushered. The unjust are cast into everlasting punishment and torment in hell. Satan, death, and hell will be cast into the lake of fire and the glorious reign of the Kingdom of God will be eternally fulfilled.

Cumberland Presbyterian Church and Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America

Christ's Return: In the consummation of history, at the coming of Jesus Christ, the kingdoms of the world shall

become the Kingdom of the Lord and of the Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.

Heaven/Hell:

Those who have been regenerated in Christ live with joyful and confident expectation that after death their redemption will be complete in the resurrection of the body. As in regeneration, the whole person is resurrected to new life in Christ, so in the resurrection of the dead, the whole person is raised to live in and enjoy the presence of God forever. Those who reject God's salvation in Jesus Christ remain alienated from God and in hopeless bondage to sin and death, which is hell.

Deliverance Evangelistic Centers, Inc.

Christ's Return:

This is a prominent theme in Acts, the epistles, and Revelation. The return of Christ is an event, not a process, and is personal and corporeal. His return has a threefold relation: to the church, to raise the believers who have died and to change the living Christians.

Heaven/Hell:

Heaven is the dwelling place of God and his angels. Hell is the opposite of heaven. Because of its concept of horror, it is the abode of Satan and his host of demons.

Elim Fellowship

Christ's Return:

Elim Fellowship believes in Christ's imminent personal return in power and great glory

and in His present and everlasting dominion.

Heaven/Hell:

Both the saved and the lost will be resurrected: they that are saved to the resurrection of eternal life, and they that are lost to the resurrection of eternal punishment.

Episcopal Church, The

Christ's Return: Christ will come again in glory to judge the quick and the dead.

Heaven/Hell:

By heaven, the church means eternal life in enjoyment of God; by hell, it means eternal death in rejection of God.

Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church

Christ's Return: The church believes in the return of Christ as stated in the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds.

Heaven/Hell:

Heaven and hell are accepted as defined spiritually by the Holy Scriptures.

Evangelical Covenant Church

Christ's Return: Christ shall come in glory to judge those still alive and those who are dead.

Heaven/Hell:

The Covenant affirms the biblical reality of an eternal destiny.

Episcopal Church, The

Christ's Return: Christ will come again in glory to judge the quick and the dead.

Heaven/Hell:

By heaven, the church means eternal life in enjoyment of God; by hell, it means eternal death in rejection of God.

Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church

Christ's Return: The church believes in the return of Christ as stated in the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds

Heaven/Hell: Heaven and hell are accepted as defined spiritually by the Holy Scriptures.

Evangelical Covenant Church

Christ's Return: Christ shall come in glory to judge those still alive and those who are dead.

Heaven/Hell: The Covenant affirms the biblical reality of an eternal destiny.

Evangelical Free Church of America, The

Christ's Return: The EFCA holds to a personal, premillennial, and imminent return of Christ.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven and hell are both literal places where people will live for eternity. Heaven is for those who have responded to the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Hell is for those who have not received Jesus Christ as Savior.

Evangelical Friends Church, The

Christ's Return: Jesus is returning as He promised. Most Friends believe this will be in a pre-tribulation rapture and a later 1,000-year reign of justice.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven and hell exist as eternal destinies for people. Believers will be admitted to the glories of heaven by God's grace. Non-believers will not be admitted, and thus they will suffer in hell.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Christ's Return: In concert with the witness of the Holy Scriptures and the tradition of the church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America looks and prays for the return of Christ, who will judge both the just and sinners and will establish a new heaven and a new earth.

Heaven/Hell: Based upon the ancient creeds of the Christian church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America holds a belief in both heaven and hell. It confesses that heaven is the dwelling place of God, from which Christ descended when He became incarnate and to which He returned following His earthly ministry, death, and resurrection. Hell is conceived as the place of the dead and the lost who are separated from the presence of God.

