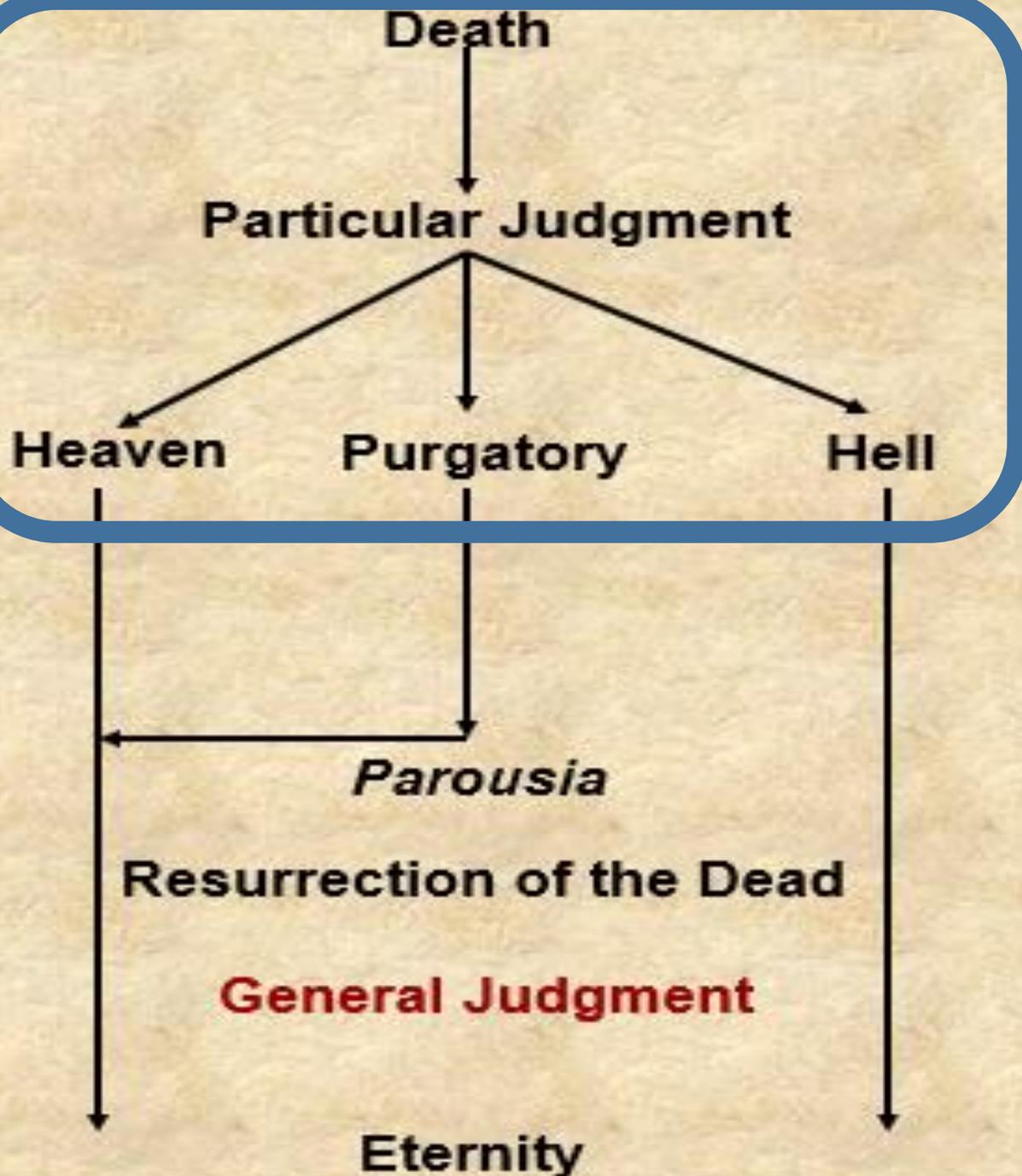


End Things

claim your citizenship in the Kingdom of God

Eschatology

the part of theology concerned with death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind.

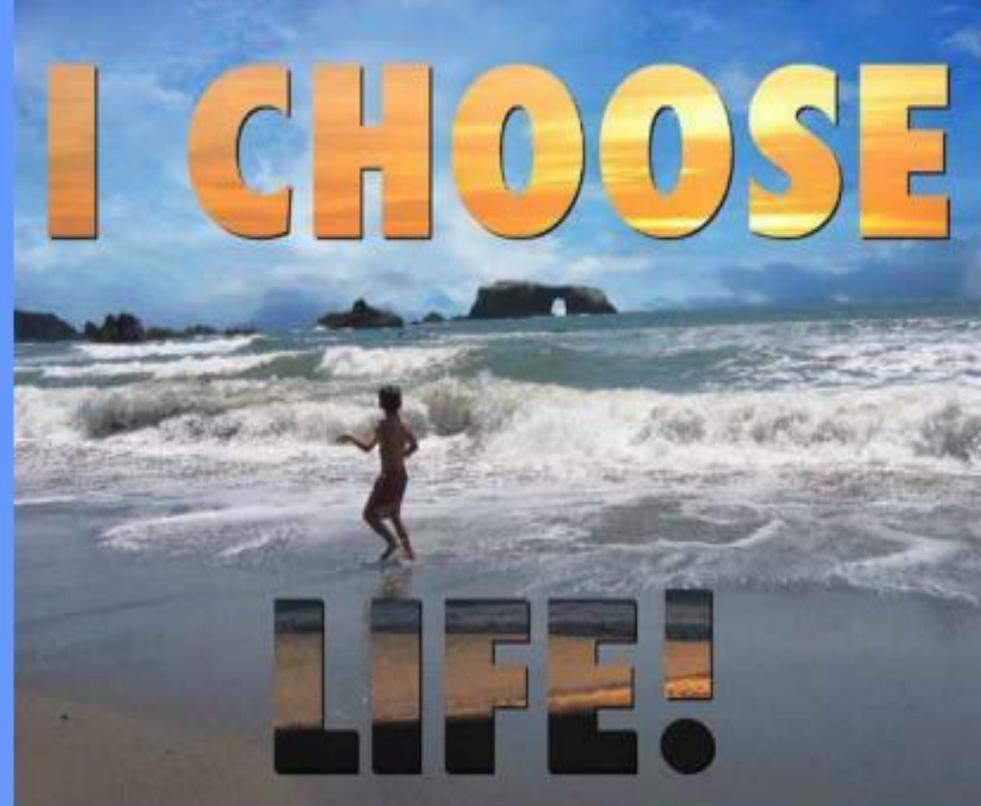


Passing from
this earth in
the flesh to our
God in the
Spirit.

*In and through our
choices we shape our
identity and destiny in
a definitive and
decisive way*

Dying is the act by which a
person freely gathers up or
consummates his or her
history of freedom in a final
and definitive way

Though this gathering up
occurs throughout life death is
the persons last act in which
their destiny is finally,
definitively, irrevocably
determined



*Death is the privileged
moment of human freedom
in which the person has
the power to make a
decision that is of eternal
validity*

Christians believe that human death closes the state of human life.

