

Date: 12/30/18 Sf3083
Title: Questions and Answers
Text: 1 Peter 3:15-16

1 Peter 3: 15-16 - But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

Peter used an interesting word here when he told these believers to “give an answer.” The word in Greek is apologia. It means something akin to “giving a well-reasoned reply” or “providing a thoughtful response to a question offered.” Apologia has nothing to do with being remorseful or apologetic. Instead, it simply describes our duty to “make the case” for what we believe.

Why didn't God destroy Satan after he rebelled against God?

Simple answer there is no clear reason.

Satan roams like a devouring lion to destroy faith (1 Peter 5:8); he makes people sick and diseased (Acts 10:38); he tempts to sin (Luke 22:3-4); he blinds the minds of unbelievers (2 Corinthians 4:4); he takes people captive to do his will (2 Timothy 2:26); he kills (Revelation 2:10).

One-day God will stop him from doing this.

Why doesn't He stop him now?

- God has used Satan to demonstrate His love.

Revelation 12:9 - The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Rev 12:9

Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- God defeated Satan on Calvary and at the resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 - ⁵⁵“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- God will ultimately bind Satan.

Revelation 20:2 - He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

Does God hear the prayers of unbelievers?

Unbelievers generally don't pray to God they don't believe in.

If unbelievers do pray it's generally because they are in trouble.

Prayer is an intimate conversation with God.

Our Father

John 8:47 - Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God. Prayer is a privilege given to God's children.

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

When the word hear is used with God as the subject it includes the idea that God responds.

Isaiah 59:1-2 - Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

Did Jesus visit Hell when He died?

What does the Bible say?

There are five Bible passages used to support the idea that Christ really did descend into hell between His death and resurrection.

1. Acts 2:27
2. Romans 10:6–7
3. Ephesians 4:8–9
4. 1 Peter 3:18–20

This passage says: “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.”

5. 1 Peter 4:6

3 Words translated Hell in the Bible.

Hades could be the place of the dead.

In Hades there was a place for the good and the bad.

In order to be in Heaven our sins had to be covered by Jesus blood. Those who were righteous were secure in a good place until Christ came and led them into Paradise the place of God.