Evangelical Methodist Conference

Christ's Return: Christ's return will be premillennial and pretribulation.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven and hell are both literal places of abode. Hell is for the unsaved. Heaven is for all of God's redeemed.

Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Christ's Return: Jesus Christ will come again to the earth—personally, visibly, and bodily—to judge the living and the dead and to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. No one knows when that day will be.

Heaven/Hell: Scripture teaches only two places for souls separated from their bodies: heaven, where believers behold the face of God and receive full redemption of their bodies, and hell, where the wicked remain in torment and complete darkness.

Free Gospel Church, Inc.

Christ's Return: The church believes in the imminent, literal, and personal return of Christ when the dead in Christ shall be raised and living believers caught away.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven and hell, as stated in Scripture, are literal and eternal. Heaven is achieved by personal faith in Jesus Christ—the only Savior from sin.

Free Methodist Church in North America

Christ's Return: The return of Christ is certain and may occur at any moment, although no one knows the hour. At the return, He will fulfill all prophecies concerning His final triumph over evil.

Heaven/Hell: For those who trust Jesus Christ and obediently follow Him, there is a heaven of eternal glory and the blessedness of Christ's presence. But for the finally impenitent, there is a hell of eternal suffering and of separation from God.

Friends United Meeting

Christ's Return: The church believes that Jesus will come again.

Heaven/Hell: There is resurrection—some to eternal life and some to eternal separation from God.

Full Gospel Evangelistic Association

Christ's Return: Christ will return before the beginning of the tribulation.

Heaven/Hell: Both heaven and hell are undeniable as described in the Holy Bible.

General Association of General Baptists

Christ's Return: General Baptists believe in the personal return of Jesus Christ and in the bodily resurrection of the dead.

Heaven/Hell: God will judge all mankind by Jesus Christ and he will reward the righteous with eternal life in heaven. He will banish the unrighteous to everlasting punishment in hell.

General Association of Regular Baptist Churches

Christ's Return: The GARBC believes in the premillennial return of Christ.

Heaven/Hell: The GARBC believes in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost in the lake of fire.

General Association of Separate Baptists, The

Christ's Return: At Christ's coming in the clouds of heaven, all Christians will be gathered with Him in the clouds and time shall be no more.

Heaven/Hell: Separate Baptists believe in the resurrection of the body, the just and the unjust, every man in his own order. Those who have done good will be resurrected to eternal life.

Those who have done evil will be resurrected to eternal damnation. God has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ.

General Conference Mennonite Church

Christ's Return: Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. He will gather His church, which is already living under the reign of God. In God's final victory at the end of this present age of struggle, the dead will be resurrected, and there will be a new heaven and a new earth. There the people of God will reign with Christ in justice, righteousness, and peace for ever and ever.

Heaven/Hell: The righteous will rise to eternal life with God, and the unrighteous to hell and separation from God.

General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day), The

Christ's Return: Jesus Christ will come again audibly, visibly, bodily, and suddenly to consummate the redemption of believers. No one can know when it will be, but many signs indicate that it may be near.

Heaven/Hell: The righteous will enjoy their eternal reward on a renewed earth. Therefore, the church prefers the terms Kingdom of Heaven or Kingdom of God instead of heaven. The Conference believes in conditional immortality-that

humans have eternal life only by the regeneration of the Holy Spirit and faith in Christ. The unrighteous are not immortal and will be destroyed in the lake of fire – not tormented eternally in hell.

General Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, The

Christ's Return: God who acts in history will bring His purposes to a final consummation. When the Lord returns, living believers will be raptured and the dead in Christ will be resurrected to be with Him forever. Christ will judge all men. In the end, death will be destroyed, Antichrist will be defeated and Satan will be cast into the lake of fire. Christ will create a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness reigns, and God shall be all in all. This is the blessed hope of the church.

Heaven/Hell: At death, the righteous enter a state of rest in the presence of God, in fellowship with Christ. The unrighteous suffer the torment of separation from God while awaiting final judgment. When Christ returns, the righteous who are raptured will inherit the Kingdom of God and the unrighteous shall suffer the anguish of eternal hell.

