

Apologetics- 9.1- Jesus in Hell – Part 1

Transcription

.Tonight we're going to be doing a study a lot of people have asked me about in the past. It's really important because for us to have a proper definition of our faith, hell and heaven, ..we really need to understand what happened at the cross. The average Christian, when really asked the procedures that occurred are really very vague. In fact, I think it was, like, probably 7 or 8 years ago, now, Christianity Today did a poll on people on a phrase which many of you have heard before, oh, this I'll show you in a second...on a phrase which was used in the, in the churches all over the country and the vast majority of them had no idea what it meant, and yet, every single Sunday they said it, and it comes from the Apostles Creed. And of course, in the Apostle's Creed it says "And Jesus descended into Hell and on the 3rd day, he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence he will come to judge the quick and the dead." So, we are looking at, you know, statements that we make, and we don't understand. So, for those of you who are watching from Russia, we pray that tonight is a blessing for you, because it is going to be a wonderful study, and if you miss anything, remember that you'll be able to pick it up on our website, and you'll be able to read it at an even slower pace to understand all the details. But, um, uh, the Defense of the Faith...I thought this week, I wanted to take a look...of course, I'm fascinated...we've been looking around, um, Satish has opened the doors to us in India, and as you know, we are in, we're going to be in Arabic by the Lord's grace, at the end, by the end of the year, and so we've looked at China and all other kind of places where we've had open doors presented to us. Years ago, I produced a video called the Titanic, Miracles of the Titanic, which was quoted on

PBS and everything else, and China has accepted that CD, as y'all know, DVD as one of only two. Josh McDowell, and our DVD are the only 1 of 2 of only, I think, over the last 4 years, only 7 DVDs total have been allowed in that are generally given to the public that are considered broadly and publicly Christian, and so, it's pretty neat. We are looking at China, and so, Betty was doing some research for me the other day, and I wanted you to see. This is, where is this Betty? I know it's in China, yeah, OK, I was just talking about China, but I have no idea where it is. But, anyway, as you can see, this looks like a baseball stadium. This is actually a swimming pool in China where like a quarter of a million to a half million people can come swimming together every day. I just thought I'd show you. This is the Bahamas, or is this Hawaii, I think this is Hawaii, yeah, I thought these were great photographs. I just want to show you culturally how different people are around the world. Here are Hawaiians, and we all wish we were there right now. I thought that was a great shot. This, I wanted just to show you another culture. If you can't see it clearly, these are rats being fed to be fattened up in India, and of course, these rats are part of temple worship, and so, they're pretty safe, as you can see, they're in charge of the show, and the little girl's afraid that she's about to be eaten. Of course, this is only in Texas too, I thought this was a great shot for you guys that are Texans. This is what the world is looking at with us, and of course, this is Thailand, this is a Boa Constrictor, which is in a tub with a little boy. So, the reason that I showed you these shots, is because, and of course, this is America. It's a fitness center, but it's got an escalator to get in the front door, so, the reason I...this is in California. Yeah, you want to join that one, yeah, me too. Um, the reason I'm showing this to you is, I want to just remind all of you and encourage all of you remember that as we do these studies, they're going to totally diverse cultures, and so one of the things to always pray for as I'm communicating, I try to remember also, I'm not just talking to Americans,

but I'm talking to people around the world that all have diverse cultures, and um, this is ultimately what we are teaching, is why people should know the scriptures. The ultimate purpose of scripture is for prophecy and to prove who Christ Jesus is, Ok? In other words, this Bible, which was sitting here, which somebody borrowed, but he's got one there, the purpose of the Bible, is not just to learned the Bible for the sake of the Bible. The purpose that God gave us the written word, was to, through prophecy, and other things, prove who Christ Jesus is. In other words, this is the evidence on who Christ is. And we have been studying over the last several weeks, now, what I'm going to do is, I'm going to do a really quick synopsis, and then I'm going to shoot down to a study called Jesus in Hell, which is fascinating to a lot of people, and a lot of you had asked to be able to see this study, and so I'm going to go ahead and cover it tonight, so you'll find me zipping past stuff that we're not even going to cover tonight, and I'm going to cover it next week, but um, one of the things I want to encourage you in is this. As you come each week, you're learning Apologetics, and I want you all just to remember, that to defend the gospel, now just watch this, don't be distracted, to defend the gospel is a direction, not a suggestion. Would you say this with me? This is a direction, not a suggestion. In other words, knowing why you believe what you believe is not just a suggestion. How many of you feel that if you were going to become a pilot, and you were going to fly a Boeing 707, and you were going to have thousands of passengers over the year. How many of you feel that they would not demand that you know the instruments? Of course. Why? Because lives are at stake. The reason that we're taught to defend the gospel, and to defend the faith in the scriptures is simply for the same reason. Because, there are millions of lives at stake. And, we need to know why we believe what we believe. Now, I put this down here. You know, in the church, we're adamant on baptism, or we're adamant on don't murder and all kinds of things.

