

March 29, 2020

“Look to the Future:

Welcome to a New World”

### “A Future Life – The Supernatural” Core 25

“Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.’” *Matthew 25:41*

#### A. As Christians, we believe in the supernatural...

“They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies.” *1 Corinthians 15:44*

1. Everything about the Christian life involves the supernatural. Death is a natural process of life, but eternal life is supernatural.

“so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.” *John 3:15*

2. Our whole belief system is based on the supernatural. Creation, the Garden of Eden, miracles, virgin birth, resurrection, signs and wonders, heaven, hell, angels, and demons are all supernatural.

“Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.” *Hebrews 11:1*

3. We are in a battle between good and evil that is not flesh and blood, but in forces that are unseen and supernatural.

“For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.” *Ephesians 6:12*

4. Since the supernatural is only known by faith, we must live by faith.

“For we live by believing and not by seeing.” *2 Corinthians 5:7*

#### B. Jesus was very clear in His words about ...

“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit upon His glorious throne... Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons’... And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.” *Matthew 25:31,41,46*

1. Jesus told His disciples about a heaven that was prepared for them.

“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in Me. There is more than enough room in My Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?” *John 14:1,2*

2. Jesus talked about a hell.

“But I’ll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell. Yes, He’s the one to fear.” *Luke 12:5*

3. Jesus talked about demons.

“But if I am casting out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you.” *Matthew 12:28*

4. Jesus talked about angels.

“And He will send out His angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather His chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.” *Matthew 24:31*

#### C. Our understanding of the supernatural...

“Jesus talks about hell more than he talks about heaven, and describes it more vividly. There’s no denying that Jesus knew, believed, and warned against the absolute reality of hell.”

1. Heaven: a new earth, a new heaven, a new Jerusalem, and new bodies! (Heaven by Randy Alcorn)

“No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and His servants will worship Him...And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.” *Revelation 22:3,5 (Rev. 21-22)*

“The man who is about to sail for Australia or New Zealand as a settler, is naturally anxious to know something about his future home, its climate, its employments, its inhabitants, its ways, its customs. All these are subjects of deep interest to him. You are leaving the land of your nativity, you are going to spend the rest of your life in a new hemisphere. It would be strange indeed if you did not desire information about your new abode. Now surely, if we hope to dwell for ever in that ‘better country, even a heavenly one,’ we ought to seek all the knowledge we can get about it. Before we go to our eternal home we should try to become acquainted with it.” J. C. Ryle

2. Hell: the place of conscious, eternal torment where people experience God’s punishment for sin. Hell was created for the devil and his angels.

“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way.” *Matthew 7:13*

C.S. Lewis said of hell, “There is no doctrine which I would more willingly remove from Christianity than this, if it lay in my power. But it has the full support of Scripture and, specially, of our Lord’s own

words; it has always been held by Christendom; and it has the support of reason” (The Problem of Pain).

Lewis also said in The Great Divorce, “All that are in hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. To those who knock it is opened.”

3. Demons: fallen angels follow the bidding of Satan in temptation, oppression, influence, and possession to lead man to destruction.

“How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world.” *Isaiah 14:12*

“The Bible tells us that demons are fallen angels who joined Satan in his rebellion against God and who were defeated and cast out of heaven along with Satan (*Revelation 12:7-9*). Demons continue to serve the devil in his attempt to lead the world away from God and into sin. Jesus will ultimately banish Satan and his demons into the eternal fire.”

-Crosswalk

4. Angels: God’s army as messengers, to minister to Jesus and his people, to validate God’s presence, and to rejoice when sinners repent.

“John Paton was a missionary in the New Hebrides Islands. One night, hostile natives surrounded the mission station, intent on burning out the Patons and killing them. Paton and his wife prayed during that terror-filled night that God would deliver them. When daylight came they were amazed to see their attackers leave. A year later, the chief of the tribe was converted to Christ. Remembering what had happened, Paton asked the chief what had kept him from burning down the house and killing them. The chief replied in surprise, ‘Who were all those men with you there?’ Paton knew no men were present--but the chief said he was afraid to attack because he had seen hundreds of big men in shining garments with drawn swords circling the mission station.”

#### D. So, in understanding the supernatural, what action should it cause you to take?

“But people who aren’t spiritual can’t receive these truths from God’s Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can’t understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means.” *1 Corinthians 2:14*

1. Pray more for those who are lost.
2. Realize that you are surrounded by an unseen world.
3. Be more aware of the enemy and his deceptions.
4. Read more about heaven!
5. Seek to take, as many as possible, to heaven with you.

April 5: A Future Message – The Co-Mission