General Council of the Assemblies of God, The

Christ's Return: All Christians who have died will one day rise from their graves and meet Jesus in the air. Christians who are alive

will be raptured with them, to be with the Lord. Then Christians of all ages will live with God forever. Those who are not Christians will be left behind at the rapture and will experience indescribable suffering as God judges a rebellious and disobedient world.

Heaven/Hell:

The church believes in a real heaven and a real hell. God will judge every person, but there will be a different judgment for those who have accepted Christ as Savior than for those who have rejected Him. The heaven that awaits the faithful Christian is wonderful. It is not God's will for any person to go to hell. But those who willfully turn from His Son as their source of salvation will go to hell.

God's Missionary Church

Christ's Return: God's Missionary Church believes in the literal bodily return of Christ.

Heaven/Hell:

Heaven and hell are real places. Every soul of human race will make his eternal abode in one or the other of the two places.

Holiness

Christ's Return: Christ will return.

Heaven/Hell:

There is a literal heaven and hell.

Hutterian Brethren Church (Lehrerleut)

Christ's Return: Christ will return to judge the world. There will be no millennium or 1,000-year Kingdom.

Heaven/Hell: There is a literal heaven and hell.

Hutterian Brethren of North America

Christ's Return: The church looks for the blessed hope of Christ's return.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven is for believers in Christ. Hell is for the godless.

Independent Assemblies of God International

Christ's Return: Christ will return again. This return is imminent.

Heaven/Hell: There is a blessed hope resurrection and translation of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and those who are alive at His coming. There will be a final judgment of those who have not accepted Christ as Savior, with the devil and his angels in the lake of fire.

Independent Christian Churches, International

Christ's Return: The revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ from heaven, the salvation of mankind then completed, and the millennial reign of Christ is the scriptural promise of the world's hope.

Heaven/Hell: The devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, and whosoever is not found written in the book of life shall be sentenced to everlasting punishment in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. According to His promise, the church looks for new heavens and a new earth where righteousness dwells.

Independent Fundamental Churches of America

Christ's Return: The church believes in: the blessed hope of the personal, imminent, pretribulation, and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His millennial Kingdom.

Heaven/Hell: The church believes in the bodily resurrection of all men—the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment.

International Church of the Foursquare Gospel

Christ's Return: The second coming of Christ is literal, personal, and imminent. He will descend from heaven and the dead in Christ shall rise, then the redeemed that are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven is literal - the indescribably glorious habitation of the living God. Hell is a place of outer darkness and deepest sorrow. It is a place where the fire is not quenched; a place prepared for the devil and his angels. All unbelievers who have rejected and spurned the love and sacrifice of the redeemer will be cast into the lake of fire which burns with fire and brimstone forever.

International Pentecostal Church of Christ

Christ's Return: The IPCC believes in the personal return of Jesus Christ.

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation, together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord, is the imminent and blessed hope of the church.

Heaven/Hell: There is an eternal heaven and a literal hell where residents will reside forever. There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works.

International Pentecostal Holiness Church

Christ's Return: The church believes in the imminent, personal, and premillennial second coming of Christ.

Heaven/Hell: Eternal life with God in heaven is the reward of those who, by the grace of God, have received forgiveness for their sins. Hell is the place of everlasting banishment from the presence of God and is the wages of the persistently unrepentant wicked.

Lutheran Churches of the Reformation

Christ's Return: Christ's return will be in glory at the end of the world. The church is amillennial.

Heaven/Hell: Both heaven and hell are quite real.

Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS), The

Christ's Return: Jesus Christ will return on the last day for judgment and will raise up all the dead. On that day, He will give eternal life and everlasting joy to believers and

the elect, but will condemn unbelievers and the devil to hell and eternal punishment.