But, we're rarely adamant on really studying apologetics, do you know why? Because, it's easy to say, OK I won't murder somebody today. Or it's easy to say, OK, I was baptized a certain way. It was a 1-time event; we don't have to worry about it. Study takes consistency. It takes that constant care and upkeep, and so, there are a lot of verses here that give us that directive. Now, what I'm going to do is, we're going to study on the issue of hell and so, for those of you who think you're going to have to read this fast, you don't have to read it fast. This is a really cool study, but we're going to come back to Jesus in Hell. That's our study. Now, in the next couple of weeks, we're going to cover soul sleep, we're going to study Hell itself, Angels and Demons, and where is Eden today? These are actually critical for y'all to understand who Christ is. You're going to find that actually what Christ did on the cross, the work that he did on the Cross, which 9 out of 10 Christians can't really explain certain passages, will help you understand this efficacious work of Jesus. Now, Jesus in Hell. This is the apostle's Creed that you all remember. I just said it, "Jesus descended into hell, on the 3rd day, He rose again from the dead." Tonight, the question is did Jesus descend into hell, and the second question should always be, "What is Hell?" What did He do, why did He do it? Now, I want y'all just to think for a second. Whenever someone comes up to you, remember on the issue, and says, do you think Jesus is God? What does the word "god" really mean to that person? In other words, the issue is not really the question, the issue is what does the word mean. And if you're a lawyer, Betty, would you be kind enough to turn the heater off? Because, um, if I was Michael Jackson, I'd be half melted right now, OK, so, it says here, sorry, but the question is, "What does the word Hell mean?" Now, if I were to ask you a question right now, just, you know, what word comes to your mind? What words come to your mind when you think of Hell? Just toss 'em out. Fire. What else? Heat. What else? Eternity. Torture, judgment, burning, punishing, devil, thirsty.

Very good. Now, what's really interesting about the word "Hell" is when it says, "Jesus descended into Hell", it's not talking about the lake of fire. Now, the common notion is that today, when people die and go to hell, we use that phrase generically right now until I qualify it, Hades is the Greek word. Sheol is the Hebrew word. That when a person goes to the bad place, the "Smoking Section" as we've talked about before. If they go to that area, we think of it as the lake of fire. But no one is in the lake of fire right now according to scripture. The lake of fire will be enacted at the judgment. Now, the judgment has not occurred yet. There is going to be one day what is called a Bama Seat, and a Judgment. Then what is Hell? Well, the literal translation for hell is, and it goes back, it goes back to, actually, I shouldn't have put this one up, but it goes back to the abode of the dead. It means simply where a person when they die, they go into the grave. The word is grave. Maybe that's on here next, because I can't remember, yeah, there we go. The tomb. This is where the body of Jesus, for example, was buried. But, Jesus, his spirit, was not captured in that body. When you and I die, our spirits don't remain in that body. When Jesus was buried and put in the tomb. That was called Hades, or the "Grave".

