

# Contents

Acknowledgements / 9

Abbreviations / 11

## **Part 1: An Overview of the Afterlife**

1. Why Is It Important to Think about the Afterlife? / 17
2. What Are the Most Common Views of Life after Death? / 25
3. Can We Really Know Anything about the Afterlife? / 33
4. Why Do People Die? / 39
5. What Does the Bible Mean When It Speaks of Our “Soul” and “Spirit”? / 45
6. Does Our Soul or Spirit Survive the Death of Our Body? / 53
7. What Does the Bible Mean When It Speaks of “Heaven”? / 61
8. What Does the Bible Mean When It Speaks of “Hell”? / 69
9. What Should We Conclude about Those Who Claim to Have Seen Heaven or Hell? / 79

## **Part 2: The Intermediate State between Death and the Resurrection of the Body**

10. What Fate Awaits Those Who Die, Immediately upon Death? / 91
11. What Happens to Infants Who Die? / 99
12. Is It Possible for Us to Communicate with the Dead? / 109
13. Is There Such a Place as Purgatory? / 119
14. Does God Give People an Opportunity for Conversion after They Die? / 127

## **Part 3: The Final Judgment**

15. What Is the Final Judgment? / 139
16. On What Is the Final Judgment Based? / 149
17. Will God Assign Rewards to Christians at the Final Judgment? / 157
18. Will There Be Degrees of Punishment Assigned to Unbelievers at the Final Judgment? / 167
19. What Will the Resurrection Body Be Like? (Part 1) / 175
20. What Will the Resurrection Body Be Like? (Part 2) / 185

## Part 4: The Eternal State

### Section A: The Eternal State for Believers

21. What Are the New Heavens and the New Earth? / 197
22. How Will the New Heavens and New Earth Come About? / 207
23. What Is the New Jerusalem? / 213
24. What Will We Know in the Eternal State? / 221
25. What Will We Do in the Eternal State? / 229
26. Will There Be Marriage and Sex in the Eternal State? / 237
27. Will It Be Possible for Us to Sin in the Eternal State? / 245
28. Will There Be Animals in the Eternal State? (Part 1) / 255
29. Will There Be Animals in the Eternal State? (Part 2) / 265

### Section B: The Eternal State for Unbelievers (Hell)

30. What Is Hell Like? / 275
31. Are the Fires of Hell Literal? / 281
32. How Long Does Hell Last? / 289
33. What Do Universalists Teach about Hell? / 297
34. What Do Annihilationists Teach about Hell? / 307
35. Does Eternal Punishment Really Fit the Crime? / 317
36. How Can a God of Love Send People to an Eternal Hell? / 323
37. How Can We Be Happy in the Eternal State If There Are People Suffering in Hell, including Some of Our Loved Ones? (Part 1) / 331
38. How Can We Be Happy in the Eternal State If There Are People Suffering in Hell, including Some of Our Loved Ones? (Part 2) / 341
39. Did Jesus “Descend into Hell” Like the Apostles’ Creed Says? (Part 1) / 351
40. Did Jesus “Descend into Hell” Like the Apostles’ Creed Says? (Part 2) / 361

Scripture and Ancient Sources Index / 371