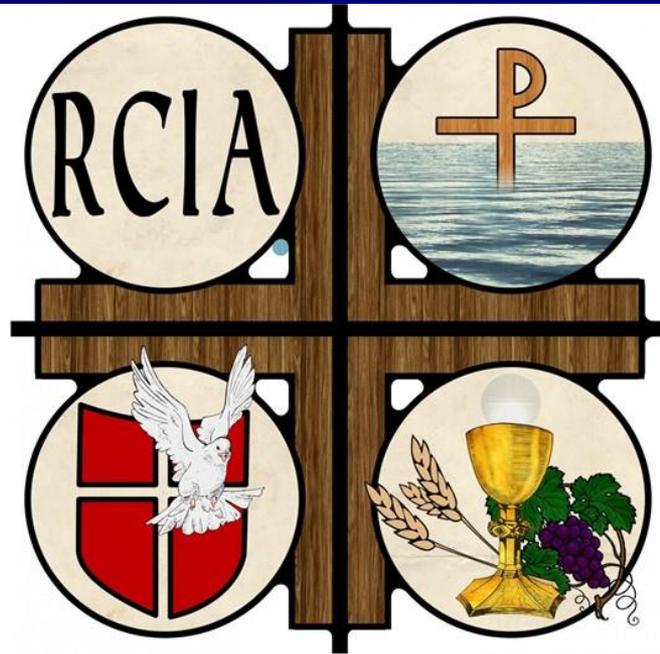


Lesson Q16: Eschatology

The Last Things



**Rite of Christian Initiation
for Adults**

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life, **let us find nourishment for our souls.**

You are the light of the world, **let us follow you out of the darkness.**

You are the door, **let us enter the Father's presence in your name.**

You are the good shepherd, **let us rest in your provision.**

You are the resurrection and the life, **let us find true life and victory in you.**

You are the way, the truth and the life, **let us love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.**

We pray this in your Holy and Majestic name, **Amen.**

Eschatology

- **Greek for “last things.”**
The part of theology focused on the afterlife:
 - Death
 - Judgment
 - Heaven
 - Hell
 - Purgatory
 - Second Coming of Christ
 - Resurrection of the body



Opening Scripture

1 Peter 1:3-9, 13-16

³ **[a]** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you

⁵ who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time.

⁶ **[b]** In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials,

⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Opening Scripture

1 Peter 1:3-9, 13-16 (Continued)

⁸ Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ as you attain the goal of [your] faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹³ [a]Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind, [b] live soberly, and set your hopes completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹⁴ Like obedient children, do not act in compliance with the desires of your former ignorance [c] ¹⁵ but, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in every aspect of your conduct, ¹⁶ for it is written, “Be holy because I [am] holy.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church

- “Christ is Lord of eternal life. Full right to pass definitive judgment on the works and hearts of men belongs to Him as Redeemer of the world.”
 - CCC 679
- These sections in the Catechism will help you understand Catholic teaching on the “*last things.*”
 - CCC 668-682
 - CCC 988-1060

Symbolon Video

The Last Things

Part 1, Session 10

40 Minutes

Heaven

- **Eternal life with God and the saints. Heaven is the goal of all human life, “ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness.” (CCC 1024)**



Hell

- A state of “definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed...eternal separation from God” (CCC 1033, 1035). To be in hell after death requires a person to die in mortal sin and his or her free choice to reject God’s merciful love and refuse to repent.



Purgatory

- The state of eternal life in which those who have been judged worthy of heaven but are imperfect at the time of death undergo a final purification. The sufferings in purgatory are not the same for all, but proportioned to each person's degree of sinfulness. Moreover, these sufferings can be lessened in duration and intensity through the prayers and good works of the faithful on earth.



