

“A ‘SPECIAL PLACE’ IN HELL”

Did he mean to say it or not? ... Donald Tusk is bound to have known the reaction he would receive after his statement in Brussels last Wednesday. He is the President of the European Council, - the top official in the European Union who presides over the heads of the Prime Ministers and Presidents of the twenty-eight governments. Arrogantly, he said, “I’ve been wondering what that *special place in hell* looks like, for those who promoted Brexit, without even a sketch of a plan how to get out safely”. It caused such a furore, even among many people who wouldn’t claim to believe in Hell. In fact, many of them wouldn’t believe in anything after this life ... but he managed to cause quite a stir!

What does the Bible say about the subject of Hell? Does Hell exist? Where is it? What is it like? *Are* there different categories in Hell? And as Donald Tusk seems to suggest, can you “get out safely”? ... Is there any escape?

First of all, it is good he has heard about Hell, so he has no excuse to avoid it ... and there are over 510 million people in the European Union and his message was going out to them, and even further afield. So, if they hadn’t heard before, they have heard about Hell from Donald Tusk.

The Bible speaks about Hell and insists it is a real place ... as real as Heaven. Indeed, Jesus spent more time warning people about Hell than He did in comforting them with the hope of Heaven. From a Biblical perspective the concept of a real, conscious, forever existence in Hell is just as certain as the concept of a real, conscious, forever existence in Heaven. The Bible teaches one is as *real* as the other ... and there is not one without the other ... and neither is there any other place in-between!

Many people are willing to believe in Heaven, but not believe in Hell for it doesn’t fit their purposes. If there *is* such a place as Heaven, it’s nice to believe you are going to have a restful and enjoyable after-life, - just you and all your egocentric pursuits ... and you hear people saying, “It’s better for them. They are away from all their pain and worry”. ... And God does not feature in their considerations ... and why should He? ... Besides, the concept of Hell is unpleasant. Nonetheless, though, the Bible leaves us in no doubt there *is* a Hell.

They mock the descriptions ... a place of ‘fire and brimstone’. Is that what it is like, or is that a ‘made-up’ picture to frighten us? ... The serious fact to acknowledge is that *Jesus* taught about Hell, and He described it as **Mk. 9:43** [the fire that never shall be quenched: 44](#) [Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not](#)

quenched. ... He portrayed it as a place of **Mt. 25:41** ... everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. So, He defined it as a horrifying, terrifying place (Lk. 16:23,24,28). ... Is it *really* like that? The truth is those are earthly terms by which we try to describe a place beyond our comprehension.

In fact, ... inasmuch as we cannot find the proper human words and terms to describe the magnificent glory of Heaven, neither can we find the proper human words and terms to describe the absolute dread of Hell. In the Bible there is no mention of a burning and barren wasteland, or comical devils with pitchforks but Hell is presented as a place which is real, eternal, and without hope.

Where is Hell? Again, Scripture does not tell us. It gives no indication where it is. We have this idea Hell is below the earth, and Heaven is above the earth ... but where does the Bible say that? Yes, there are passages which describe Jesus going *up* from the Mount of Olives into Heaven, and other passages which describe being “cast *down*” into Hell ... but honestly, Scripture does not tell us the location of either Heaven or Hell ... and yet, the reality of both is beyond question. ... Just as the happiness of the Redeemed in Heaven is forever, so also is the torment of the unsaved in Hell.

It is not a popular subject, but here is how some Bible verses describe it, ... **Mt. 8:12** ... cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth ... **Rom. 2:8** But unto them that ... do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation [*boiling, heated, overwhelming anger*] and wrath ... **Rev.20:15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. ...

In Hell, will Satan be the master? Is he in charge? Is it *he* who carries out the punishments? No, he is not in charge ... but *God* is, as Jesus said, **Lk. 12:4** Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. ⁵ But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him. ... *God* has the keys of hell and of death (Rev. 1:18) ... That’s how Jesus, - the Son of God, - with those ‘keys’ had the power to ‘bow His head and give up the ghost’ (Jn. 19:30) ... Satan did not take His life for Satan had no authority over how Jesus would die or why He would die. Jesus said, **Jn. 10:7** I lay down my life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸ No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father. ... The devil couldn’t stop Him ... and neither could the devil stop Jesus ‘using those keys’ to rise from the dead and come back to life again ... That is because Jesus, - Who is *God*, - holds the keys.

... And as Rev. 20 foretells, when Satan will be bound for one thousand years, it's the Angel who comes down from Heaven with the key of the bottomless pit and Who locks the devil up (Rev. 20:2,3) ... And it is only when the same key is used Satan will be freed for a short season, ⁷ when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison ... God holds the 'key' of the gates of Hell.