Scripture speaks of death in many ways:

- as a return to dirt (Genesis 3:19);
- as a departure (2 Timothy 4:6; Philippians 1:23);
- to be at home (2 Corinthians 5:8-9);
- a discarding of a tent (2 Peter 1: 13-14);
- a sleeping (Matthew 9:24, John 11:11-13);
- a rest (Revelation 14:13);
- a return to God (Ecclesiastes 12:7);
- to be with Christ (Philippians 1:23); and
- to live with Christ (2 Timothy 2:11).

Ecclesiastes 12:5-7

Because man goes to his lasting home, and mourners go about the streets; Before the silver cord is snapped and the golden bowl is broken, And the pitcher is shattered at the spring, and the broken pulley falls into the well, And **the dust returns to the earth** as it once was, and **the life breath returns to God** who gave it.

2 Corinthians 5:1

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have **a building from God**, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:4

For while we are in this tent we groan and are weighed down, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that **what is mortal may be swallowed up by life**.

2 Corinthians 5:8

Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and **go home** to the Lord.

2 Timothy 4:6

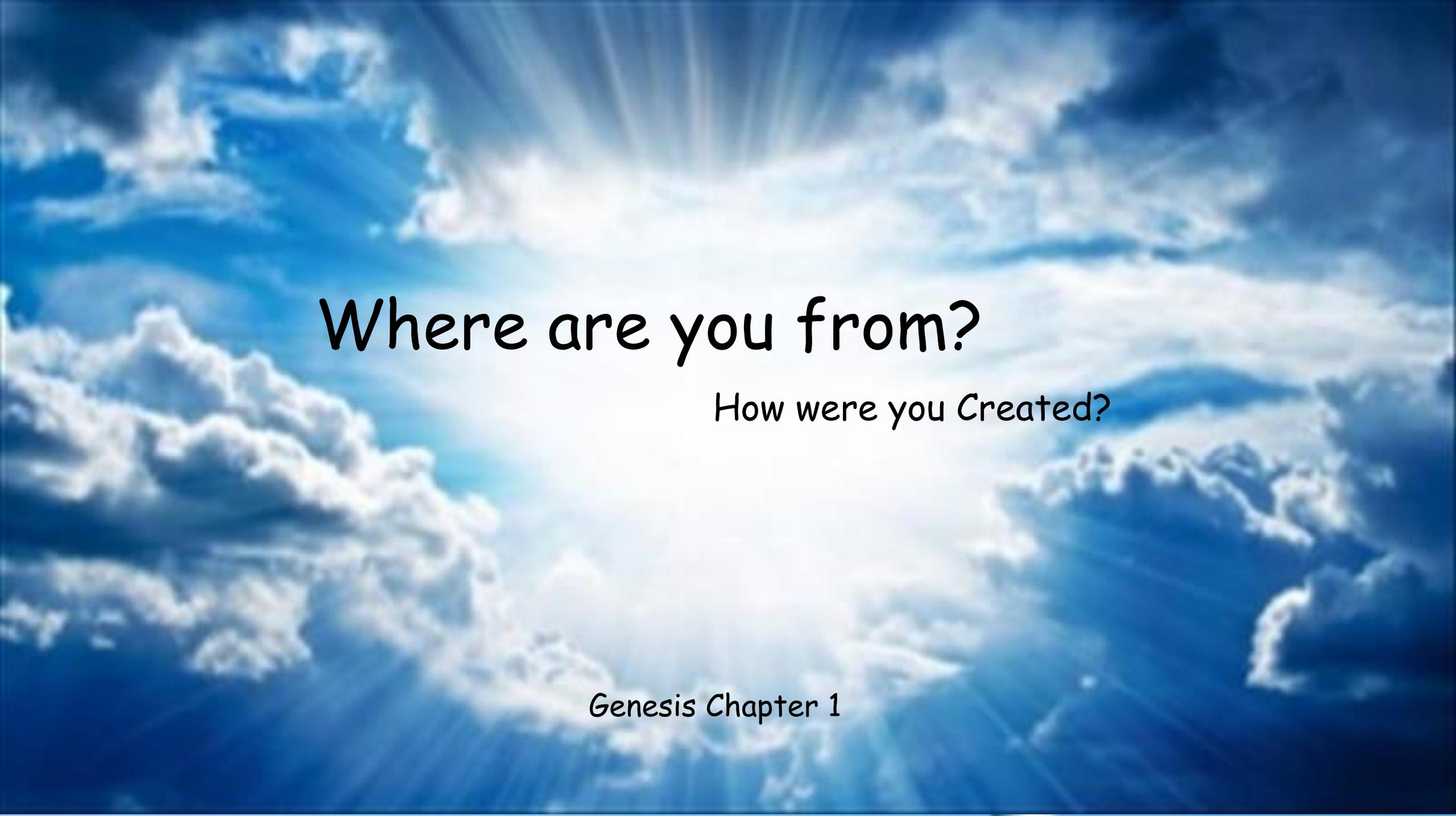
For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the **time of my departure** is at hand.

Philippians 1:21-23

For to me life is Christ, and death is gain. If I go on living in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. And I do not know which I shall choose. I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and **be with Christ**, (for) that is far better.

2 Peter 1:13-14

I think it right, as long as I am in this "tent," to stir you up by a reminder, since I know that I will soon have **to put it aside**, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me.



Where are you from?

How were you Created?

Genesis Chapter 1

It is Good

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

The God Blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.



Of whom do we belong to

We belong to God

God dwells with, upon and within us
within our SOUL.

