

# I. Understanding the **Different Views**

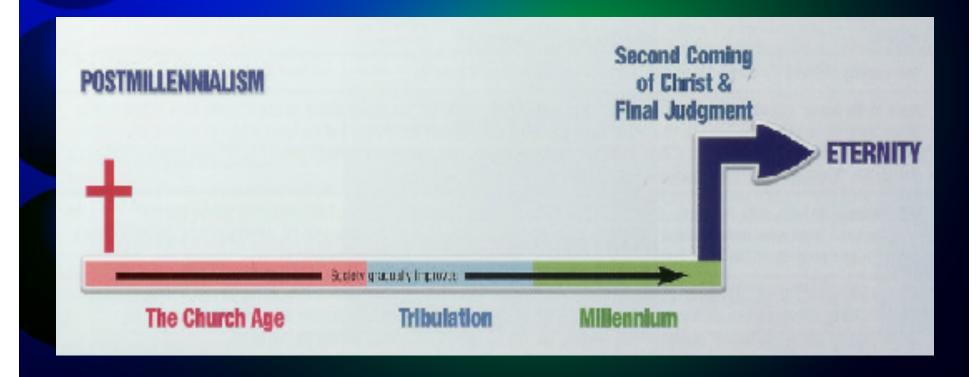
### A. Distinctions in Eschatology

- The timing of the rapture of the church
- The nature of the Tribulation
- The nature of the millennium
- How many resurrections
- How many and what judgments
- The place of Israel in prophecy

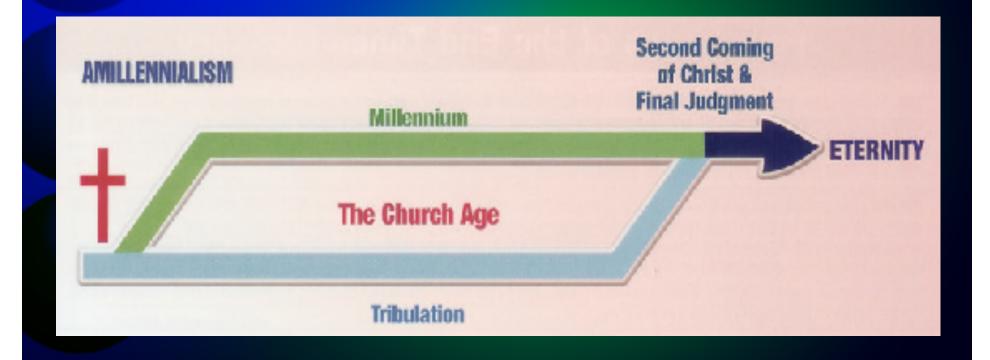
### **B. Basic Views of Eschatology**

- Postmillennialism
- Amillenialism
- Historic Premillennialism (Classic)
- Pre-tribulational Premillennialism (Dispensational)
- \* Following charts from Rose Book of Bible Charts