But who will go to Hell, and, - as Donald Tusk says, - are there special categories in Hell? John 3:16 makes clear, **Jn. 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ... That verse is also clearly saying that, yes, God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son ... to believe in Him as Saviour brings the eternal reward of everlasting life ... However, to *not* believe in Him as Saviour brings everlasting punishment, ¹⁸ he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Is it worth it to *not* believe in Christ as Saviour? Here is how Paul answers, ²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. ... We are only here on earth for a limited number of years, but eternity is forever, and nothing of this world's achievements can you take with you, as Jesus said, **Mk. 8:36** what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? ³⁷ Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

A few years on earth ... is it worth it to jeopardise your eternal welfare? Remember, the punishment of the sinner in Hell is as never-ending as the bliss of the righteous in Heaven. How do you get to Heaven? You get to Heaven by believing in Jesus Christ as your Saviour. ... How do you *not* get to Heaven? The answer is just as simple ... you decide not to believe in Him. ... But you are being too hard! No, the choice is given to believe but it is within the human nature to *not* believe. Paul wrote, **Rom. 1:18** the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; ¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. ²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse

Yes, Hell is real. The Bible describes it as a place of torment and eternal punishment. But, - as Donald Tusk suggests, - are there special compartments in Hell? ... What an unfair place Hell would be if man was in charge?! I'm not making light of it, - for it is too serious, - but Donald Tusk would not only have

the Brexiteers in Hell, he would have a ‘special place’ specifically for them. It’s not up to him though, or any other man or woman.

But, *does* God have different levels of punishment in Hell? The Bible does not specifically say there *are*, but it *does* seem to indicate judgment will be experienced differently for different people. Rev. 20:11 describes the Great White Throne which is the final judgment following the millennium, and after Satan, the beast, and the false prophet have been thrown into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:7-10), there are two books opened (v.12). These books contain records of deeds done on earth because God knows everything every person has ever done, said, or thought ... and He will judge accordingly.

In Luke 10 Jesus sent His disciples to preach the Gospel, **Lk. 10:3** *Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.* He knew they and their message would be received favourably in some towns and cities, but He also it would be rejected in others, **10** *But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say,* **11** *Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.* He then further told them, **12** *I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable [bearable] in that day for Sodom, than for that city ... Sodom was judged along with Gomorrah for its wicked sinfulness, and yet Jesus made a difference between them and Chorazin and Bethsaida (v.13), why? ... One obvious reason is that both Chorazin and Bethsaida had heard the Gospel preached by Jesus and the disciples ... whereas Sodom and Gomorrah hadn’t. ... Sodom and Gomorrah both legitimately deserved God’s wrath and judgment, and they got it, Gen. 19:24* *Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven ... but it was less than what Jesus was saying would come upon Chorazin and Bethsaida ... Lk. 12:48* *For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required. ... The person who hears the Gospel and rejects it has more to answer for than the person who has never heard it. ... And once a person enters Hell, there is no way out!*

So how *do* you avoid Hell? There is only one way ... Rev.20 describes how at the great white throne judgment *books* were opened. There is the book out of which the unsaved are judged ... but there is also another book ... the Book of Life (v.12) in which is contained the names of all those who have been judged. They deserve the everlasting punishment in the lake of fire (v.15) but their punishment has been suffered completely by Christ on the cross ... and they escape not through their own works, but as Paul explains, **Eph. 2:8** *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9* *Not of works,*

lest any man should boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. ... It is not *our* good works which saves us but Christ's work of redemption on the cross of Calvary, **Phil. 2:13** For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure ... **Rom. 4:7** Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. ... **Titus 3:5** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; **6** Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; **7** That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Heaven or Hell ... those are the only two eternal destinations. When you die it will be either one or the other. Jesus said, **Mt. 7:13** 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: **14** Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. ... "Only one way to get to Heaven, Jesus is the only way!" ... for so He made it abundantly clear, **Jn. 14:6** I am the way, the truth, and the life: *no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* ... Any other way leads over the abyss and into the eternal fires of Hell. ... How can anyone afford to dismiss so clearly what the Bible teaches?!

It is an awful subject but it does not achieve anything by avoiding it. Living a good life, on its own, won't keep you away from Hell. Going to church won't keep you away either. Neither will having Christian parents or grandparents. Going to Bible College won't keep you from Hell, nor will giving to the church ... Only trusting in Christ alone for your salvation will keep you from God's eternal wrath for He has accomplished it by sending His Son to Calvary wash your sins away forever. ... That's what makes our Gospel the most powerful news ever known to men and women, boys and girls ... the Gospel of God's full and free salvation ...

Tell me the story slowly,
That I may take it in -
That wonderful redemption,
God's remedy for sin ...

Remember I'm the sinner
Whom Jesus came to save ...

*And when the Lord's bright glory
Is dawning on my soul,
Tell me the old, old story:
"Christ Jesus makes thee whole.*