Heaven/Hell:

Holy Scriptures teach that heaven is the place where God dwells and where all true believers in His Son Jesus Christ will live with Him forever. Hell is the place of eternal punishment and torment, where all unbelievers will dwell forever under the wrath of God.

Mennonite Church

Christ's Return:

Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. He will gather His church, which is already living under the reign of God. In God's final victory at the end of this present age of struggle, the dead will be resurrected and there will be a new heaven and a new earth. There the people of God will reign with Christ in justice, righteousness, and peace for ever and ever.

Heaven/Hell:

The righteous will rise to eternal life with God, and the unrighteous to hell and separation from God.

National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.

Christ's Return:

The Lord Jesus Christ, who ascended on high and sits at the right hand of God, will come again to close the Gospel dispensation, glorify His saints, and judge the world.

Heaven/Hell:

All men will be resurrected on the last day. Those who have done good will be resurrected to

life, while those who have done evil will be resurrected to damnation.

National Association of Holiness Churches

Christ's Return: The second coming of Christ will be premillennial and is imminent.

Heaven/Hell: There is a heaven prepared for those who have been made pure in heart, perfect in love, and continue steadfast in God's perfect fellowship. All others are doomed to a lake of fire and brimstone called hell.

Netherlands Reformed Congregation

Christ's Return: Christ shall return at the last day. Then He will appear to judge.

Heaven/Hell: The future dwelling place of the righteous is heaven. Hell is the future abode of the wicked.

New England Evangelical Baptist Fellowship

Christ's Return: Christ will come again.

Heaven/Hell: There is a literal heaven and hell.

North American Baptist Conference

Christ's Return: The NABC believes in the imminent, physical return of Christ.

Heaven/Hell: The unrighteous will be consigned to the everlasting punishment prepared for the devil and his angels. The righteous, in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will receive their reward and dwell forever with the Lord.

Old German Baptist Brethren

Christ's Return: Jesus Christ will return literally, and soon.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven and hell are literal realities.

Open Bible Standard Churches, Inc.

Christ's Return: The second coming of Christ is personal, imminent, and premillennial. The Lord Himself will descend from heaven and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

Heaven/Hell: Hell is a literal place of outer darkness, bitter sorrow, remorse, and woe. It was prepared by God for the devil and his angels. There, into a lake that burns with fire and brimstone, the unbelieving, the abominable, the murderers, sorcerers, idolaters, all liars, and those who have rejected the love of Jesus Christ shall be cast. Heaven is the habitation of the living God, where Christ has gone to prepare a place for all His children, where they shall dwell eternally in happiness and security with Him.

Pentecostal Church of God, The

Christ's Return: The Pentecostal Church of God believes that the Bible presents the coming of Christ as personal, imminent, pretribulational, and premillennial.

Heaven/Hell: The one who physically dies in his sins without Christ is hopelessly and eternally lost in the lake of fire, and therefore has no further opportunity of

hearing the Gospel or repenting. The lake of fire is literal. The terms eternal and everlasting used in describing the duration of punishment in the lake of fire carry the same meaning of endless existence, as used in denoting the duration of joy and ecstasy of saints in the presence of God.

Plymouth Brethren (Tunbridge Wells)

Christ's Return: Christ's return is imminent. It will be premillennial, pretribulation, and will end the day of God's grace to man.

Heaven/Hell: Those that are saved will live in eternal bliss in the presence of Christ. Those that are not saved are eternally banned from His presence to suffer the punishment of hell.

Presbyterian Church, USA

Christ's Return: Christ shall come again at the last day in great power and in the full manifestation of His own glory and of His Father's to judge the world in righteousness.