Purgatory

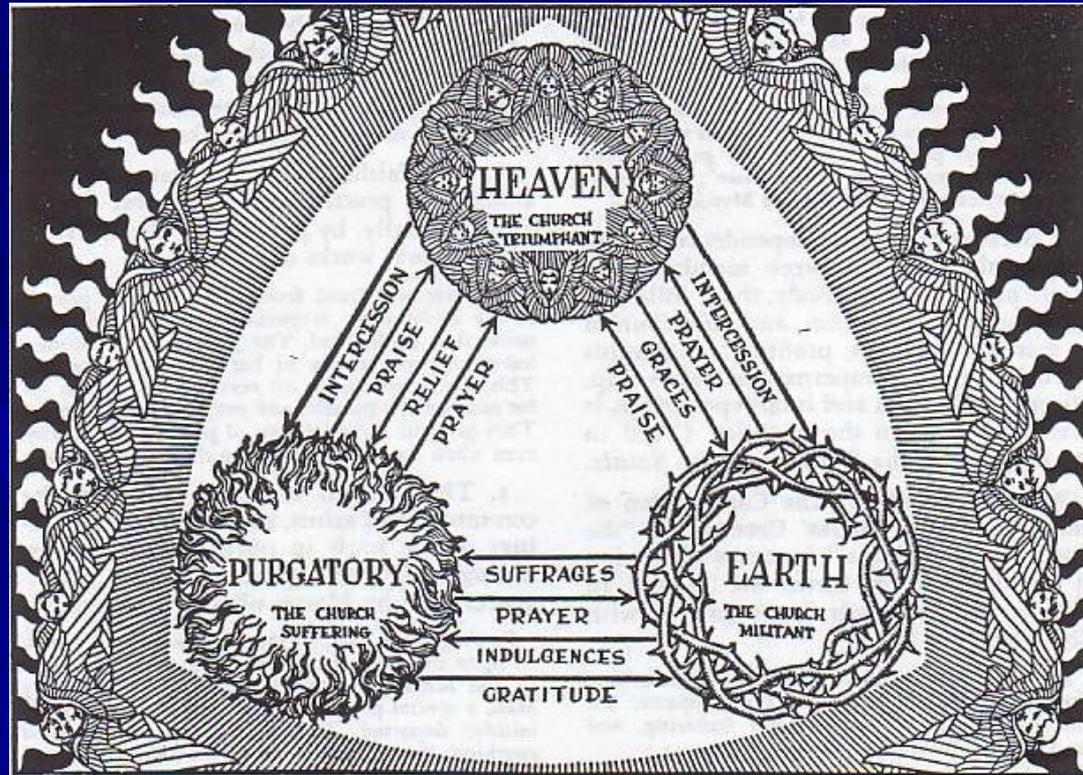
- Purgatory is not a punishment [like Hell], but a means of accomplishing perfection and justice.
- Consider Purgatory as a merciful provision from a loving God who wants salvation for all who truly seek forgiveness and mercy.



The Communion of Saints

(United As One Mystical Body of Christ)

- On Earth
 - The Church Militant
- In Purgatory
 - The Church Suffering
- In Heaven
 - The Church Triumphant



Free Will

- **Humanity's authentic capability, uniquely bestowed to us by God, to act according to a knowing and free choice that is personally motivated and prompted from within, not under blind internal impulse nor by mere pressure. This freedom allows us to cooperate with divine grace and choose the good, but also to commit mortal sin and ultimately reject God.**

A black and white portrait of C.S. Lewis, showing him from the chest up, resting his head on his hand in a thoughtful pose.

“If a thing is free to be good it is also free to be bad. And free will is what has made evil possible. Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having.”

– C.S. Lewis,
The Shocking Alternative,
“Mere Christianity”

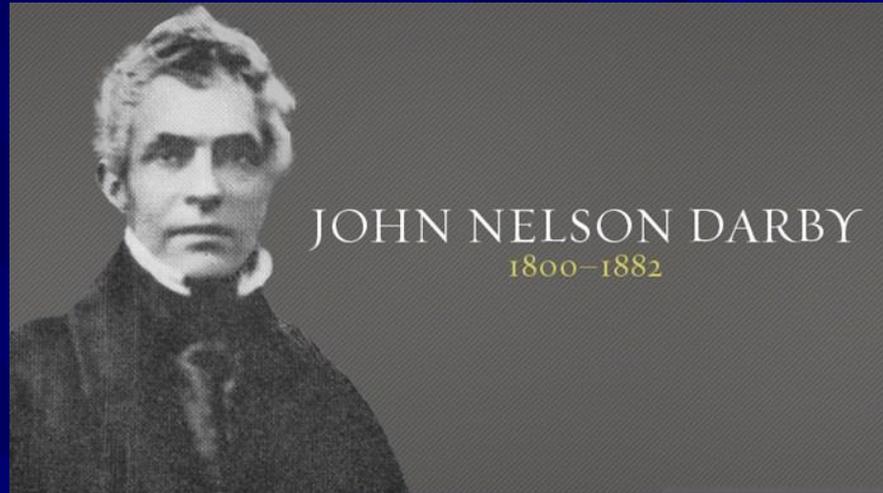
cslewis

Second Coming

- The return of Christ and fulfillment of God's kingdom in the "new heavens and a new earth." Scripture reveals that some worldly tribulation will precede this event. Also called the end times.
- Nicene Creed.