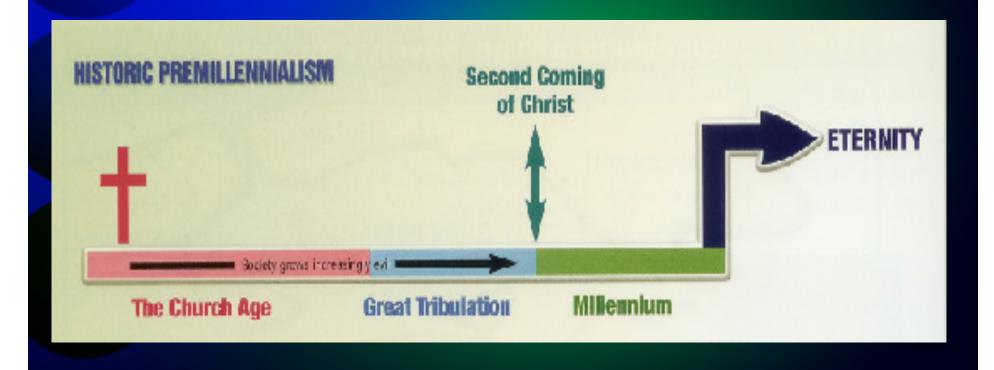
### **Postmillennialism**



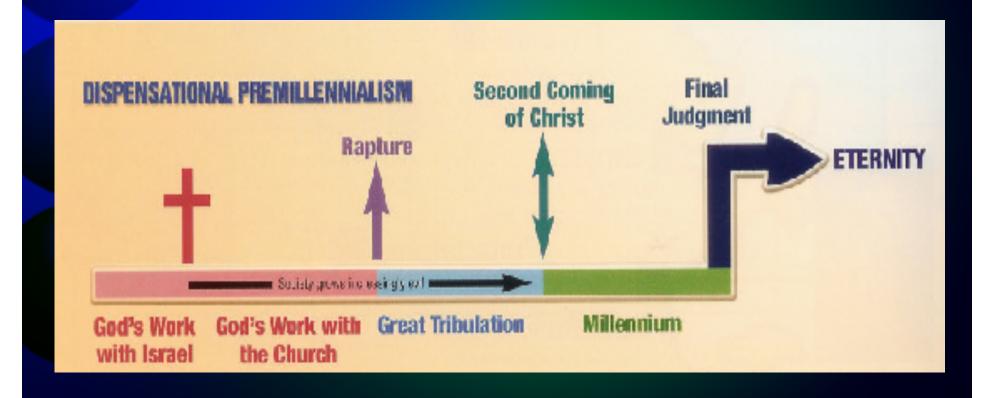
### **Amillenialism**

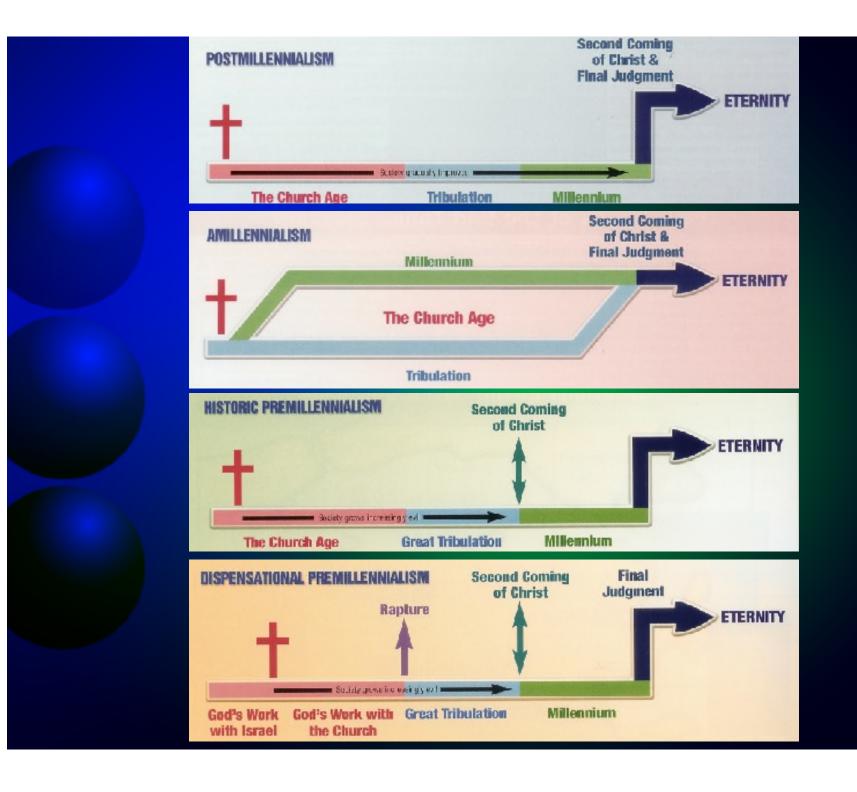


# Historic Premillennialism (Classic)



# Pre-tribulational Premillennialism (Dispensational)





### III. Creating a Biblical Ordo Eschatos

- The Book of Revelation
  - Rev. 1:19 "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.
  - Prophetic or predictive prophecy when it was written
  - Various interpretative methods

