

Do People In Heaven Mourn For Those In Hell?

One question which sometimes arises is how people who are in Heaven feel about those who are in Hell. Do they mourn for them? Do they feel bad because people they knew (perhaps even loved ones) are in Hell being tormented? Is there great grief and sorrow in Heaven over what's going on in Hell?

God gives us the answer to this question, and it can be found at the very end of the book of Isaiah. The Lord tells us that one day He will create a new heaven and earth, which will replace the one that currently exists. In that new earth everyone will go before Him on a regular basis to worship Him. Part of that worship will include looking upon those who are being tormented in Hell:

Isaiah 66:22-24: “For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord. And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.”

In this new world, one of the ways Christians will worship the Lord is by looking upon the wicked in Hell who God is eternally pouring out His wrath upon. In that day God's people will see those who are being eternally tormented *and will abhor them.*

There's no indication that anyone in that new earth will mourn for those who are in Hell, or will feel sorry for them. Instead God's people will view them exactly the same way that God does, because everyone in that new world will be in perfect harmony with Him. Since God abhors them, they will as well.

It may seem strange that one day this will be part of the way that people worship God. Yet this isn't the only place in the Bible where we can find this concept. The apostle Paul pointed out that God uses both the righteous and the wicked to glorify Him:

Romans 9:22-24: “What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?”

This passage is highlighting a very important principle. When God shows mercy to people and forgives them, He's bringing glory to Himself by revealing His grace and mercy. Likewise, when God pours out His wrath upon the wicked, He's bringing glory to Himself by revealing His justice and wrath.

All of those aspects of God – His grace, mercy, justice, and wrath – have always been part of His character, but they were hidden until the creation of the universe. Before the universe existed there was no one who needed grace and mercy, and there was no one who deserved justice and wrath. Therefore God had no way to demonstrate those aspects of His character. God is using both the righteous and the wicked to glorify Himself by revealing parts of His character that had previously been hidden.

In the new heaven and earth that God will one day create, no one is going to be horrified or appalled by God's wrath. Instead what they will abhor are the wicked. They will feel the same way

about the wicked that God feels:

Psalm 7:11: “God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”

It's true that Isaiah is talking about the new heaven and the new earth, and not heaven. However, the principle is the same. The people who are in heaven *want* God to punish the wicked:

Revelation 6:9-11: “And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.”

Likewise, when God pours out His wrath upon the wicked, those who are in Heaven aren't horrified by it. Instead they praise Him and tell Him that He was true and righteous for judging the wicked:

Revelation 16:2-7: “And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image. And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea. And the third angel

poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.”

Revelation 19:2-3: “And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.”

We can find these same themes in the story that Jesus taught about the rich man and Lazarus. When the rich man went to Hell, no one had any pity on him and no one helped him:

Luke 16:23-30: “And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And

beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent."

When the rich man was tormented in hell he wanted Abraham to help him, but no help was provided. Abraham didn't help him, or comfort him, or encourage him. None of the rich man's requests were granted, and Abraham displayed no grief about what the rich man was experiencing.

That's why it's so important to repent now, while there's still time. Those who repent will be saved, and will go on to inherit everlasting life and joy in the presence of God. Those who do not repent will go to Hell – and they won't be mourned. Instead they'll be an abhorrence to all of God's people.