The Rapture



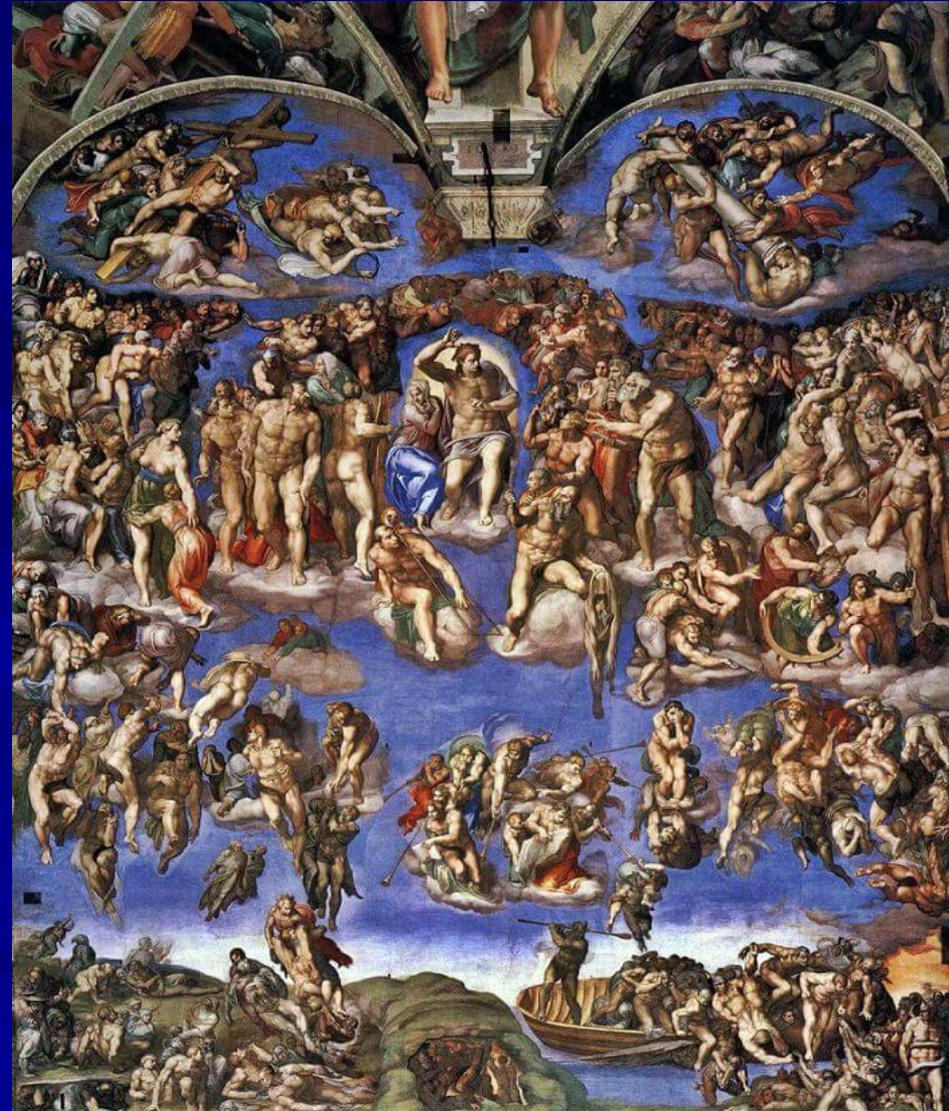
The Resurrection of the Body

- Like Jesus Christ, we will receive a Resurrected Body at His Second Coming.
- We profess this each Sunday in the Nicene Creed.
- God created us to have both a soul and a body.



Final Judgment

- The final encounter with Christ during which all of humanity will be judged and the just and the unjust are eternally separated. “The last judgment will reveal even to its furthest consequences the good each person has done or failed to do.” (CCC 1039)
- This general judgment is distinct from a person’s particular (personal) judgment, which happens at the time of our death



The Kingdom of God

- Catechism of the Catholic Church, Paragraphs 541 – 570
- The “Kingdom of God” was brought to earth through the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. He is the Kingdom of God. **[Past]**
- The “Kingdom of God” is present on earth through Christ’s Body...the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. **[Present]**
- The “Kingdom of God” is yet to come through the Second Coming of Christ and the perfect unification of Himself to His Bride, the Church. **[Future]**

**Any Questions or
Comments Regarding
“Last Things?”**

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you that you created us, you know us and you love us. We are fully known and completely loved by you. Though we fail you, you have never turned your back on us, you remain faithful forever.

Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you for your sacrificial love. You lived the perfect life we could never live and died the death that we deserved so that we can be forgiven and live for eternity with you.

Holy Spirit, we thank you that you convict us of our sin, assure us of your forgiveness and empower us for our lives. Triune God, we glorify you today. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.