# Five Common Interpretative Approaches

- 5) Futurist
- Definition:
  - the events of 6-22 are predictive and are all yet in the future; literally and symbolically describe actual people and events.
- Support:
  - Consistent with prophetic claims throughout
  - Consistent with the devastating apocalyptic images
  - Built on the grammatical-historical approach
  - Consistent with the interpretation of the Early Church

#### The Basic Flow

- The Tribulation (6:1—19:10)
- The Second Coming (19:11-21)
- The Millennium (20:1-6)
- The Great White Throne (20:7-15)
- The New Heavens & New Earth (21:1—22:21)

#### Where Is the Church?

- 1-3 → the church is on earth; word *church* occurs 19x
- 4-5 → the church is in heaven (the elders represent the church)
- 19:1-10 → the church in heaven but returning with Christ
   19:7 the wife of the Lamb
- 19:11-21 → the church returns with Christ at His Second Coming.
- The implication: the church is caught away before the 2nd Coming.
- When?
  - not on earth from the end of chapter 3 until the 2nd Coming in chapter 19

### A Final Draft of the Ordo Eschatos

- Death
- Intermediate State
- Rapture
- Tribulation (7 years)
- 2nd Coming
- Millennium (1,000 years)
- Great White Throne
- Eternal State

### A Biblical Ordo Eschatos

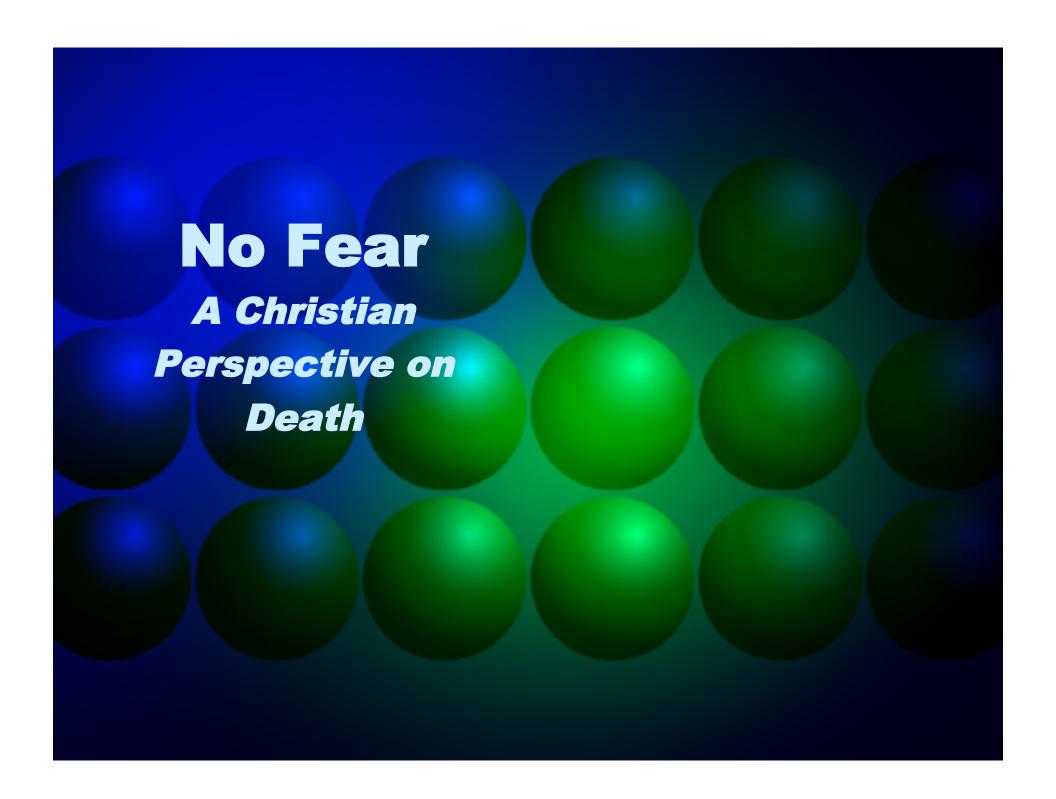
Unknown duration	Event	7 Years	Event	1000 Years	Event	Eternity
Death Intermediate State	Rapture	Tribulation	2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming	Millennium	Great White Throne	Eternal State
Soul in Heaven Body in Grave	Resurrection	Heaven	Return to Earth	Earth	Present	New Heaven/ Earth

### III. Defending the Nonnegotiables in Eschatology

- 1. The eternal soul of every human being.
- 2. The temporary separation at death of the material and immaterial parts of man.
- 3. The present existence of a literal heaven and hell.
- 4. The immediate passing of the soul at death into either heaven or hell.