Created in the
image and likeness
of our God



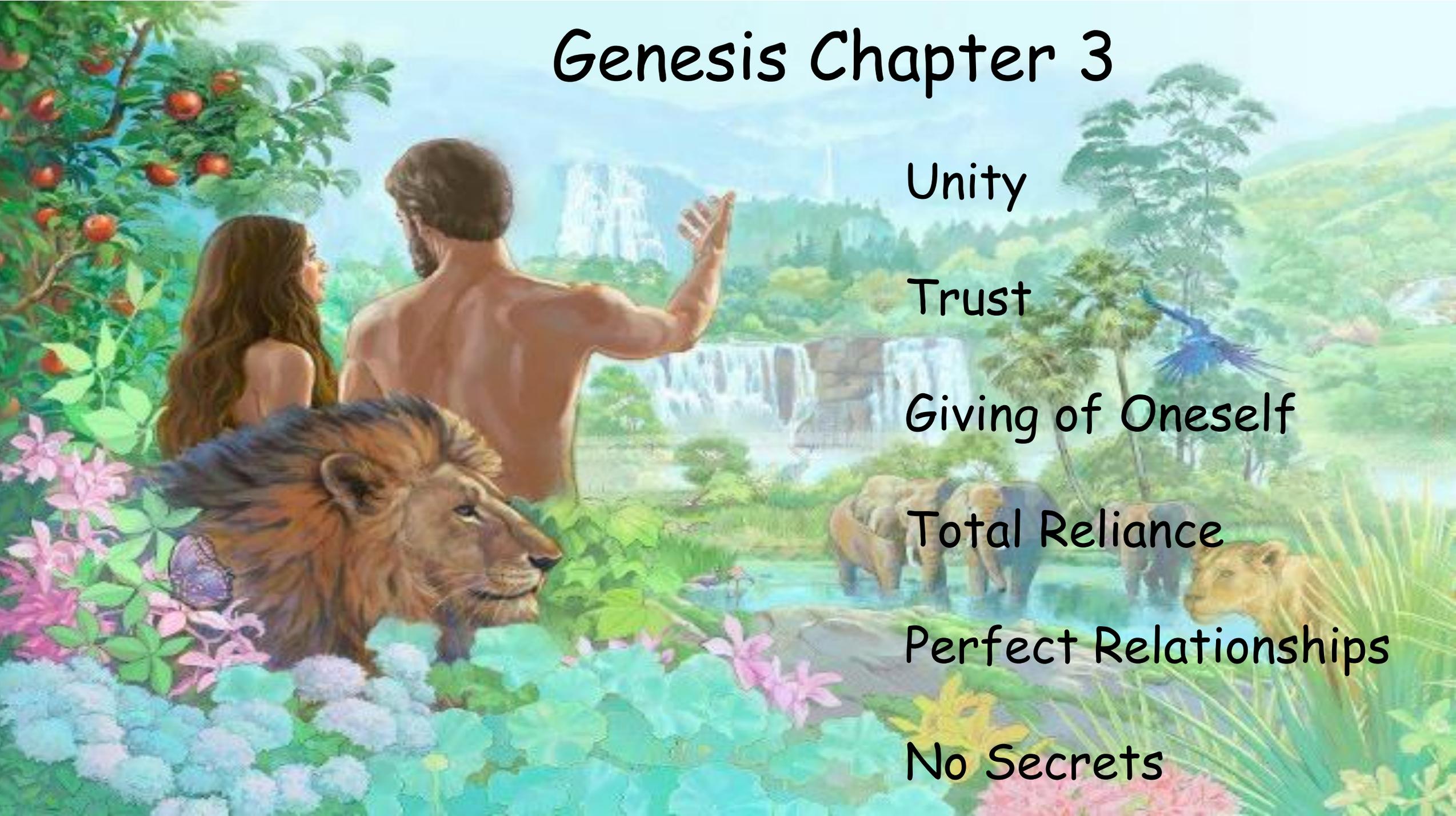
The hand of God upon our own
as if in a mirror.

Not created with a Covenant of
agreement with God

Were created out of Agape Love
of our Father

We were created to be with our God for all eternity

Genesis Chapter 3



Unity

Trust

Giving of Oneself

Total Reliance

Perfect Relationships

No Secrets

What happened?

Shame

Guilt

Mistrust

Broken
Relationships

Hiding

This is what sin is and how it divides and conquers

Genesis 3:17-24



We are of God and desire to get back to God



How do we
see heaven
from where
we are now?

HEAVEN

*“Eye has not seen, ear has not heard,
what God has ready for those who
love him”*

1 Cor 2:9 & Is 64:3

Heaven can not properly be defined

Lack of experience or data

Heaven is unique with nothing to compare

HEAVEN IS WHAT WE WERE DESIGNED FOR!

Heaven is HOME!

Heaven is Fullness of Communion with God

Pope Francis: "Heaven is neither an abstraction nor a physical place in the clouds, but a living, personal relationship with the Holy Trinity. It is our meeting with the Father which takes place in the risen Christ through the communion of the Holy Spirit."

After the course of our earthly life, participation in complete intimacy with the Father thus comes through our insertion into Christ's paschal mystery.

St Paul emphasizes our meeting with Christ in heaven at the end of time with a vivid spatial image: "Then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; **and so we shall always be with the Lord**. Therefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thes 4:17-18).

Catechism Heaven

1023 Those who die in God's grace and friendship and are perfectly purified live for ever with Christ. They are like God for ever, for they "see him as he is," face to face.⁵⁹⁸

1026 "By his death and Resurrection, Jesus Christ has "opened" heaven to us. The life of the blessed consists in the full and perfect possession of the fruits of the redemption accomplished by Christ. He makes partners in his heavenly glorification those who have believed in him and remained faithful to his will.

Heaven is the blessed community of all who are perfectly incorporated into Christ" (n. 1026).

Heaven

Catholic Christians and all other Christians believe in the blessedness and purity of heaven realized in the possession of God.

Scripture speaks of heaven in many ways:

- as life (Matthew 18:8);
- as eternal life (Matthew 25:46);
- as the crown of life (James 1:12);
- as the tree of life (Revelation 2:7);
- as glory (Romans 8:18);
- as eternal glory (2 Timothy 2:10);
- as the eternal glory of God (1 Peter 5:10);
- as rest (Hebrews 4:3, 11);
- as the crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8);
- as the Kingdom (Matthew 25: 34);
- as a dwelling in the heavens (2 Corinthians 5:1);
- as paradise (Luke 23:43).



Matthew 13:43

Then the righteous will **shine like the sun** in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear.

Romans 2:6-7, 10

... who will repay everyone according to his works: eternal life to those who seek glory, honor, and immortality through perseverance in good works, ... But there will be **glory, honor, and peace** for everyone who does good.

John 17:3

Now this is eternal life, that they should **know you**, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ.

Matthew 25:21

His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, **share your master's joy.**'

John 14:2-3

In my Father's house there are **many dwelling places**. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that **where I am you also may be**.

Psalms 73:23-25

Yet I am always with you; you take hold of my right hand. With your counsel you guide me, and at the end **receive me with honor**. Whom else have I in the heavens? None beside you delights me on earth.

Psalms 16:11

You will show me the path to life, **abounding joy** in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever.

Psalms 17:15

I am just--let me **see your face**; when I awake, let me be filled with your presence.

1 John 3:2

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we **shall see him as he is**.

Luke 22:29-30

I **confer a kingdom on you**, just as my Father has conferred one on me, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom; and you will **sit on thrones** judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

1 Peter 1:3-5

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, to **an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading**, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time.

1 Peter 5:4

And when the chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the **unfading crown of glory**.

Revelation 21:27

... but nothing unclean will enter it (New Jerusalem, heaven), nor any (one) who does abominable things or tells lies. Only those will enter whose **names are written in the Lamb's book of life**.

Wisdom 5:16

Therefore shall they receive **the splendid crown**, the beautiful diadem, from the hand of the Lord- For he shall shelter them with his right hand, and protect them with his arm.

2 Corinthians 4:17

For this momentary light affliction is producing for us **an eternal weight of glory** beyond all comparison,

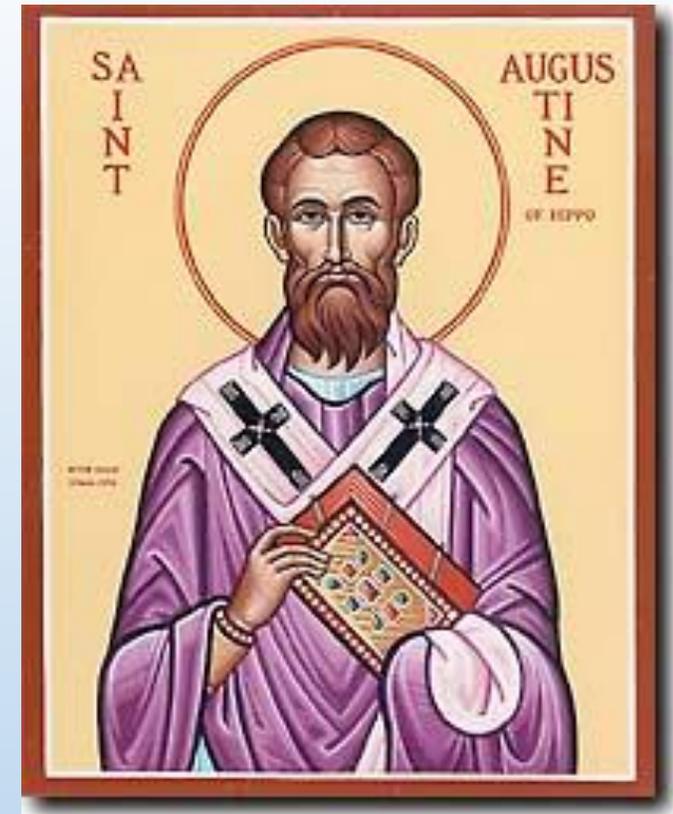
The **teachings of the Fathers of the Church** affirms the constant understanding of heaven in the history of faith.

Augustine, *Confessions*, Book 1, Ch. 1

"And man, being a part of your creation, desires to praise You. You move us to delight in praising You; for You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in you."

Augustine, *The City of God*, Book 11, Ch. 13

"From all this, it will readily occur to any one that the blessedness which an intelligent being desires as its legitimate object results from a combination of two things, namely, that it interruptedly enjoy the unchangeable good which is God; and that it be delivered from all doubt, and know certainly that it shall eternally abide in the same enjoyment."



Nothing impure is returned to the Father
Return to Relationship as it was in the Garden of Eden



A landscape photograph of a railway track curving through a valley. The sky is blue with a white, geometric, low-poly pattern overlaid on it. The text is overlaid on the image.

Where is your Journey leading you?

Who is leading you?

Are you listening?

Where is your heart?

What do you do?

Who is with you?

Particular Judgement



Catechism:

Death puts an end to human life as the time open to either accepting or rejecting the divine grace manifested in Christ.

The New Testament implicitly affirms that each will be rewarded immediately after death (after purification if necessary) in accordance with their works and faith.

The parable of the poor man Lazarus.
Luke 16:19-36

The words of Christ on the cross to the good thief.



Luke 16:19-31



What do you see in the bottom picture?

Immediately after Death: Particular Judgment

Catholic Christians and many other Christians believe that **immediately after death** the souls of men and women go either to heaven (or prior to that, purgatory), or to hell definitively.



Michelangelo's Last Judgment Sistine Chapel

Luke 23: 43

He (Jesus) replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will **be with me in Paradise.**"

2 Corinthians 5: 6-8

So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather **leave the body and go home to the Lord.**

1 Thessalonians 5:10

(Jesus) died for us, so that **whether we are awake or asleep** we may live together with him.

Philippians 1:21-23

For to me **life is Christ, and death is gain.** If I go on living in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. And I do not know which I shall choose. I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, (for) that is far better.

The constant faith of the Church attests to the faith in the permanency of human death. That faith is best described in the writings of the **Fathers of the Church.**

Irenaeus of Lyons (circa 130-200)

Gregory of Nyssa (circa 330-395)

Augustine of Hippo (354-439) in his book, The City of God.

Clement of Rome (d. circa 100)

Cyprian of Carthage (cir 200-258)

Gregory of Nazianzus (329-389)

John Chrysostom of Constantinople (347-407)

Gregory the Great in Rome (540-604)









IT'S
YOUR
CHOICE

Hell: Reprobation

Christians believe because the Bible is clear that hell exists.

Scripture speaks of hell in many ways:

- as a place of torment (Luke 16:28),
- as the netherworld (Luke 16:22),
- as the abyss (Luke 8:31; Revelation 9:1-2,11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1,3),
- as a fiery furnace (Matthew 13:42, 50),
- as a pool of fire (Revelation 20:10, 14),
- as a fiery pool of burning sulfur (Revelation 19:20),
- as a pool of fire and sulfur (Revelation 20:10; 21:8),
- as Tartarus (Greek mythological place of punishment) (2 Peter 2:4),
- as Gehenna or as the fire of Gehenna (Mt 5:22, 29; 10:28; 18:9; 23:33).

- as death (Romans 6:21; 8:6; 8:13; 2 Corinthians 2:14-16),
- as the second death (Revelation 2:11; 20:6; 21:8),
- as eternal ruin (2 Thessalonians 1:9; 1 Tim 6:9),
- as outside darkness (Matthew 8:12; 22:11-13; 25:30),
- as eternal fire (Matthew 18:8, 25:41; Jude 7),
- as eternal punishment (Matthew 25:46),
- as destruction (Matthew 7:13; Philippians 1:28; Peter 3:7),
- as damnation (Mark 16:16; John 12:25),
- as perishing (John 3:16; 10:27; Romans 2:12),
- as unquenchable fire (Mark 9:42-47; Luke 3:17),
- as fire and sulfur (Revelation 14:9-14),
- as thick gloom of darkness (2 Peter 2:17; Jude 13),
- as corruption (Galatians 6:8),
- as Babylon (Revelation 18; 19:1-3)

1 Corinthians 6:9

Do you not know that the unjust will **not inherit the kingdom of God**?
Do not be deceived.

John 3:36

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but **the wrath of God** remains upon him.

John 5:29

(This was Jesus' answer ...) those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to **the resurrection of condemnation**.

Revelation 21:27

But **nothing unclean will enter it** (the new Jerusalem, heaven), nor any (one) who does abominable things or tells lies.

Matthew 13:40-42

Just as weeds are collected and burned (up) with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into **the fiery furnace**, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

John 15:6

Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and **throw them into a fire and they will be burned**.

Romans 2:6-9

... (he) will repay everyone according to his works: ... **wrath and fury** to those who selfishly disobey the truth and obey wickedness. Yes, **affliction and distress** will come upon everyone who does evil, ...



What really is Hell?

**Privation of God is the
absence of all joy**

Hell is privation
**Deprivation of
God**

We shut God out by
our own choice

The desire to be
happy without God is
doomed to failure,
pain and inevitable
punishment

because

**God is the only
choice**

Five minutes in hell, rich man seemed to have learned the following lessons.

- He saw reality and finality of the place called hell**
- He saw that all the arguments he had ever heard against hell were utterly false and empty.**
- He saw that if a man shuts God out of his heart in this life, God will shut the man out of His heavenly home for eternity**

Catechism - HELL

1033 We cannot be united with God unless we freely choose to love him. But we cannot love God if we sin gravely against him, against our neighbor or against ourselves: "He who does not love remains in death."⁶¹² Our Lord warns us that we shall be separated from him if we fail to meet the serious needs of the poor and the little ones who are his brethren.⁶¹³

To die in mortal sin without repenting and accepting God's merciful love means remaining separated from him for ever by our own free choice.

This state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed is called "hell."



Hell is pain

God is the sole source of all the joy in reality

If God is joy, hell must be pain

Pain can be thought of as external or internal

Internal pain is far worse than external pain

“Hell is the suffering of being unable to love.”

Loving is greater joy than being loved

Dostoyevsky

**Love is the greatest joy therefore there can
be no greater pain than to not love**

Hell is Real

While it's true that God loves us infinitely, He won't force us to love Him in return. Then it wouldn't be true love.

The souls in hell are those who have freely chosen to go there by rejecting God's mercy and love and by choosing to love only themselves.

They are those who die without repenting of their mortal sins.



What really is Hell?

Hell is a state of eternal suffering and separation from God.

We were made for God, so the greatest pain in hell is the loss of God.

What makes their suffering even greater is that each one there will realize that they alone is the cause of their own damnation. You chose it for yourself.

God offers everyone the grace to repent and turn to Him.



Purgatory

Sacred Scripture and the constant faith of the Church affirm that heaven and hell, as places, exist. Catholic Christians and other Christians also profess belief in a ***state of being***, not a place, called "purgatory."

The term "purgatory" is not found in the Bible; but neither are other such important Christian beliefs such as "Trinity" and "Incarnation."



Purgatory is defined as a state of being, the continuing process of purgation or purification of the soul after human death.

It is a state of perfection--begun in baptism and faith-consummated after death, *entered into only by those who are saved* – those who are not quite ready are cleansed and freed of the weight of sin.

In other words, our transformation in Christ (Romans 13:14, "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ"), **our perfection in the holiness of the Father** (1 Peter 1:16, "Be holy, because I (am) holy") **is not ended at our physical death.**

Purgatory is a sign of God's mercy on those who have honestly sought to know God and to do His will in this life and yet die in some degree of bondage to sin or the effects of sin.

Catechism - Purgatory

1030 All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.

1032 This teaching is also based on the practice of prayer for the dead, already mentioned in Sacred Scripture.

The Church has only two official teachings concerning purgatory:

- ✓ it exists, and
- ✓ our prayers help the souls in purgatory.

Jesus implies that our sins can be forgiven in the next world.

Matthew 12:32

And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or **in the age to come**.

2 Macabees 12:42-46

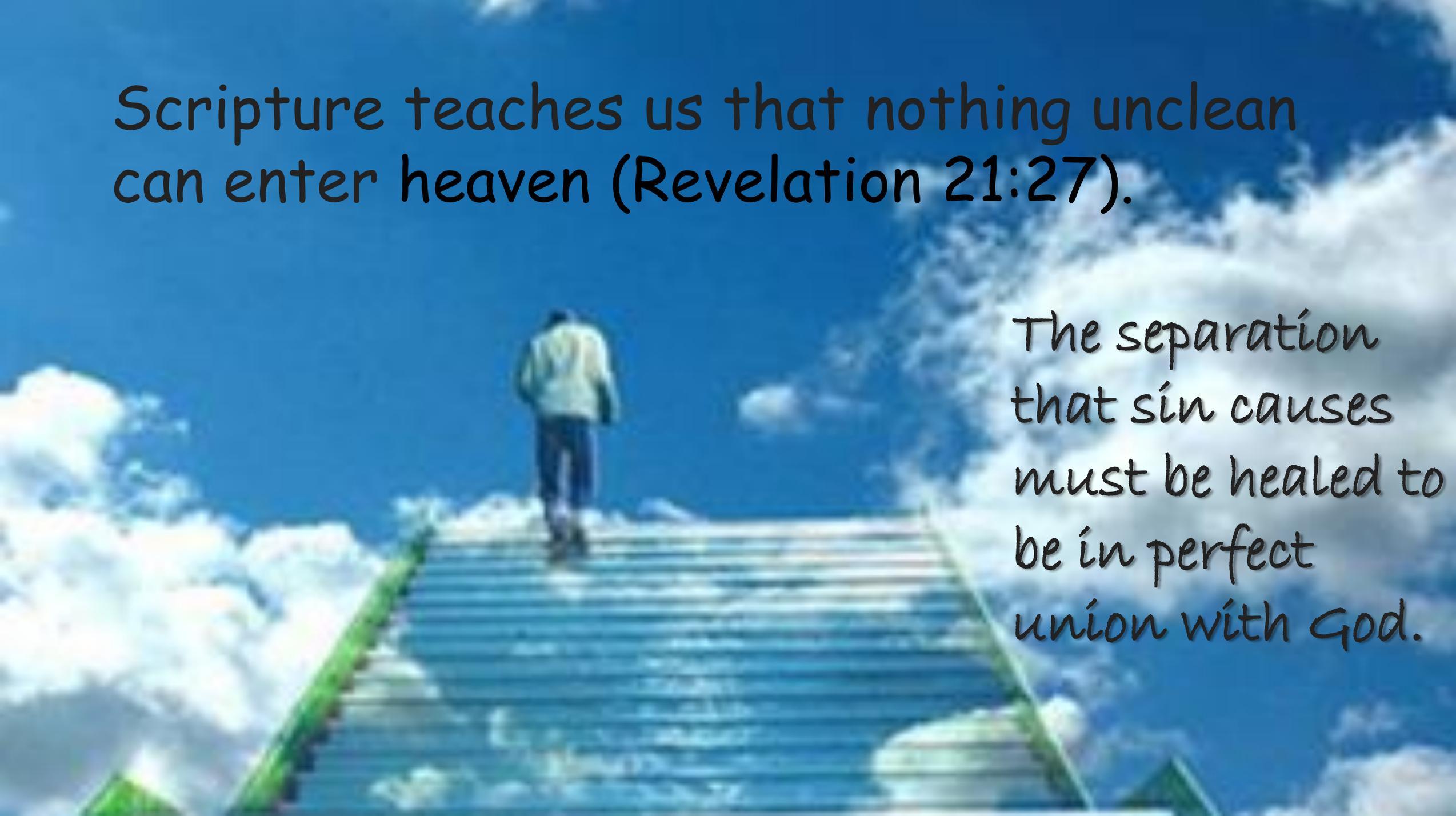
Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out. The noble Judas warned the soldiers to keep themselves free from sin, for they had seen with their own eyes what had happened because of the sin of those who had fallen. He then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.

But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

Scripture teaches us that nothing unclean can enter heaven (Revelation 21:27).

The separation that sin causes must be healed to be in perfect union with God.



Catechism of the Catholic Church, Section 1472

To understand this doctrine and practice of the Church, it is necessary to understand that **sin has a double consequence**. **Grave sin deprives us of communion with God and therefore makes us incapable of eternal life**, the privation of which is called the "**eternal punishment**" of sin.