That's a grave. So, hell means "The Grave" say that with me, "Hell means, 'the grave'". It means the grave. Hell doesn't mean the lake of fire, though there is some misery and discomfort in hell, for those who are not believing in the Son of God, it is not the Lake of Fire, yet. Believe it or not, what people are suffering in what we now call Hell, is nothing compared to what they will suffer in the Lake of Fire. Now, I have some notes here that I'm going to pass out. Now, the greatest temptation of these notes is this...if you're like me, you'll start to ignore the professor, or the teacher, and you'll just look at these notes, and you'll get completely lost, and so what I want you to do is resist the temptation. These drawings that I'm going to be passing out to you right now, is a study on what actually happened with Jesus from the time of

the Crucifixion, and suddenly, if you understand tonight's study, and it may go into next week, but if you understand tonight's study, I believe that you will find...you'll understand things in the scripture, you have never understood before that deal with the word "Paradise", the word "Hell", the word "Heaven", the word "Resurrection". Suddenly, all these vague studies that people toss out at you at churches will suddenly make sense. So, um, this goes, all of this goes back originally to the drawing that you see there, now do all of you have that drawing, Betty, can I have one of those drawings? Do we have enough? Yeah, can we make some more copies? As you see at the top, the reason I start off with paradise in the garden, is because, the Garden of Eden, and this is going to be critical as you understand the very end of it, but you're going to find that there is an interaction in the Bible constantly in between the Garden of Eden, or Paradise, is what the garden of Eden is called. Paradeso, Paradeso in Greek, deals with the concept of the Garden. Now, the Garden of Eden was called paradise. Right? Now, here we swing through time from Genesis in the Garden of Eden, and now, we're looking at another paradise except, was Jesus saying, "We're going back to the area between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers"? No. When He said "Today you'll be with me in Paradeso" or in Paradise on the Cross, he wasn't talking about a physical garden, in Mesopotamia, which is Iraq now, He was talking about a heavenly place, correct? What you're going to find is there is constantly the word, "Tabernacle" used in conjunction with the phrase, "Paradise" and "Heaven", which brought my dad to the conclusion right before he passed away, and which I've written a ton on, and one of these days in my dream state, I'll be able to publish this stuff, but, I'm fully convinced that the garden of Eden was laid out like the tabernacle, or the temple. And it only makes sense. And I'll show you just real quickly some visuals why. And why is it important? It's because I believe that God didn't create Adam and Eve, and suddenly, there was a mess-up,

and then for Centuries, God doesn't get involved barely with man except Enoch walks with God and stuff, and then, there's the flood, there's this horrible catastrophe, and then years later, Abraham, finally gets a priesthood going. If you study the Bible, you'll find out in the book of Genesis, Abraham actually gave offerings, tithings to a priest by the name of, what? Melchizidek. Ah, and he was from Shalom, or Salem, which is actually the name of Jerusalem before it was called Jerusalem, there was a high priest who came from this hill, which we know today is Jerusalem, who came to Abram, and Abram gave him a 10th of all that he had, as a tithe. Which means that there was a priesthood. Now, if there was a priesthood, there's gotta be a priestly line, who was this priestly line? Because, don't forget...Abraham hadn't had his children yet, which means Moses hadn't been born for centuries, which means Moses and the Aaronic priesthood hadn't started yet, and that's where everybody says the priesthood started. I think that's a mistake. I believe that clearly, the Jewish priesthood started at that time, but it shows here that Melchizidek had a priesthood going. And I'm fully convinced that if you go back to the Garden of Eden, and it's a fascinating study. But if you go back to the Garden of Eden, I believe there was a righteous seed and an unrighteous seed. You have Cain who kills Able. Able was righteous. Able gets replaced by whom? Do you remember? It starts with an "S". Seth. And that's a righteous seed. I am fully convinced that the very first priest, for example, that you would have in the temple, which was the Garden of Eden at that time, was Christ, because he walked in the midst of the garden with Adam, right? They get tossed out. But, we know there is a priestly line, that goes all the way through Enoch, and all these other godly people, up to the time, and his son, who was named...I almost don't want to give it away, cuz, that, no this is more of the trick questions y'all will know. He lived almost 1000 years, what was his name? Methuselah. Do you know that Methuselah died on the day that the flood started?