### III. Defending the Nonnegotiables in Eschatology

- 5. The consciousness of all the dead.
- 6. The literal, bodily return of Jesus Christ.
- 7. The physical resurrection of every human being.
- 8. The future judgment of every human being.
- 9. The eternal, conscious existence of every human either in the lake of fire or the new heavens and the new earth.



### **I.** A Definition of Death

- A basic definition: "the cessation of the life of the body; a separation of the immaterial soul of man from his physical body."
- James 2:26 as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

#### A. Rest or sleep

- John 11:11 He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep."
- 1 Th. 4:13 we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

- B. A tent destroyed or broken down
  - 2 Cor. 5:1 we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
  - 2 Pet. 1:14 the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.

- C. Withering & fading of wild flowers
  - Ps. 103:15-16 As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. 16 When the wind has passed over it, it is no more, And its place acknowledges it no longer.
  - Cf. Job 14:2; 1 Pet. 1:21

#### D. A shadow

- Job 8:9 "For we are only of yesterday and know nothing, Because our days on earth are as a shadow.
- Job 14:2 "Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain.
- Ps. 144:4 Man is like a mere breath;
   His days are like a passing shadow.

#### E. A Departure

### IIII. The Demographics of Death

#### A. It's source: God

- Gen. 3:19 –By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."
- Deut. 32:39 'See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me; it is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, and there is no one who can deliver from My hand.

### III. The Demographics of Death

#### B. It's cause: Sin

- Gen. 2:17 from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."
- Rom. 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.
- Rom. 6:23 the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 1 Cor. 15:56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

### III. The Demographics of Death

#### C. It's scope: Universal

- Job 14:1-2 "Man, who is born of woman, Is short-lived and full of turmoil. 2 "Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain.
- Eccl. 8:8 No man has authority to restrain the wind with the wind, or authority over the day of death.
- Heb. 9:27 it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.
- 1 Pet. 1:24 "All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off.
- The only exceptions:
  - 1) Enoch (Gen. 5:24; Heb. 11:5)
  - 2) Elijah (2 Kings 2:11)
  - 3) Those Christians living at the coming of Christ (1 Th. 4:17)

- A. Death is an enemy.
  - 1 Cor. 15:25-26: [Christ] must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

- B. Death was personally conquered by Jesus Christ.
  - Rom. 6:9 Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.
  - 2 Tim. 1:10 our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.
  - Heb. 2:14-15 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.
  - Rev. 1:18 I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore.

- C. Death is a defeated enemy.
  - 1 Cor. 15:55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

- D. Death is completely under the power and authority of Jesus Christ.
  - Rev. 1:18 I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

### The Day of Death

- Job 14:5 "Since his days are determined, the number of his months is with You; And his limits You have set so that he cannot pass.
- Ps. 39:4 "LORD, make me to know my end and what is the extent of my days; let me know how transient I am.
- Ps. 139:16 in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.
- John 21:19 -- Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God.

- E. Death itself will one day be destroyed by Christ.
  - 1 Cor. 15:26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.
  - Luke 20:36 they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.
  - Rev. 21:4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

- A. An Unbeliever's Death
  - 1. Sorrow
    - Rom. 9:1-3
  - 2. Appreciation of the positive virtues
    - 2 Sam. 1:19-25

- B. Another Believer's Death
  - 1. Genuine grief, but not without hope
    - 2 Sam. 1:11-27 David's grief over Jonathan
    - John 11:35 Jesus wept.
    - Acts 8:2 Some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him.
    - Acts 20:37-38 they began to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him, 38 grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again.
    - Phil. 2:27 [Epaphroditus] was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow.
    - 1 Th. 4:13 we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

- B. Another Believer's Death
  - 2. Joy
    - Ps. 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His godly ones.
    - 1 Cor. 15:55-57 "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
    - Rev. 14:13 I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

#### B. Another Believer's Death

- 3. Worship
  - 2 Sam. 12:20 David arose from the ground, washed, anointed *himself*, and changed his clothes; and he came into the house of the LORD and worshiped.
  - Job 1:20-21 Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped. 21 He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD."

