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JOURNEY TO HELL

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Bible quotations are taken from the King James Version.

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By Bryce Pico

**Word of the Lord, given
Oct. 28, 2020: “The end that
awaits those who turn their
backs on God is so appalling,
you cannot comprehend it.”**

*“Blessed is he that readeth,
and they that hear the words of
this prophecy, and keep those
things which are written therein:
for the time is at hand.”*

Revelation 1:3

On October 28, 2020, at 7:17 p.m., the Lord called me to pray. I typically don't pray in a traditional way, but on that night I was compelled to get down on my knees, put my head in my hands, and pray intently in tongues. Within moments, I

found myself outside of my body and away from my home.

I believe the Lord allowed me to visit Hell, in the spirit, and this is my story.

Why I Wrote This Book

This is not something I wrote to share with the unsaved. If you have not made Jesus Christ your Lord, this story is not for you. This is something I was led to share with believers, those who have already been born again and are called to share the Gospel.

A man once told me that Christians do not believe in a literal Hell. It's something they've heard about, but they do not have a full revelation of. If they did, he said, they would grab every single person on the street and tell them about Jesus.

Without criticizing any churches or ministers, I would have to say that is true. It's important to teach people in the Church about heaven, but preaching about hell has fallen out of favor.

In many American churches, feel-good messages have taken the place of sound biblical teaching. Whether we like it or not, the Bible teaches us about the consequences of sin. For example, Romans 6:23 tells us that “the wages of sin is death.” Our choices in this life have an impact on our eternal life. Good or bad, saved or unsaved, we are going to live forever. And our decisions, primarily the one we make about Jesus, will determine where we spend eternity – with God or without.

I usually don't share my dreams or what I see in the spirit during prayer, but this instance was different. I believe the Lord showed this to me for the good of His Church. We've not taken His Word seriously in this area, and people need to know Hell is waiting for those who don't receive Jesus as Lord.

The old saying goes that only two things are certain in life: death and taxes. For our loved ones, neighbors, friends, and co-workers, they face one of two certainties: heaven or hell. It's up

to us as the Body of Christ to help them make that decision. To not know the gravity of that decision does us and them a disservice – and time is ticking away for every single person on this planet.

We need to take hell seriously if we are going to take evangelism seriously.

Warning Signs

I live in the mountains of Colorado. While the views are beautiful, driving can be a challenge. There are dramatic elevation changes, sharp turns,

and steep drops away from the roadside. Signs help us to know where we should go, how fast we should drive, and what to expect around the next corner.

People here are particularly in tune with winter weather when it comes to making decisions about how they drive. Watching the signs in the sky and on the road are important to saying safe. It would be foolish for someone to just jump in their car and drive the same way every day, regardless of conditions.

For our friends, family, and neighbors, it's important for us to show them the right signs and give them the right directions. If we already know what the conditions are like and where the slick spots are, we can tell them what to watch out for.

Let's say I called to tell you, "County Road 1 has drifting snow at [such-and-such place] and there seems to be ice underneath. I saw cars in the ditch and some have even flipped over. People have been seriously injured. You should consider going another

way and give yourself more time.” You would likely take me seriously and thank me for the advice. You probably would not get offended or tell me I am being judgmental about your driving ability. That would be foolish, because I was trying to share wisdom.

Sadly, many Christians are hesitant to share similar warnings about others’ lifestyles and the consequences. The Bible is clear about the kinds of choices that lead to death and hell. Thankfully, we can help people

divert from that path and find a better way.

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).

“The lifestyle choices you are making are not healthy. They’re not just hurting you. They are also hurting your family and your career. I’ve seen too many people going the same way. They have lost everything, died, and suffered consequences beyond your comprehension. There is another way you can go that leads to health and success. And once you’ve lived a long and full

life, you can go on to something even better.”

Doesn't that sound so easy? But many of us won't speak that way because we are afraid to confront people and follow God's direction to share the truth (Eph. 4:15). We don't want to offend someone, damage a relationship, or get in trouble (which does happen in schools, workplaces, and many countries around the world).

Let's face it – it's just much easier to share all the nice things about Jesus and let people decide

if they want to receive Him as an add on to their lives. If people think the way they live won't make much of a difference one way or the other, what good is Jesus to them? In fact, thanks to our schools and media, there are many people who believe physical death is the end – there is no God and no afterlife. “We all just end up dirt in the ground, so what does Jesus matter?” they might ask.

If you were my friend and I was headed for a crash, I hope you would sincerely try to tell me

about it. If my car slid into a tree and I landed in the hospital, I would be awfully disappointed if you hadn't warned me when you had the chance. Think about the people who are going to slide into hell if we don't share the Gospel and offer an alternative.

Descent into Hell

When I began praying that night, I began to see things in the spirit – in my inner man (Eph. 3:16) – even though my physical eyes were closed. And since I am a spirit first, though my body

stayed at home, I was able to travel somewhere else in another reality. Moving in the spirit, I lost all sense of time and space in the physical realm.

The first thing I experienced was falling at a rapid rate. However, I was not free falling like a skydiver. It was like I was being swallowed and falling into the center of the earth (Num. 17:24-34).

As I began adjusting to a different reality, I began to see flames all around me. It was like a tunnel that was on fire. The

heat was intense, but thankfully the Lord dulled my spiritual senses so I only experienced a small fraction of what was actually happening.

As I continued traveling at an increasing speed I noticed myself passing a gate (Matt 16:18-19). Without describing what the gate looked like, it was clear to me that there is a definite separation between Hell and the rest of the universe.

Hell is a place that is enclosed and serves as a prison. It was easy to enter, but I got the impression

it would be much more difficult – impossible – to get out. This was not a place I wanted to be. I could feel despair gripping me as I passed the gate and looked back at the diminishing light and hope behind me.

As my descent continued, I began to see hands reaching out and faces emerging from the darkness around me. These dull gray figures had empty holes where their eyes should have been. Their mouths were open and they seemed to be gasping for air. The hands reached out to

grab at my body from all directions, trying to take hold.

I knew almost immediately that these were the disembodied spirits of demons – fallen angels that followed Lucifer/Satan out of heaven. Now, stripped of their power and ability to demonize humans, they were being tormented in hell. They had no way to fulfill their rebellious schemes and were suffering as diminished and helpless spiritual beings.

Demons

Satan and his demons are parasitic, always looking for a host. They were designed by God as servants and messengers. They were made to deliver God's Word as agents of His authority with no authority of their own. Lucifer rebelled against God by wishing to be like Him (Isaiah 14:12-15) – an ability reserved only for those made in God's image (Gen. 1:27).

When Satan and the rebellious angels were cast down into the earth, it was with the intent that mankind would rule over them

until they could be cast into torment forever. However, the first man and woman were deceived and relinquished their delegated authority from God (Gen. 1:28) to Satan (Gen. 3, Luke 4:6).

Despite their perverted rebellious nature, even demons know God and tremble (James 2:19). They know what awaits them. Throughout the Gospels, when evil spirits encountered Jesus, they responded to his presence by speaking through demonized people, “We know

who you are. You are the Son of God. Have you come to torment us before the time?” (Matt. 8:29).

Demonic forces have harnessed the physical bodies of men and women to execute their rebellion and destroy those made in God’s image, with the hope of wiping humanity off the earth and ruling it themselves. But even they recognize – unlike many people – that there is a time of reckoning coming. There will be a judgment day when they and their king, Satan, will be cast away forever (Rev. 20:10).

We need to know and be able to share that hell was never meant for mankind. God doesn't want any people to go to hell. That is why God sent His Son (John 3:16), so we could be saved and have eternal life (a relationship with Him), and avoid eternal damnation (separation from Him in the torment of Hell).

Jesus the Savior

Jesus was sent on a rescue mission. If we don't repent (turn back to God), those demons that torment us on this earth will drag

us into Hell with them. Their reward becomes our reward if we do not receive Jesus as our Savior (Rescuer).

People who don't know Jesus are hostages – human shields – used by Satan and his demons in their war against God. Sadly, many people have had their hearts hardened and are suffering from a spiritual form of Stockholm Syndrome. People have let their captors become their leaders. They stay in captivity, even when escape is possible.

Our job in sharing the Gospel is to be hostage negotiators. We share the Good News of Jesus, who He is, and what He has done, so people will turn away from Satan, pull free of the demons that have a hold on them, and give God that one clean shot that will send them to Hell forever.

The Lake of Fire

After passing through the gauntlet of demons, I found myself sinking in a lake. However, what I felt was not the cool relief of water. The burning

heat I first experienced as I was swallowed into the earth intensified by the moment. The darkness had deepened so that I could not see, but I did have a knowing of what was going on around me.

I sensed giant blades, shaped like claws, ripping at my flesh and slicing it open. It did not fall away as I thought it would. The wounds closed, only to be torn open again. It was a continuous wounding and tearing apart. This caused intense pain throughout my body.

These were the stripes that Jesus took on His own body when he was tortured and scourged by the Roman guards in Jerusalem (Matt 27:26, Mark 15:15).

I also found my body being continually run through, in and out, by long spikes. These spikes seemed to multiply and grow out of each other like the thorns I've seen growing out of hedge trees. When they pierced through my whole body, including my head, I felt deep shame, guilt, and fear. I was being confronted with every

uncomfortable memory of my earthly life.

I remembered every bad thing done to others, along with every bad thing done to me. The worst part was, no matter how I tried to come up with a solution to the poor choices I made, I knew there was nothing I could do to change things. These memories and regrets would play over and over in my mind forever.

These were the thorns (the worries and cares of this world) that Jesus wore as a crown on the cross (Matt. 27:29, Mark 15:17).

As I suffered physical and emotional wounds, I could also sense the intense heat all around me. It was suffocating and I continually felt out of breath. The searing of my skin was as unbearable as the other external and internal wounds.

I also felt as though my intestines were being devoured from within. It was a creeping, crawling feeling that made me think my inwards would burst from my abdomen at any moment. The intensity made me want to double over in pain, but

the viscosity of the lake held my whole body firmly in place.

This was the consuming fire and worms Jesus warned his disciples about in Mark 9:48.

It was after this experience that I came back into my physical body. I was still in the same position, but the kitchen clock read 8:05 p.m. I had been praying in tongues for 48 minutes. When I came to my senses, I noticed that every joint and tissue in my body was in severe pain. My shirt was soaked through and sweat was dripping from my face and

hands. After dragging myself to my feet, I stumbled into the cold night air, looked at the full moon above the mountains, and considered where I had just been.

Fate of Death and Hell

In the wake of my journey, I thought I had experienced death, damnation to hell, and eternal punishment in the lake of fire. After some research, though, I realized I had actually experienced the defeat of hell and death, and God casting them both

into the lake of fire – the second death (Rev. 20:14).

I want to remind you that sinful lifestyles don't necessarily send a person to hell. They do contribute to it, though, by obscuring people's view of God and affecting a person's decision making. When all people stand before the Great White Throne of God (Rev. 20:11-13), their deeds will be judged according to whether their names are in the Book of Life. That book will be filled only with the names of those who belong to Jesus.

By believing in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and confessing (agreeing) with your mouth that He is Lord, you can make sure your name is written in the Book of Life.

God's intent was that death and hell would be cast into the Lake of Fire forever. However, those who are not allied with and submitted to Jesus are going to go with them (Rev. 20:15).

Once there, everything Jesus took at the cross will become available as part of everlasting torment. Every seed of rebellion

sown – every sin – will come into full harvest as eternal punishment in the lake.

Between death on Good Friday and rising on Resurrection Sunday, Jesus took all the sin of the world and deposited it in darkness as a reward for the spirits who rebelled against God and sought to destroy His creation. It was meant to never afflict people again, as long as they accepted His gift of salvation.

Those people who don't have their names written in the Book

of Life will suffer the same fate as Satan and his demons. It doesn't have to end this way for everyone. We have a choice to make as servants of the Lord Jesus Christ: share the life-changing, soul-saving message of the Gospel, or let people slide into suffering for eternity.

Conclusion

I share this experience with the disclaimer that I did not see a definitive vision of hell. The Lord allowed me to see things in a way that I could communicate clearly

and help people understand easily.

When I finally returned to my physical surroundings, a word from the Lord rang in my spirit: “The end that is coming for those who turn their backs on God is so appalling, you cannot comprehend it.”

I believe the Lord spared me from seeing the full scope of hell. If had seen what *truly* awaits those who reject Jesus, I doubt I would have been able to fully function afterwards. As it was, my body was sore, sweaty, and

exhausted. I spent the better part of that night and the next day recovering. And that was from 48 minutes of prayer with my spiritual senses muted.

I could not even begin to comprehend one minute in hell at full volume and color, much less an eternity. What I saw in the spirit and experienced is just as real to me now as when it happened that night. I share it with you, not for my own benefit, but so that you will get a taste of what awaits the lost after judgment.

This is not something to take lightly or disregard. I implore you to search the Scriptures to get a revelation of hell from God's Word. Renew your mind to it. Use it to glorify God and magnify His goodness.

If you have received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you are a born-again believer in Christ. Heaven awaits and hell is far away from you. Rejoice in Lord and be glad!

But remember, there are billions – *with a "b"* – of people who will not share in the same

reward as you. That is why Jesus has sent us to “preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). We need to give people the opportunity to hear and receive, so that they may believe and be saved (Mark 16:16).

Even though those who will not believe “shall be damned” (Mark 16:16), it is still our duty to give them that opportunity – to accept or reject Jesus’s offer of salvation.

We can fulfill His command, but we have to be motivated. If we continue to deny the true

existence of a real and everlasting reward for sin, we will never reach those who need the Gospel.

God is love (1 John 4:8), because He honors His Word. In the same way, we show that we love God by fulfilling His commands (John 14:15). God made Hell for the devil, and not those He created in His image (Gen. 1:27).

He does not want anyone to perish and spend eternity in hell (2 Pet. 3:9), but it's up to us to make that Word reality. We are commanded to share the Good

News of Jesus and prevent people from sinking into damnation. If we love God, we will keep His commandments (1 John 2:3-6).

Will you be the one to “go” and complete the rescue mission? The choice is yours.

About the Author



Bryce L. Pico helps people understand what they believe, why they believe it, and how their beliefs shape

their lives. He is called to empower others to discover their God-given talents and individual purpose in building the Kingdom. He has served in media and prayer ministries, and earned a ministry degree from Oral Roberts University. Learn more at www.life-abundant.org.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Jesus, John 10:10

Our purpose is to educate people about the abundant life available in Jesus Christ (John 10:10). We are called to teach and preach, and equip the Body of Christ so that they may be ready always to give an answer for the hope that is within them (1 Peter 3:15). Through live teaching, books, and media resources, we aim to reveal Jesus to people so that they may see Him at work in their everyday lives.



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