So, he dies. He's the last of that righteous line, but somewhere in the ark, there's a righteous line that continues. Noah. And here we have the flood. Now, as this flood goes on, and wipes out the earth, there's a fresh start. Shem is the righteous son, and through Shem, comes the seed of Abraham, and Abraham then has in his seed down the line, Moses, and then you have the Aaronic priesthood. So, finally you have a physical temple, or tabernacle, once again. But, do you know where this tabernacle came from? I want you just to journey back in time. This is a lot to wrap your minds around, but Moses one day went up to the top of the mountain. Remember? Mt. Sinai? And there's this fiery cloud, and it's going to be in your notes tonight, and the reason I'm saying that ahead of time, is so when you see it visually, you'll start pulling it together. Well, up there, he got not only the 10 commandments, but he also got the directions how to build the tabernacle. Well, in the book of Hebrews in the New Testament, it says that in Heaven is the original tabernacle. And it's a blueprint for the earthly tabernacle. In other words, what was built on earth, actually existed originally in heaven, and is still there to this day. That's a tabernacle. It's an eternal tabernacle. When Moses went up on the mount, and he traveled into the top of the mountain, and went into this glowing light, he was actually, I am fully convinced, transported into the presence of God in heaven, and looked out and saw heaven's tabernacle, was given the data on how to build a duplicate of that on earth, and when he came back out, and was all glowing, he went down, and he gave them the dimensions just like this right off the top of his head, do you remember that? Now, that tabernacle is where Paradeso, Paradise is located. So, you see an equating of Paradise, the Garden, and the Tabernacle. Now, let's go back to the Old Testament. You know, if you wonder, Peter, how could the first temple, or first Tabernacle have been in the Garden of Eden? Well, it was a place of worship, we know that, because Adam communed with God into he middle of the garden.

Now, let's look at the temple of the tabernacle. You'd walk in, there would be a holy place. On your left side would be what you would call a menorah, but that's technically not correct, that would be...it was a lamp stand. Because it only had 7 lamps. And this lamp stand was called the "Tree of Lights". Scripture clearly connotes an equality between the Tree of Lights and the Tree of Life. What do you have in the Garden of Eden? The Tree of Life. Now, you have on the right side as you walk into the holy place, you have a table of shewbread is what it's called, where David went and ate, remember, and the priests got all mad at him? Well, the table of shewbread was where there were 12 pieces of bread, and the phrase is in the Old Testament, "Bread upon which was food, good to eat". Oh, and then it rephrases it and says, "Which was good for food." So, it doubly states what this bread is about. Did you know that the very same phrase is used in the Garden of Eden, about the trees in the garden, which were fruit good to eat? And they were good for food. Interesting coincidence. And the middle of the Holy Place, as you walk into this temple or tabernacle, there's a little stand about this high, which is called the altar of incense. Now the altar of incense is where the priest would put incense and pray, and commune with God. There is no coincidence that in the Garden of Eden, it was in the midst, the middle of the garden, where Adam communed with God. Now, you say to yourself, or you should be saying to me, "Peter, OK you've got a tree of life, which is the tree of lights. This gold stand, OK, we see those parallels, but what about that..." What's the other tree called? Tell me, what's the tree where the devil showed up? Right. I wish you hadn't said that so loud, I wanted to see if anybody knows the phrase. Because, most people say, "It's the tree of good and evil" but, it's not. It's the tree of the Knowledge, Gnosos...do you remember how we were studying Gnosticism, based upon the word Gnosos which means knowledge? It's the tree of the KNOWLEDGE, understanding of good and evil. And, so, and people say, where in that is?

That's not in the temple or the tabernacle. Actually, it is. Because if you were to go through the curtains which only the high priest could do once a year, into the Holy of Holies, which was a little chamber that had, I don't even know where it's located, but I think there's a picture here, no, let's see, that's not it either, and I'm giving it all away, Ok, what you would find is this ark of the covenant. Now, right here, where you see that little glowing light, right there is where the blood was sprinkled once a year. That's the Mercy Seat, right? This is the mercy seat, and the lamb's blood would be shed, and I shared last week, how I believe this event was taking place at the moment of Christ's crucifixion, which is pretty easy to verify, and the blood was being sprinkled there on the mercy seat. Do you remember what's inside the Ark of the Covenant? This is what people forget. 3 Objects were hidden inside the Ark of the Covenant. The 10 commandments, Aaron's rod that budded, manna. OK. Yes, I thought you were saying, hi Pete. 5 minutes, Ok, so, what are the 10 commandments, Paul Says? The reason the 10 commandments are so devastating, yet so blessed, is because it reveals to man, the knowledge that when he does evil, he knows he did evil, because it says, "Thou Shalt Not". The knowledge of good and evil is the 10 commandments. Paul says, we are condemned under this law, and were it not for the Grace of God, we'd all go to hell, because we now know, Gnosos, we now understand we're doing evil when we're doing evil because there's actually a rule book written out here. The rulebook, not only reveals that to us, but curses us, why? Because it says, caught ya. Now you know you did wrong. It's one thing to do wrong and not know you're doing wrong, but it's another thing...if you're driving 75 miles an hour down the highway, but you're from Nairobi or something like that, but you don't know that 75 is not the speed limit, if you get caught, they might give you grace. But if that policeman catches you tomorrow going 75 miles an hour down that road, what's going to happen? You're going to get a ticket. Why? Because he knows you know. Do you follow?