- C. The Thought of Our Own Death
  - 1. Desire the outcome or results of death.
    - 2 Cor. 5:8 we ... prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.
    - Phil. 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.
    - Phil. 1:22-23 if *I am* to live *on* in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. 23 But I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better.

#### C. Our Own Death

- Be confident that God's love will transcend death.
  - Rom. 8:38-39 I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 3. Be confident that God's presence will be with you through death.
  - Ps. 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

#### C. Our Own Death

- 4. Let it be a motive to...
  - Diligence in life
    - Eccl. 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.
    - John 9:4 "We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.
  - Steadfastness
    - 1 Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in* vain in the Lord.

#### C. Our Own Death

- See our death as an opportunity to exalt Jesus Christ.
  - Phil. 1:20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that ... Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.
  - Be faithful to Him even in the face of death.

#### **Faithful Unto Death**

- Acts 20:24 "I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.
- Acts 21:13 Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."
- Heb. 11:35 others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection.

#### **Faithful Unto Death**

- Rev. 2:10 [to the church in Smyrna] 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.
- Rev. 12:11 they did not love their life even when faced with death.

# What Happens After Death? The Intermediate State

#### A Biblical Ordo Eschatos

Unknown duration	Event	7 Years	Event	1000 Years	Event	Eternity
Death Intermediate State	Rapture	Tribulation	2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming	Millennium	Great White Throne	Eternal State
Soul in Heaven Body in Grave	Resurrection	Heaven	Return to Earth	Earth	Present	New Heaven/ Earth

### I. Common Aberrant Views

- A. Soul Sleep
- B. Purgatory
- C. Limbo
  - 1) Limbus Infantum
  - 2) Limbus Patrum

### A. Soul Sleep

- Anabaptists, Socinians, Seventh Day Adventists
- Definition: the soul continues to exist after death but only in an unconscious state of rest. The soul will become conscious again at the resurrection.

### A. Soul Sleep

#### Defense:

- 1) Scripture often presents death as sleep (e.g., Matt. 9:24; 1
   Cor. 15:51; 1 Th. 4:13).
- 2) Certain passages seem to teach that the dead are unconscious.
  - Ps. 6:5 For there is no mention of You in death; In Sheol who will give You thanks?
  - Ps. 115:17 The dead do not praise the LORD, Nor *do* any who go down into silence;
  - Eccl. 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do *it* with *all* your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.
  - Is. 38:19 "It is the living who give thanks to You, as I do today."
- 3) Practically, and scientifically, conscious thought is tied to the physical brain; when it dies, thought is impossible.

### A. Soul Sleep

#### Rebuttal:

- 1) Because of a preponderance of Scriptural evidence, sleep when used of death must be a metaphor of a dead body, not the cessation of consciousness.
- 2) All the passages that seem to teach the dead are unconscious are in context merely arguing that once death comes, we can no longer participate in the activities of this world.
  - Cf. Ps. 115:17 The dead do not praise the LORD, Nor do any who go down into silence;
  - Ps. 115:18 But as for us, we will bless the LORD From this time forth and forever. Praise the LORD!
- The brain is simply a vehicle for the soul. The physical brain may merely transmit thought, so thought exists independent of the brain.

- Definition: at the death, the souls of those who are perfectly pure are admitted to heaven or to the beatific vision of God. Those who still carry the guilt of venial sins and have not endured the temporal punishment those sins deserve must go through a lengthy process of cleansing.
- Ludwig Ott (RC theologian): "Suffrages operate in such a matter that the satisfactory value of the good works is offered to God in substitution for the temporal punishments for sins which the poor souls still have to render. It operates by way of remission of temporal punishments due to sins."

- A place of suffering
- Can be alleviated by the living:
  - Prayers on behalf of the dead
  - Good works
  - Taking the mass
  - Indulgences

#### