“The Importance of Spiritual Knowledge”

Edmonton, AB February 21-23, 2014

“Things we should know about judgment, heaven, and hell.”

**Judgment**

1. Present responses:
   1. What we sow we will reap is possible in the time in which we live. Gen. 26.12; Job 4.8; Prov. 22.8; Hos. 8.7; 10.12-13; 2 Cor. 9.6; Gal. 6.7-9
   2. God judges nations because of sin: Amos 1-3
2. Evil spiritual beings
   1. God judges the gods of the nations: Ex. 12.12; Num. 33.4; Is. 8.11-22
   2. God judges heavenly beings: 2 Pet. 2.4; Jude 6
   3. The devil and his angels: Mt. 25.41; Rev. 20.7-10
   4. Christians will participate in judging angels: 1 Cor. 6.3
3. Humans
   1. Basis of judgment
      1. Works: Gen. 2.15-17; Rev. 20.11-15; Jer. 17.10; 32.19; Mt. 16.27; Rm. 2.6; 2 Cor. 5.10; Gal. 6.7-8; Rev. 22.12
      2. Belief and obedience to the gospel: 2 Thess. 1.6-10; Rev. 20.11-15
      3. Accumulating worldly possessions to the exclusion of true wealth: Mk. 10.17-31; Lk. 12.13-21
      4. Lack of care for the disadvantaged: Mt. 25.31-46
      5. Unwillingness to forgive: Mt. 18.21-35
   2. Standard of judgment: Jn. 12:47-50; 2 Tim. 4.1-5; 1 Tim. 4.15-16
   3. Certainty of judgment: Dan. 12.1-4; Mt. 11.24; 12.36; Rm. 14.10; 2 Cor. 5.10; Heb. 9.27; 2 Pet. 2.9; 1 Jn. 4.17
      1. Certainty of judgment is part of salvation history
      2. Certainty of judgment demonstrates the seriousness with which God views his call to follow Jesus.
   4. Time of judgment: 2 Pet. 3.1-13; Acts 17.29-31; 1 Thess. 5.1-11

**Hell is real**

1. Taken from *gehenna*, a transliteration from the Hebrew *ge hinnom.* Hinnom was a valley south of Jerusalem where children were sacrificed by fire to Moloch (2 Kings 16.3; 21.6; 2 Chron. 28.3; 33.6). The prophets would use the term for judgment (Jer. 7.31-32; 19.6). By the time of Jesus it was a place to burn garbage and bury criminals and became a metaphor for the destiny of the lost (Mt. 5.22; 29-30; 10.28; 18.9; 23.33; Mk. 9.43-48; Lk. 12.5). Even when the word *gehenna* is not specifically used the eternal existence of the lost is described as being in an eternal fire.
2. Eternal separation from community with God. Imagine, every good gift that both the righteous and unrighteous enjoys comes from God. Separation from God is also separation from all his goodness. (Mt. 7.23; 25.41; 25.10-13, 30; 2 Thess. 1.9; Rev. 22.15)
3. Exclusion from the eternal community described as torment (Rev. 20.10), outer darkness (Mt. 8.12; 22.13; 25.30), weeping and gnashing of teeth (Mt. 8.12; 13.42; 22.13; 24.51; 25.30), eternal fire (Mt. 18.8; 25.41; Jude 7), second death (Rev. 20.14). All these lie outside of the blessing of the eternal community of God. This existence outside of God’s community is an eternal isolation, estrangement, and loneliness. Because those who are loved by God have rejected a covenant relationship with God they experience what they chose, the wrath of God rather than the love of God.
4. The eternal separation is final. Though this text does not use hell it provides the picture that upon death one’s eternity is fixed, Lk. 16.26.

**Heaven is real and for this discussion is contrasted to hell rather than heaven as the sky or what is known as the realm of the planets and stars.**

1. Described as where God resides. (Mt. 6.9; 18.10; Rev. 21.2)
2. It is described as an inheritance and eternal life. (Mt. 25.34, 46; 1 Pet. 1:4) This inheritance can never perish, spoil, or fade.
3. It is a place of reward. (Mt. 5.12; Eph. 1.3)
4. Prepared by God. (Jn. 14.2; 2 Cor. 5.1; Heb. 11.6)
5. Described as new heavens and new earth. (Rev. 21.1-8; 2 Pet. 3.13) This is the home of righteousness where evil is not allowed.
6. Liberation for creation. (Rm. 8.19-21)
7. The dwelling of God is among men. (Rev. 21.3)
8. We will be like angels. (Mk. 12.25)
9. What will we do? (Rev. 4 & 5; Gen. 2.15)