Heaven/Hell: The righteous go into everlasting life and receive that fullness of joy and refreshing which shall come from the presence of the Lord. The wicked, who do not know God and do not obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast into eternal torments. There they will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

Primitive Baptist

Heaven/Hell:

At the time appointed of the Lord, the dead bodies of all men, just and unjust, shall rise again out of their graves that all may receive according to what they have done in their bodies, be it good or evil. After this life, there are two places: one for those that are saved (paradise), the other for the damned (hell). The church denies the concept of purgatory, which it believes was invented in opposition to the truth.

Primitive Methodist Church

Christ's Return: The church believes in the second coming of Christ in power and glory.

Heaven/Hell: There will be a future judgment of both the just and the unjust resulting in eternal rewards and punishments of all men.

Protestant Reformed Churches

Christ's Return: He will come to judge the quick and the dead.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven and hell are both objective, everlasting realities.

Reformed Baptist Church

Christ's Return: The church believes in the bodily return of Christ in glory. It rejects classical dispensationalism but mandates no particular millennial view as a matter of fellowship.

Heaven/Hell: Reformed Baptists believe in a literal heaven in this age and a literal new heavens and new earth in the age to come as the final inheritance of God's people. There is a literal hell now and literal place of eternal punishment in the age to come, which the Bible calls the lake of fire.

Reformed Church in America

Christ's Return: Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Heaven/Hell: In the age to come, Christ is the judge, rejecting unrighteousness, isolating God's enemies to hell, and blessing the new creation in Christ.

Reformed Church in the United States

Christ's Return: Christ will visibly return at the end of the world to judge the living and the dead. Of that day and hour no one knows, except God the Father.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven and hell are real. Heaven is the place of eternal bliss. Hell is a place of eternal torment. At death and at the end of the world, people will go to one or the other.

Reformed Episcopal Church in America

Christ's Return: The Scriptures are prime authority, The Apostles' and Nicene Creeds and the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion all affirm that Christ will return in the same manner as He ascended—bodily, visibly, and as King and judge.

Heaven/Hell: Creedal statements affirm the eternal blessedness of the righteous in Christ and the

divine judgment and condemnation of those who have not received God's provision of redemption in Christ.

Regular (Old Line) Primitive Baptists

Christ's Return: Christ is sure to return back to the earth to redeem the bodies of the saints at the general resurrection and general judgment. No man knows the day, hour, or year of His return.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven and hell are eternal. The punishment of the wicked will last as long as the bliss of the saved in heaven.

Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement

Christ's Return: Christ's coming in the clouds will be plainly visible, audible, literal, and personal. His feet will not touch the ground, for the saints from all ages who are resting in their graves will then resurrect to join the living faithful, and together meet the Lord in the air.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven refers to the Kingdom of glory to be established by Christ at His coming. A fiery hell will be the destiny of the wicked who are resurrected after the earth is desolate for 1,000 years. At that time, there will be a hell—a lake of fire—which will consume the wicked to ashes and purify the earth to become the new home of the redeemed saints.

Southern Baptist Convention

Christ's Return: Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth. The dead will be

raised and Christ will judge all men in righteousness.

Heaven/Hell: The unrighteous will be consigned to hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in heaven with the Lord.

Southern Methodist Church, The

Christ's Return: Southern Methodists believe in the future literal, bodily, personal, visible, imminent, and premillennial return of Christ.

Heaven/Hell: There is a literal eternal place called hell, where there is eternal punishment and separation from God. There is an eternal heaven of joy for the saved.

Sovereign Grace Believers

Christ's Return: Christ will return at the end of the age in glory, receiving believers to Himself and judging unbelievers.

Heaven/Hell: Heaven is for believers. Unbelievers will be eternally separated from God.

Traditional Episcopal Church

Christ's Return: Christians should live every day as if Christ's return were to be tomorrow.

Heaven/Hell: The ancient teachings of the church are followed concerning heaven and hell. Heaven is unity with God, while hell is separation from God.

United Church of Christ

Christ's Return: Christ will come again to judge all mankind. There is no formal

position on when He will return.

United Methodist Church

Christ's Return: Christ will return again in glory to judge the righteous and the unrighteous.