On the other hand every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on earth, or after death in the state called Purgatory. This purification frees one from what is called the "**temporal punishment**" of sin. These two punishments must not be conceived of as a kind of vengeance inflicted by God from without, but as **following from the very nature of sin**. A conversion which proceeds from a fervent charity can attain the complete purification of the sinner in such a way that no punishment would remain.

Limbo

There *never has been nor is there any* official Catholic doctrinal position or teaching on the existence of or state of limbo.

It must be stated that the term limbo receives a lot of attention in **pastoral practice** when pastors had to explain the mind of God to distraught parents whose newborn infant has died without being baptized.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, Section 1261

As regards **children who have died without baptism**, the Church can only **entrust them to the mercy of God**, as she does in her funeral rites for them. Indeed, the great mercy of God, who desires that all should be saved, and Jesus' tenderness toward children, which caused him to say, "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them" [Mark 10:14, cf. 1 Tim. 2:4], allow us to hope that there is a way of salvation for children who have died without baptism. All the more urgent is **the Church's call not to prevent little children coming to Christ through the gift of holy baptism.**

Reincarnation

It is not uncommon that people under the influence of the New Age Movement and Hollywood movies ask about the possibility of another or previous life or other lives for the soul.

Catholic Christianity and all orthodox Christian faith communities have always found in the Word of God clear revelation of the unique nature of this life, of individual death and a definitive judgment for the soul.

The Story of creation affirms that we come from God
and return to God.

The Church of Christ One Body of Christ

- The saints and angels in heaven are called the Church Triumphant.
- The souls in purgatory are called the Church Suffering.
- The faithful on earth are called the Church Militant.

All together - in communion - we form the one Church of Christ.





Where is your Journey taking you?

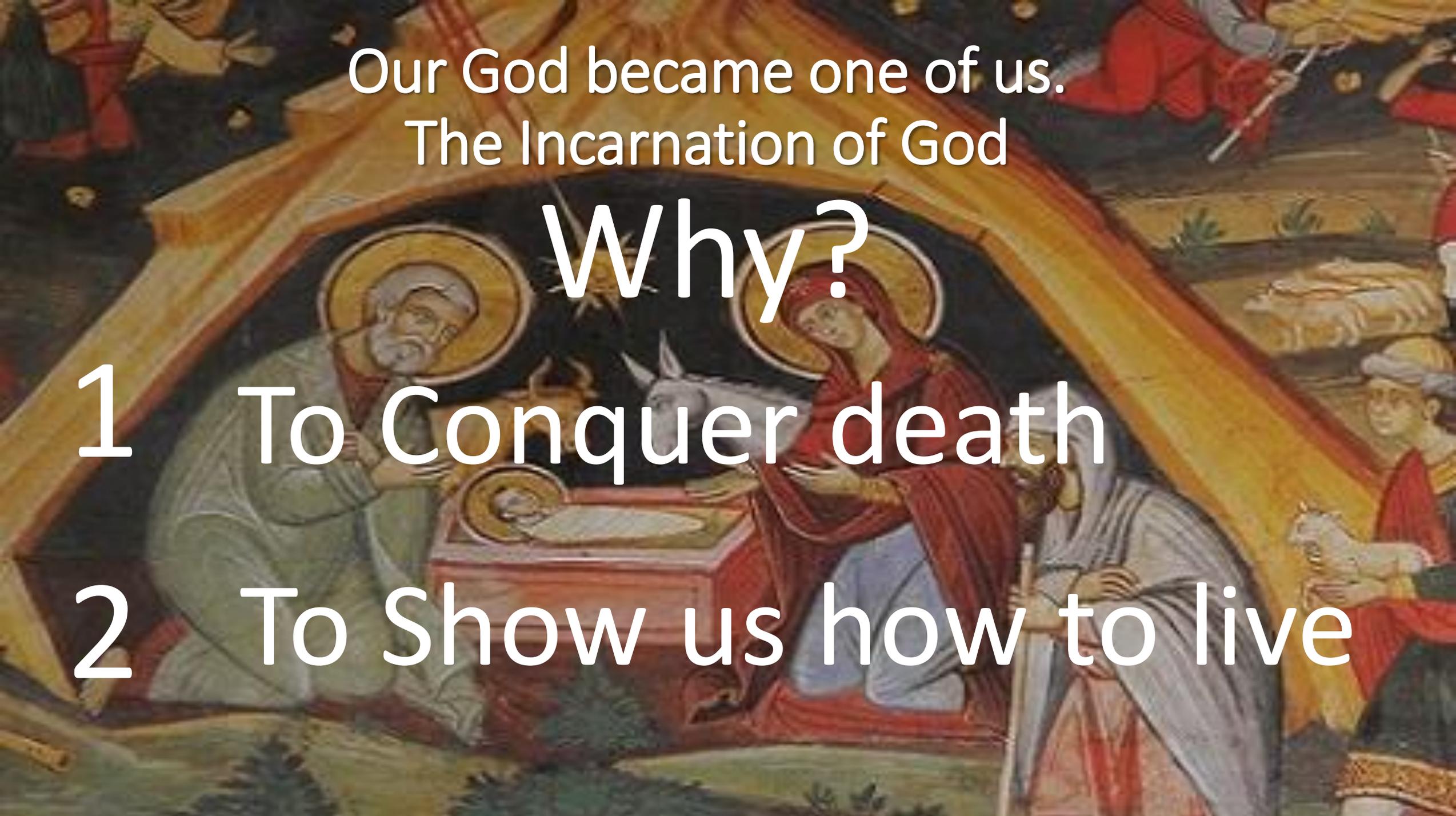
Who is leading you?

Are you listening?

Where is your heart?

What do you do?

Who is with you?

A classical painting of the Nativity scene. The Virgin Mary is seated on the right, holding the infant Jesus. The infant Jesus lies in a manger. To the left, Joseph is kneeling in prayer. A white ox and a brown donkey are present. The scene is set under a wooden stable structure. The background shows a landscape with a path and other figures.

Our God became one of us.
The Incarnation of God

Why?

1 To Conquer death

2 To Show us how to live



The Gift of God in our Lives

John 14:1-6

SAID TO HIM
I AM THE WAY
THE TRUTH
AND THE LIFE.
NO ONE COMES
TO THE FATHER
EXCEPT THROUGH ME.



*Yet the Son did not come to judge, but to save
and to give the life he has in himself.*

By rejecting grace in this life,

One already judges oneself,

Receives according to one's works,

And can even condemn oneself for all eternity

By rejecting the Spirit of love.

Jesus said,
"I am the WAY, the Truth and the Life."

What are some of the false gods that teenagers worship today?

Why is it so hard to follow Jesus?

What gets in between us and Jesus?

Your True Happiness in life depends on a
strong relationship with Jesus.

Truths:

God is our creator – we were created Good

Life is Sacred

We are Citizens of the Kingdom of God

We are destined for Eternal Life

Sin separates us from God

The incarnation of God through the passion,
death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus freed
us from death

What is your ultimate GOAL in Life?



Eternal Life



Saint Augustine said: "Thou hast made us for thyself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in thee."

