



### 1. Belief in Life After Death

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

### 2. Revelation vs. Speculation

- A.
  - 1)
  - 2)
  - 3)
- B.
  - 1)
  - 2)
  - 3)
- C.

### 3. Death as an Apologetic

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.
- F.

#### 4. The Apologetic for Hell

A.

B.

1)

2)

C.

1)

2)

3)

D.

1)

2)

E.

1)

2)

F.

1)

2)

3)

4)

#### 5. The Appeal of a Biblical "Heaven"

A.

B.

1)

2)

3)

4)

a)

b)

c)



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# *Apologetics*

Compass Night 2019

# 1. Belief in Life After Death

## A. Life After Death Consistently Believed

- *Unchanged for 80 Years*
- *Only 15% say “No Life after Death”*

## B. Belief in God Slips, but Not Life after Death

- *Atheism up to 3% in USA (Higher Elsewhere)*

## C. Belief in Bible Slides, But Not Life after Death

- *Doubt about the Bible up now to 22%*
- *Belief in Life After Death Moving Up*

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# 1. Belief in Life After Death

## D. The Imprint of Immortality

*1 Timothy 6:15–16*

*he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality*

*2 Timothy 1:10*

*Jesus, who abolished death and brought life & immortality to light through the gospel*

*1 Corinthians 15:53*

*this mortal body must put on immortality.*

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# 1. Belief in Life After Death

## D. The Imprint of Immortality

*Genesis 1:27*

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

*Genesis 3:22*

*Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever...*

*Ecclesiastes 3:11*

*he has put eternity into man's heart*

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## 2. Revelation vs. Speculation

### A. Speculative Sources

#### 1) Intuition

*Proverbs 16:25*

*There is a way that seems right to a man,  
but its end is the way to death.*

*Proverbs 21:2*

*Every way of a man is right in his own eyes,  
but the LORD weighs the heart.*



## 2. Revelation vs. Speculation

### A. Speculative Sources

#### 2) Projection of our Wishes

*Psalm 50:21*

*These things you have done, and I have been silent;  
you thought that I was one like yourself.*

*Ezekiel 13:10*

*they have misled my people, saying, 'Peace,' when  
there is no peace, and because, when the people build  
a wall, these prophets smear it with whitewash*

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## 2. Revelation vs. Speculation

### A. Speculative Sources

#### 3) Dubious Testimonials

*Ezekiel 12:24*

*For there shall be no more any false vision or flattering divination within the house of Israel.*

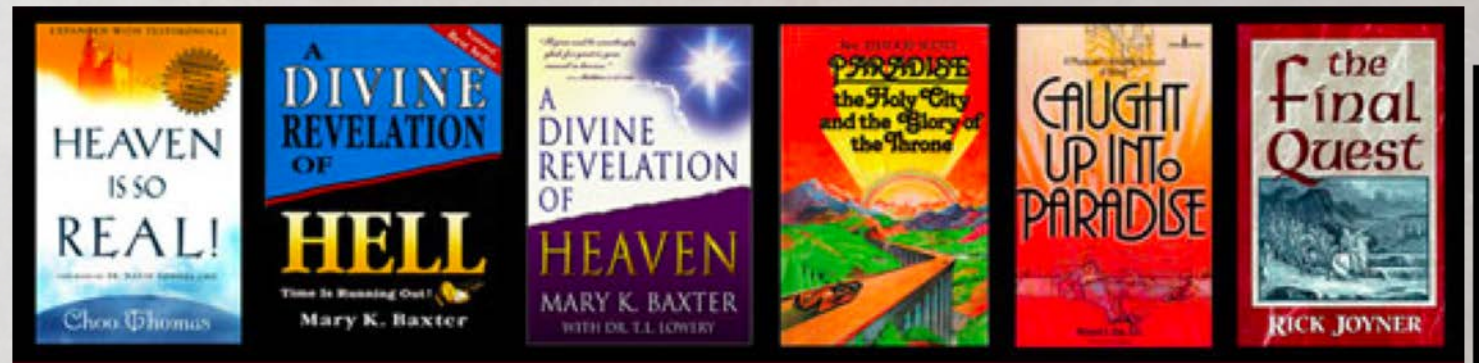
*Jeremiah 14:14*

*They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds.*





- Remember Our “Imprint of Immortality”
  - Always a Market for These Books
- Remember the “Projection of our Wishes”
  - Usually “Universalistic”



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## 2. Revelation vs. Speculation

### B. Reliable Revelation

#### 1) Contrasted

#### *Jeremiah 23:16*

*Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD."*





## 2. Revelation vs. Speculation

### B. Reliable Revelation

#### 1) Contrasted

#### *Jeremiah 23:21–22*

*I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.*



## 2. Revelation vs. Speculation

### B. Reliable Revelation

#### 2) Authenticated

#### *Isaiah 41:21–24*

*Set forth your case, says the LORD; bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob. Let them bring them, and tell us what is to happen. Tell us the former things, what they are, that we may consider them, that we may know their outcome; or declare to us the things to come. Tell us what is to come hereafter,*





## 2. Revelation vs. Speculation

### B. Reliable Revelation

#### 2) Authenticated

*Isaiah 41:21–24*

*that we may know that you are gods; do good, or do harm, that we may be dismayed and terrified. Behold, you are nothing, and your work is less than nothing; an abomination is he who chooses you.*





## 2. Revelation vs. Speculation

### B. Reliable Revelation

#### 2) Authenticated

#### *Revelation 1:17–19*

*Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one.*

*I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.*



## 2. Revelation vs. Speculation

### B. Reliable Revelation

#### 3) Unique

##### *1 Corinthians 2:8–10*

*None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”— these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.*

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## 2. Revelation vs. Speculation

### C. Don't Settle for Eschatological Agnosticism

- *Info on the Afterlife Can Be Known*
- *Details Have Been Revealed*
- *The Info Has Been Authenticated*

#### *2 Peter 1:19*

*we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts*

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### 3. Death as an Apologetic

#### A. Death is a Disruption to “Everything is Ok”

*Ecclesiastes 5:15–16*

*As he came from his mother’s womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind?*



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### 3. Death as an Apologetic

#### B. Death is an Inevitability

*Ecclesiastes 3:1–2*

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die*



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### 3. Death as an Apologetic

#### C. Considering Death is Humbling

*Ecclesiastes 8:8*

*No man has power to retain the spirit, or power over the day of death.*



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### 3. Death as an Apologetic

#### D. Considering Death Prompts Spiritual Contemplation

*Ecclesiastes 7:2*

*It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart.*



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### 3. Death as an Apologetic

#### E. Considering Death Engages the Conscience

*Hebrews 9:27*

*it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment*



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### 3. Death as an Apologetic

#### F. Death Prompts Fear Christ Can Eradicate

*Hebrews 2:14–15*

*Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*



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## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### A. The “Stumbling Block of the Cross”

- God’s Judgment is Central to the Gospel

*1 Corinthians 1:23*

*but we preach Christ crucified,  
a stumbling block to Jews  
and folly to Gentiles*



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## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### A. The “Stumbling Block of the Cross”

- God’s Judgment is Central to the Gospel

*Romans 8:3*

*For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh.*



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## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### B. The Goodness of Justice

#### 1) Human

*Proverbs 18:5*

*It is not good to be partial to the wicked or to deprive the righteous of justice.*



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## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### B. The Goodness of Justice

#### 2) Divine

*Genesis 18:25*

*Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"*



## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### C. The Problem of Comparative Righteousness

#### 1) Universal Rebellion

*Romans 3:23*

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*



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## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### C. The Problem of Comparative Righteousness

#### 2) A Smaller Sin is Still Sin

*Matthew 5:21–22*

*“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment”*





## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### C. The Problem of Comparative Righteousness

#### 3) Comparisons Are Blinding

*Luke 18:10–11*

*“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.’”*



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## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### D. Deceived by Societal Norms

#### 1) Relative Morality

*Isaiah 5:20*

*Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!*



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## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### D. Deceived by Societal Norms

#### 1) Relative Morality

*Romans 1:32*

*Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.*



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## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### D. Deceived by Societal Norms

#### 2) An Absolute Standard

##### *Isaiah 6:3–5*

*And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts” ...And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”*



## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### D. Deceived by Societal Norms

#### 2) An Absolute Standard

##### *Psalm 5:4–6*

*For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.*





## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### E. Conscience: Guilt Gauge

#### 1) Good Enough to be “Without Excuse”

*Romans 2:15–16*

*They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.*



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## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### E. Conscience: Guilt Gauge

#### 2) Capable of Suppression

*Romans 1:18*

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.*



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## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### F. Excessive Punishment?

#### 1) Justice is “Appropriate” by Definition

*Genesis 18:25*

*Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?”*





## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### F. Excessive Punishment?

#### 1) Justice is “Appropriate” by Definition

*Revelation 16:5–7*

*“Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!” And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!”*

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## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### F. Excessive Punishment?

#### 2) Sin is a Bigger Offensive Than Assumed

*Psalm 50:19–21*

*You give your mouth free rein for evil, and your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son. These things you have done, and I have been silent; you thought that I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.*

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## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### F. Excessive Punishment?

#### 3) Gravity Corresponds to the One Sinned Against

*Psalm 51:4*

*Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.*





## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### F. Excessive Punishment?

#### 4) Varied Sentences

##### *Revelation 20:12*

*And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.*





## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### F. Excessive Punishment?

#### 4) Varied Sentences

*Luke 12:47–48*

*And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.*

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## 4. The Apologetic for Hell

### F. Excessive Punishment?

#### 4) Varied Sentences

*James 3:1*

*Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.*



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## 5. The Appeal of a Biblical “Heaven”

### A. The Grace of God

*Psalm 103:8–10*

*The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.*





## 5. The Appeal of a Biblical “Heaven”

### A. The Grace of God

*Ephesians 2:8–9*

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*



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## 5. The Appeal of a Biblical “Heaven”

### B. The “Teleios” of God’s Place

#### 1) *Designed for Us*

##### *Revelation 21:2*

*And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*



## 5. The Appeal of a Biblical “Heaven”

### B. The “Teleios” of God’s Place

#### 2) *A Physical Reality*

*Revelation 21:1*

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away*





## 5. The Appeal of a Biblical “Heaven”

### B. The “Teleios” of God’s Place

#### 3) *A Painless Reality*

*Revelation 21:4*

*He will wipe away every tear from their eyes,  
and death shall be no more, neither shall there be  
mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the  
former things have passed away.*



## 5. The Appeal of a Biblical “Heaven”

### B. The “Teleios” of God’s Place

#### 4) A “Rewarding” Reality

##### a) For Sacrifices

***Matthew 19:21***

***Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”***





## 5. The Appeal of a Biblical “Heaven”

### B. The “Teleios” of God’s Place

#### 4) A “Rewarding” Reality

##### b) For Suffering

*Luke 6:22–23*

*Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven*

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## 5. The Appeal of a Biblical “Heaven”

### B. The “Teleios” of God’s Place

4) *A “Rewarding” Reality*

c) *For Service*

*Matthew 10:42*

*And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.*





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