

Like most people, you believe in God.

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!
(James 2:19)

But if demons believe in God and won't be in heaven, there must be more to it than just believing in God.

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have **a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge**. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. (Romans 10:1-3)

So, there were many people in Israel who strongly believed in God, yet didn't properly understand Him or what was necessary to enter heaven?

Sadly, that is true—not only is Israel, but around the world. People try to be good enough to enter heaven, but fail to actually follow God's way.

Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through Me.**" (John 14:5-6)

Wait. Don't all religions lead to the same God? No, they don't. That is not a popular perspective in our post-modern world, but the truth is often unpopular.

Logically, all religions cannot be true. For example, Muslims believe all infidels (non-Muslims) will go to hell. Meanwhile, the Bible teaches that all who do not follow Jesus will go to hell. Applying simple logic, both beliefs could be wrong, or one of them could be true. But both cannot be true at the same time.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God, not of works**, lest anyone should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Christianity is unique among all the religions of the world. All other religions teach, in some way, that you must work to earn your salvation. The Bible teaches that we cannot earn salvation; it is a gift from God. Additionally, the Bible has a massive amount of supporting historical evidence, and was written by 40 different people, while most religious books were written by one person.

Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.**” And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **And you are witnesses of these things.** (Luke 24:44-48)

The whole Bible tells us about God and points us toward Jesus, whose very real death, burial, and resurrection were witnessed by many. The Bible is not a book of fairy tales; it is an historical account of real people and real events.

So, how do people get into heaven?

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “**Repent**, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 4:17)

There is only one way: We must repent and turn away from our sins to follow Jesus. This is not popular. But it is absolutely true. If you are a true follower of Jesus, your life will be full of evidence that shows how God has changed your heart.

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that **faith without works is dead?** (James 2:19-20)

Good works cannot save you, but good works may be evidence to show that you are saved.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures**, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:3-6)

Don't make the mistake that many in Israel made. If you believe in God but lack knowledge about Him, dig into the Bible to get to know about God, Jesus, and salvation. If you're not sure where to begin, the New Testament books of John, James, 1 John, and Romans are good places to start. If God has saved you, He has given you a desire to know Him more.

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Read more at www.UnderstandingJesus.info