

Chapter 11, Heaven

Is Heaven likely or unlikely or self-contradictory nonsense? It is too good to be true for a start and its mad to think you suffer and die here to go there forever.

Handbook of Christian Apologetics Says

We reject reincarnation because scripture opposes it Hebrews 9:27

Reason Says

So what?

Handbook of Christian Apologetics Says

Tradition in the Churches never endorsed or permitted it

Reason says:

So what? Tradition endorsed influencing the state to quash any views that differed from the dogma of the Church.

Handbook of Christian Apologetics Says

Reincarnation would mean that when Jesus when he became man that it was just an appearance not a real becoming man

Reason says:

Jesus could have reincarnated time and time again to develop the power to love so much that he managed to raise himself or be raised from the dead.

Handbook of Christian Apologetics Says

Reincarnation implies that body and soul is not a unity or oneness but that the soul is imprisoned in the body

Reason says:

It does not. Many believers in reincarnation believe they chose their embodiment. Even if the body and the soul are not one they act like it and that is all that counts.

Handbook of Christian Apologetics Says

Reincarnation implies that the body is worthless and a punishment and a trap

Reason says:

It does not. Spirits might need bodies despite the frailties of the bodies to feel complete and happier.

Handbook of Christian Apologetics Says

Reincarnation usually blames sin on the body

Reason says:

If it does it usually then it doesn't have to. It is possible that we reincarnate because we value ordinary human life and the body so much.

Handbook of Christian Apologetics Says

Reincarnation says we are reborn to learn the lessons we failed to learn in the previous life but if that is so then why are our memories of previous lives wiped?

Reason says:

We forget most things in life and lessons have to be relearned over and over again anyway. Christians can't explain why we are so forgetful of the lessons we learned either. Maybe we forget because life is about having different experiences and variety – an adventure more than about learning lessons? Perhaps we don't need to remember the most important lessons we got in a previous life because they are coded into our characters anyway? Is that why one child is kindly and another child is hard-hearted?

Handbook of Christian Apologetics Says

The evidence for reincarnation comes from past life regress and telepathy or demons can explain where the information about past lives comes from. It is a hoax.

Reason says:

Maybe telepathy made doctors diagnose a woman with some incurable terminal disease that doesn't go into remission so that when she went to Lourdes and got cured nobody knew that there was nothing wrong with her at all? Telepathy is invoked by the Church to explain miracles it doesn't like and it has the bigotry not to let us use it to explain its own.

Handbook of Christian Apologetics Says

Reincarnation cannot tell us why our souls are imprisoned in bodies

Reason says:

Many forms of it try to.

Handbook of Christian Apologetics Says

To those who say Heaven is escapist we answer that is it escapist that a child in the womb could wonder about life after birth?

Reason says:

Escapism is when you want to forget about the troubles of this world and doing something about them and focus on a pie in the sky instead.

Handbook of Christian Apologetics Says

To those who say that Heaven has nothing to do with life here now, we say that the joy of Heaven begins on earth right now.

Reason says:

Nonsense.

Handbook of Christian Apologetics Says

We deny that Heaven is a bribe. We deny that it requires a mercenary doing of good on earth to get rewards there. Romeo wasn't mercenary for wanting to marry Juliet. A team that has worked hard is not doing wrong to want victory.

Reason says:

It would be love for them not mercenary to seek victory.

The truly good person would want to stay on earth not go to Heaven. Why? To help the poor and the suffering. Heaven is a cynical bribe. Heaven is not a victory as regards the best in human nature.

Handbook of Christian Apologetics Says

Heaven is unselfish for in the pleasure we feel and the happiness we have with being one with God we forget ourselves.

So do we forget the pleasure and the happiness? As long as we have them we are not forgetting ourselves.

To be in Heaven and not have any work to do is inhuman but we answer that the work we do in Heaven is simply love. Love is a work.

Reason replies:

There is no suffering in Heaven to heal. There is no love without being a being who can suffer for others.

We do not sin in Heaven. To argue that we need to be free to sin in order not to be robots is as silly as speaking of a healthy disease! Why? Because sin takes away freedom. The truly free person doesn't sin for he reaches his perfection and happiness. God gives us free will only in the desire that we will choose a higher freedom, freedom from evil which enslaves and tricks us. Evil always treats us like objects and robots though it tricks us to think that it make us even freer. The lower freedom is freedom from compulsion and the higher freedom is freedom from evil. In Heaven nobody is compelled to be good but nobody wants to sin there so they have the higher freedom, freedom from evil.

So by not taking us to heaven from the first moment of our existence then God has cheated us. He is to blame for our sins and if he had done this there would be nobody choosing to go to Hell. Hell is as more his fault than ours.

Religion sells Heaven as a moral option to spend eternal moral happiness with an eternal moral God. How does the claim that morality and God have to go together connect to the idea of an afterlife that is meant to be spent with a moral God in a moral eternity? The idea is that God will want only good deeds and love in his heaven otherwise you are not truly with him.

Looks good until you think!

People hope that the good deeds they do on earth will do and they can spend Heaven in bliss with nothing to do. That is what the logic above amounts to. In Heaven even if you do anything it is not the same as crying and bleeding and endangering yourself on earth to carry food to the starving. So good is a ladder to Heaven that you just throw away when you get there.

If that is your attitude facing God as your judge you will not get into Heaven for whoever does good as a ladder that he hopes to break up for firewood is a hypocrite and an opportunist. There is no real good in him.

If there is an afterlife like that then it is an immoral one. If there is no afterlife of that kind then it is morally harmful to say there is. You have people using a ladder that they will break and end up having nowhere decent to go.

Is it harmful to say there is such a Heaven if you wrongly think there is? Yes for harm causing is not prevented or annulled or softened by good intentions. You have an arrogant opinion of your good intentions and their values if you disagree.

Handbook of Christian Apologetics Says

There will be no marrying in Heaven. Will there be sex there? Sexuality will exist in Heaven for we will still be men and women in Heaven. Sex is not what we do but what we are. But in Heaven we will be past the copulating stage and instead will be united in some kind of spiritual intercourse in Heaven with everybody else, something that is foreshadowed by sexual intercourse on earth. So Heaven has sex not in the physical sense though we will have physical bodies there but everybody will be part of an ineffable oneness and intimacy far closer and more pleasurable than any sex on earth.

Reason says:

What is this? An endless orgasm in Heaven? This is an incredible doctrine coming from Catholic philosophers! Jesus said there would be no marrying in Heaven but that everybody would be like the angels. That doesn't sound like there will be any kind of sex, our type or other, there. Angels don't have bodies. Also if the union in heaven is closer than marriage then it is marriage so we are married to everybody else!

Christian tradition is adamant that there will be no sexuality in Heaven for sex is a necessary evil on earth.