WHAT IS ESCHATOLOGY?

- The study of earth's destruction by God
- The study of excrement
- The study of the restoration of the created order
- The number one selling cookbook for snails

Correct !

Eschatology is the study of the restoration of the created order.

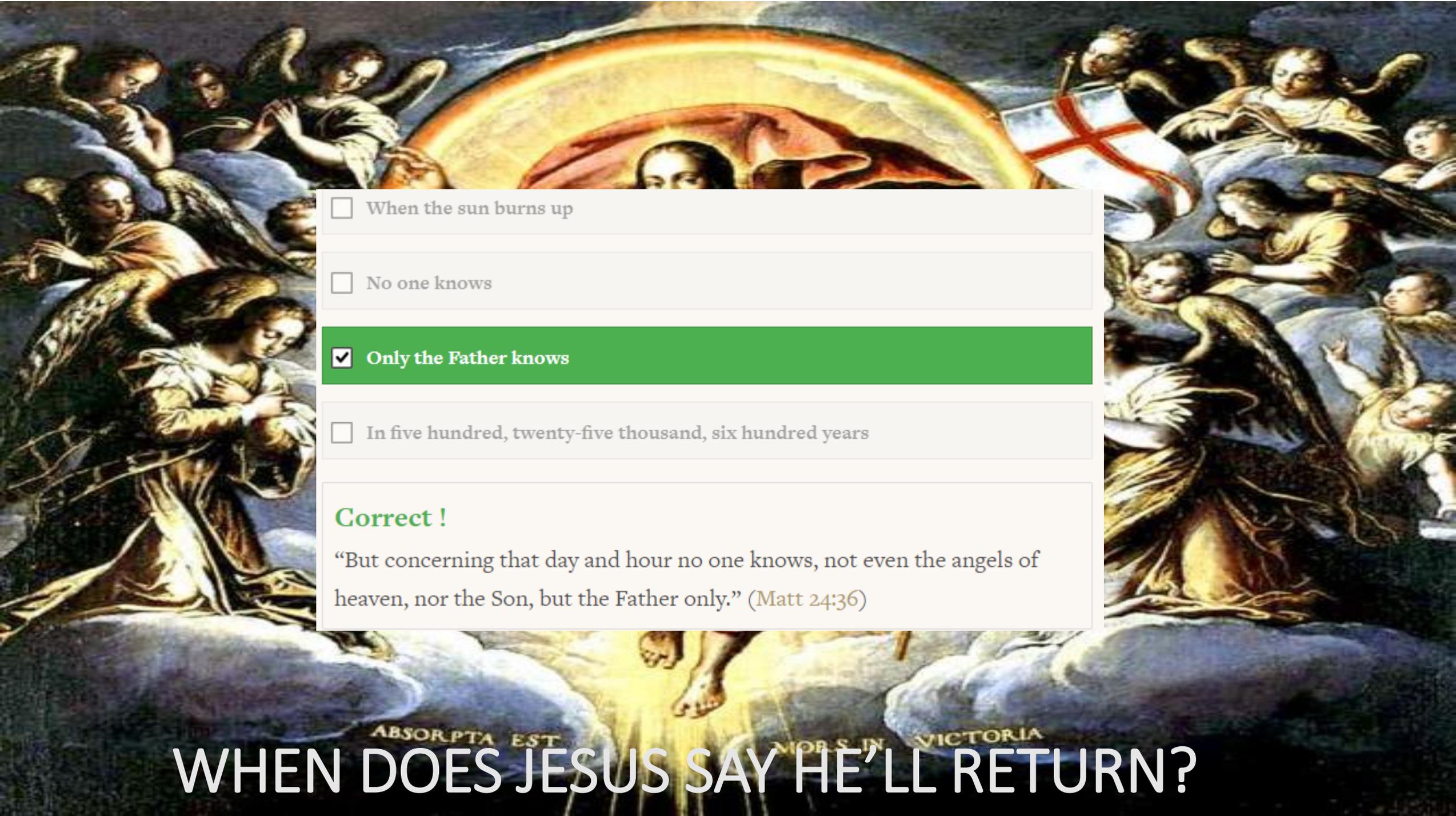
WHEN DO THE “LAST DAYS” BEGIN?

When Jesus returns

We are already living in them

In the year 2000

When all the prophecies in Revelation are fulfilled



When the sun burns up

No one knows

Only the Father knows

In five hundred, twenty-five thousand, six hundred years

Correct !

“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.” (Matt 24:36)

WHEN DOES JESUS SAY HE’LL RETURN?

WHAT DO THE ANCIENT CREEDS OF THE CHURCH TEACH ABOUT THE END TIMES?

- We should be scared
- We shouldn't care about what happens
- A one-world government will rise up and try to exterminate the church

Jesus Wins

Correct !

The ancient creeds of the church teach that Jesus wins. (Apostles' Creed: "[Jesus] will come again to judge the living and the dead." and "I believe in ... the resurrection of the dead, and life everlasting.")

WHAT 19TH-CENTURY INVENTION DID JOHN NELSON DARBY BELIEVE TO BE A “HARBINGER OF ARMAGEDDON”?

Telegraph

Jell-O

Elevator

Automobile

Correct !

John Nelson Darby believed the telegraph to be a harbinger of Armageddon.

WHEN JESUS RETURNS, WHAT HAPPENS ACCORDING TO REVELATION 19–21?

He arrives with a lance and kills the Dajjal.