Heaven/Hell: The UMC believes in the resurrection of the dead: the righteous to life eternal, and the wicked to endless condemnation.

United Pentecostal Church International

Christ's Return: Christ will return to earth to rapture the saved, judge the nations, and rule the earth for 1,000 years.

Heaven/Hell: Both heaven and hell are viewed as real and the final abode for mankind.

Wesleyan Church, The

Christ's Return: The certainty of the personal and imminent return of Christ inspires holy living and zeal for the evangelization of the world. At His return, He will fulfill all prophecies made concerning His final and complete triumph over evil.

Heaven/Hell: There is a conscious, personal existence after death. Heaven with its eternal glory and the blessedness of Christ's presence is the final abode of those who choose the salvation which God provides through Jesus Christ. Hell, with its everlasting misery and separation from God, is the final abode of those who neglect this great salvation.

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Christ's Return: Jesus will come from heaven on the last day to judge all the

living and the dead. On that day, all who have died without faith in Jesus Christ will also be condemned to hell. Hell is a place of eternal torment and separation from God. On judgment day, when all the dead shall rise, the souls of all believers will be reunited with a glorified body and live forever in heaven. This is a place of eternal joy, for there will be no more tears or sorrow. The WELS rejects every form of millennialism, since it has no valid scriptural basis and leads Christians to set their hopes upon the Kingdom of Christ as an earthly kingdom. It likewise rejects as unscriptural any hopes that the Jews will all be converted in those final days or that all people will ultimately enjoy eternal bliss.

The Chalcedonian Creed

**“I believe in one God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible:
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten
Son of God;
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God,
Light of Light,
Very God of Very God;
begotten, not made;
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made:
who for us men and for our salvation came
down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the
Virgin Mary,
and was made man:
and was crucified also for us under Pontius
Pilate;
He suffered and was buried:
and on the third day he rose again according
to the Scriptures:
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father:
and he shall come again, with glory, to judge
both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and the
Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is
worshiped and glorified;
who spake by the Prophet:
And I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church:
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of
sins:
And I look for the Resurrection of the dead:
and the Life of the world to come. Amen.”**

HISTORIC CREEDS AFFIRM RESURRECTION OF
RIGHTEOUS AND UNRIGHTEOUS TO BE JUDGED BY
CHRIST.

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe one holy Catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

↓
LIVING

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE HEIDELBERG CONFESSION

A. I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only-begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, both of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

OLD ROMAN CREED

I believe in God the Father almighty; and in Christ
Jesus His only Son, our Lord,
who was born from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin
Mary,
who under Pontius Pilate was crucified, and buried,
on the third day rose again from the dead,
ascended to heaven,
sits on the right hand of the Father,

whence he will come to judge the living and the dead;
and in the Holy Spirit, the holy Church,
the remission of sins, the resurrection of the flesh.

NAVAL
AT THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD AT SEA

Unto Almighty God we commend the soul of our *brother* departed, and we commit *his* body to the deep; in sure and certain hope of the Resurrection unto eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ; at whose coming in glorious majesty to judge the world, the sea shall give up her dead; and the corruptible bodies of those who sleep in Him shall be changed, and made like unto His glorious body; according to the mighty working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself.

SONGS

OF THE CHURCHES

FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS
CHURCHES ACROSS THE WORLD
HAVE AFFIRMED THEIR FAITH
THAT OUR LORD WILL RETURN

FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS
WE HAVE LIFTED OUR VOICES
BELIEVING THE DEAD WILL ARISE
THAT HEAVEN WILL BE OUR HOME
THAT WE ARE TO LIVE FAITHFUL LIVES –
HELPING OUR FAMILIES, OUR
NEIGHBORS, THE LOST, KNOWING THE
EARLY CHRISTIANS OUT-LOVED THE
PAGANS, OUT-LIVED THE PAGANS,
OUT-DIED THE PAGANS

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