Your knowledge condemns you and his awareness that you know. So, the 10 commandments were the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It's right there. I'll tell you somethin' funny. This is a study by itself, and I've actually got slides and stuff, in fact, 3-D videos, and stuff, when Dustin used to work for me, we did 3-D videos on this that are mind-blowing on the Shekinah Glory, and I showed a little of them once in church when I was a pastor, but...do you remember when Adam and Eve were kicked out of the garden of Eden? When they were kicked out, something was put on the left and the right of this gate to keep them out. Do you remember what it was? What were they? Go ahead and say it. They were Cherubim, right? They were Cherubs. These warriors stood on the left and right of the gate to not let them back in. And the middle was the door, and there was a fire, which went up in the midst of that doorway all the way to the top. Look what you have here in the tabernacle centuries later. 2 Cherubs, and the Shekinah Glory...this Shekinah Glory is what floated right over the center of this. So, you have a fire, like in the garden of Eden, you have 2 angels just like in the garden of Eden, but there's even a 3rd analogy. So, they were actually blocking the door, right? Who's the door? What's his name? Jesus. He's the way, the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father but by Me. He says, "I am the Door" He talks about knocking on that door. What's interesting is, the blood of the lamb was sprinkled right here. Who's the lamb? Jesus. So, you've got Jesus in the center, you've got these 2 angels on the left and right, and you have the Shekinah, or the presence of God right in the middle. In Genesis, at the entrance to garden, and you have it right here at the entrance to heaven, you follow? So, if you look at it, I'm fully convinced that the garden for a reason, paradise, which is what, now the Tabernacle environment is called, I'm convinced was the very first temple layout, but it was a naturalistic layout. God laid it out with vegetation; He laid it out geographically, but when man sinned, he lost that privilege, but as time

went, God said, I'm going to give it back to you in a physical form, just like it is in heaven. Now, why is that important? It's important, because it continues to talk about this work, the work of Christ in our lives. I mean, the only purpose you and I really study the word of God once again is to get to know better who our Lord is. OK? So, I'm going to take you back here, we're gonna talk about Jesus' descent into hell. Now, what does that mean? Sounds freaky. But, there is the tabernacle. By the way, I've got a sketch somewhere that I repainted the garden of Eden, basically laid out like this, and it's pretty cool, um, but Paradise means garden, and Paradeso is the Greek, and I believe it was the original tabernacle, now this is where we come to crucifixion. You're gonna say, why did you educate us about paradise? Well, this is where the whole roller coaster starts. If you'll look right here, don't look here yet, look here, don't look here yet, look here, no, yes, no, yes. Ok. You'll see, it says "Crucifixion" Jesus said, "Today you'll be with me in..." what? Paradise, OK. Now, for those of you who are watching, you'll have to make sure that you tune in next week, because, we don't have any more time this week, and I'm going to be showing you basically, what Jesus said "today you're going to be with me in Paradise". Why did he use the same word that he uses for the Garden of Eden? What was it Jesus was actually saying to this thief on the cross? I think it's going to be really a blessing to you, and of course, we're going to be continuing here tonight, and y'all get to hear the rest of this study, but for those of you once again, who are watching, just look at the bottom of the screen, you'll be able to see and address that you can go to in case you do miss this study. So, God bless you, and it was wonderful to have you with us this week on Defending the Faith.