

Introduction: What the hell?

1. An exclamation used to emphasize surprise, shock, anger, disgust, etc. In this phrase, "the hell" is used as an intensifier.ⁱ

What the hell does this guy know about Purgatory? That is an excellent question. I am not a scholar. The seminary I went to was a Protestant not a Catholic one. What could I write that could illuminate this topic for you?

Let me begin where I began. I was director of a mission called the Ark in 1991 and 1992. We gave food and clothing to the poor for free in Windsor Canada. One day, a guest asked me about Purgatory. Being a good Protestant I said "There is no such thing as Purgatory. The Catholics made it up". Immediately Jesus spoke in my heart saying 'No they didn't'. From that moment I have believed in Purgatory.

I have not read very much about Purgatory, but the Lord has continued to speak to me about it so I offer it to you. All the ideas I will present following this section of prophecies from Jesus, are informed by what Jesus said to me. You can decide whether I interpreted the prophecies correctly. Maybe you will see something I missed. If you do, please let me know what you have seen. Thank you.

The prophecies which begin this book represent a large amount of original information. There are many ideas, Jesus presents, which may challenge ideas you already hold. Give them a chance. Read through them all. Examine them for consistency with God's Word and whether they contradict themselves. The Bible tells us to 'test the spirits'ⁱⁱ. Only after reading these prophecies, will you understand the information I present in the rest of the book.

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2. Purgatory is True

St Catherine of Genoa: "Unpurged souls happily and willingly abide in purgatorial suffering in their desire to draw closer to God's glory. They realize that sin prevents them and are glad of its removal."ⁱⁱⁱ

Jesus intervened to enlighten my ignorance about Purgatory and set me on a path to discover the truth. Now that I had a witness of the truth, I needed to release the error, that I had been holding on to, and learn more about the truth.

If Jesus says that something is true, then it must be true. But prophecy is not a reliable means of verifying truth. It is too easy to be lied to. Only the scriptures can provide us

with reliable verification of an article of faith for the Church. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.^{iv}

This leaves two important tasks to accomplish. (A). Identify the concept of purgation and its purpose. (B). Verify the presence of these ideas in the scriptures.

The word 'Purgatory' is not mentioned in the scriptures. There is no easy 'proof-text' to which I can point as verification of this doctrine. Some people might consider this sufficient reason to reject the idea completely. That is an overly simplistic view.

The concepts of ritual purity and sanctification before God are very prominent in the scriptures. YHWH is eternal and cannot change.^v We exist within time, where the possibility of change exists. The absolute sinlessness of God demands that we change to conform to Him. He cannot change His nature to conform to us.

It is not possible for any degree of sin to exist directly in the presence of God.^{vi} The light of His presence would annihilate the darkness of sin. How we get into that sinless state is the process we call sanctification or purgation.

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Jesus' Teachings Regarding Purgatory

Matthew 5: 13-48. Following Jesus' teaching of the Beatitudes (the character of those who abide in covenant blessings) Jesus went on to require a level of love and obedience to the Word which exceeded the scrupulous righteousness of the Pharisees'. (v.20). These requirements are so exceptional and lofty that they seem impossible to attempt. They outline a standard for conformity to love that gives us the ideal we are to strive for.

These standards are so high that it can only be by divine grace that we, at times, accomplish even some of them in this life. For those who have entered into covenant blessings through faith in Jesus (salvation), these standards are applied to them by the grace of identity with Jesus. His righteousness is applied to us by grace. Nevertheless, these are the standards God requires of those who would be in His presence.

After listing the Blessings of the New Covenant, Jesus spent the second portion of the Beatitudes sermon specifying the purity of heart and mind required to be in His Kingdom. This exceeded all previous notions of righteousness.

ⁱ Farlex Dictionary of Idioms. © 2022 Farlex, Inc, all rights reserved

ⁱⁱ 1 John 4:1

ⁱⁱⁱ Visions of Heaven Hell and Purgatory p 143-146

^{iv} 2 Corinthians 13:1 KJV also Deuteronomy 19:15.

^v Malachi 3:6

^{vi} Habakkuk 1:13