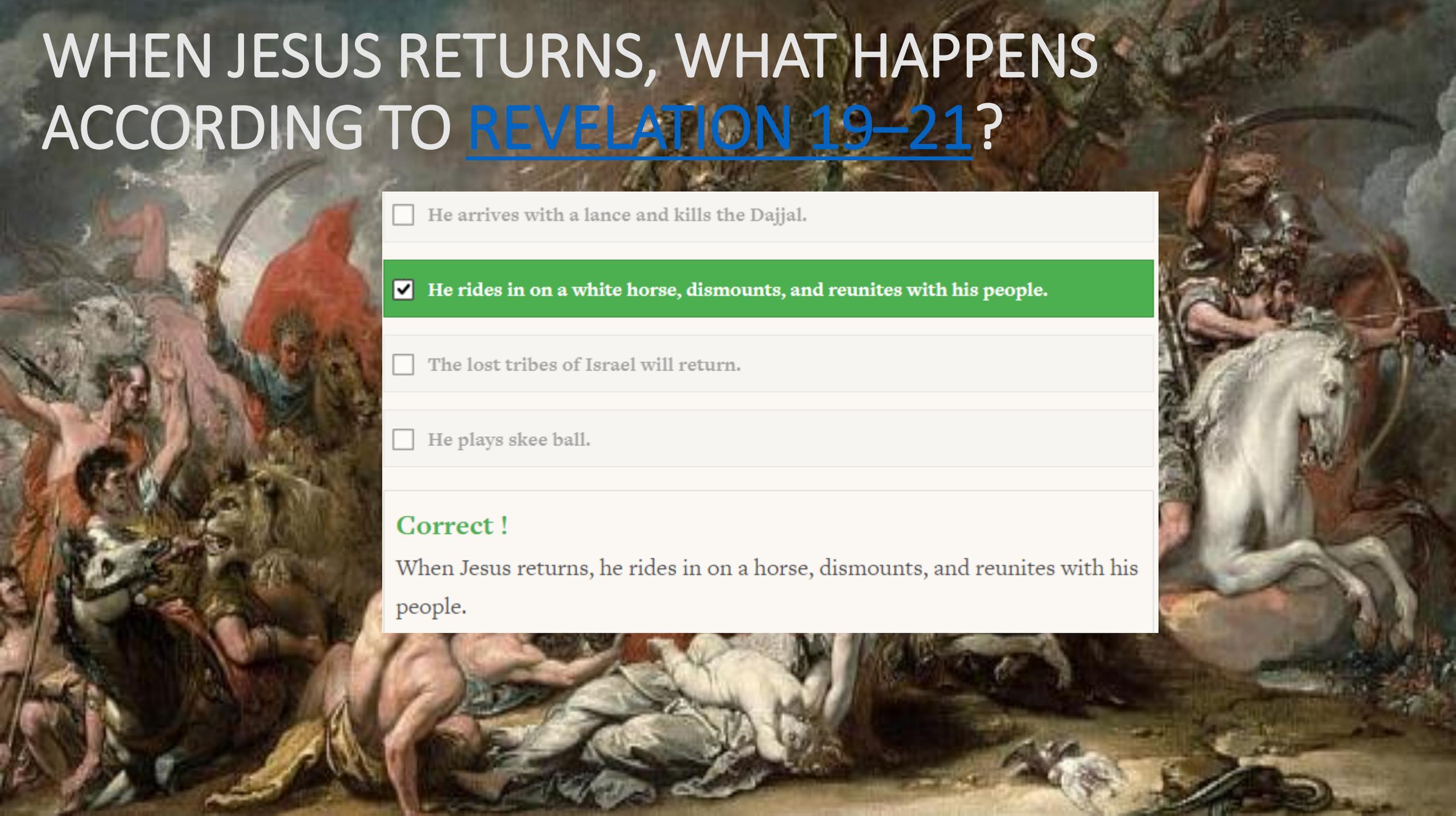
He rides in on a white horse, dismounts, and reunites with his people.

The lost tribes of Israel will return.

He plays skee ball.

Correct !

When Jesus returns, he rides in on a horse, dismounts, and reunites with his people.

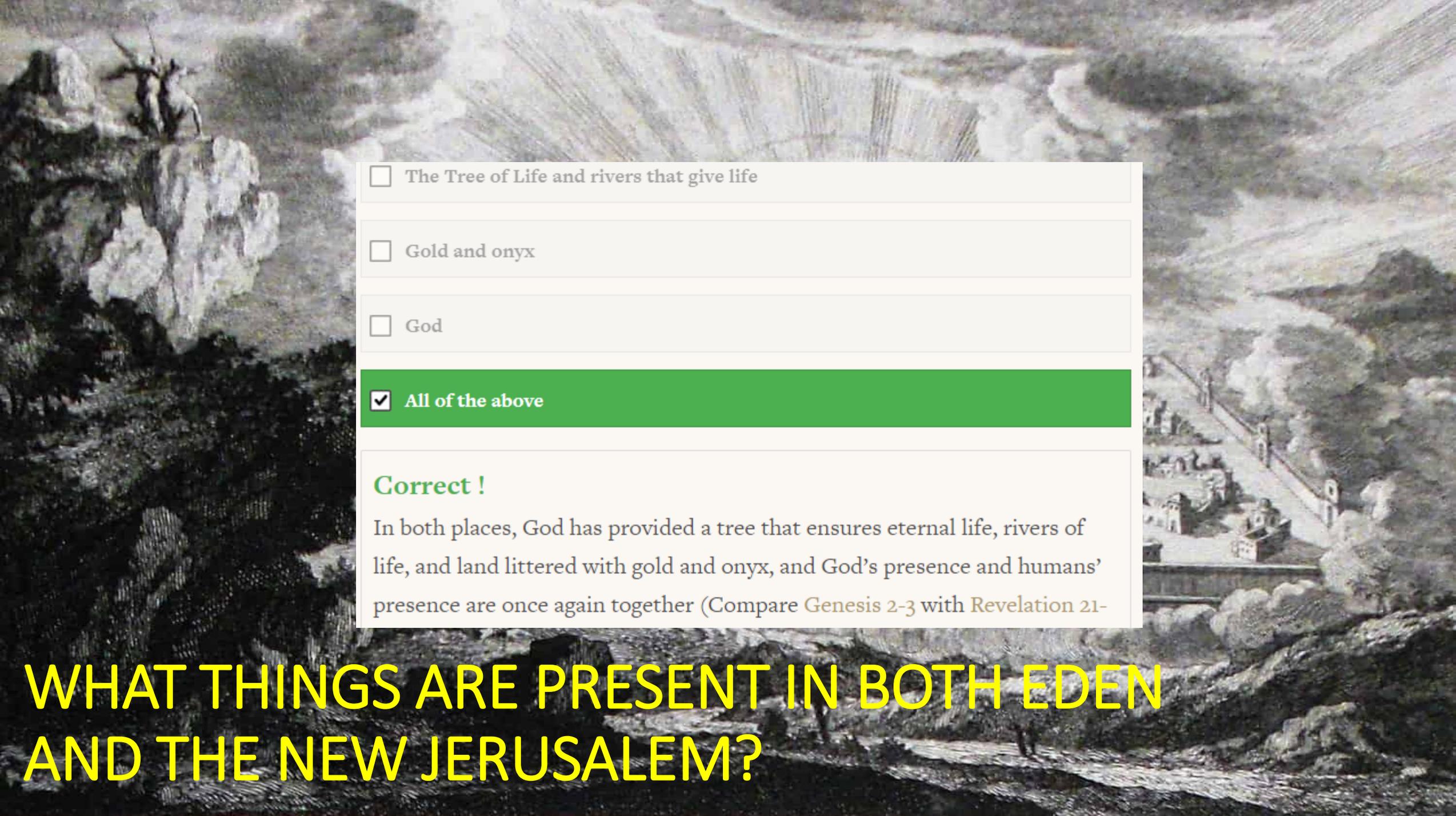


WHAT'S DESCRIBED IN REVELATION 9:7–10?

- Blackhawk helicopters
- The inspiration for Hitchhikers' Guide to the Galaxy
- Some sort of supernatural being
- No one knows

Correct !

This section in Revelation is a complex apocalyptic vision depicting a supernatural being.



The Tree of Life and rivers that give life

Gold and onyx

God

All of the above

Correct !

In both places, God has provided a tree that ensures eternal life, rivers of life, and land littered with gold and onyx, and God's presence and humans' presence are once again together (Compare *Genesis 2-3* with *Revelation 21-*

WHAT THINGS ARE PRESENT IN BOTH EDEN AND THE NEW JERUSALEM?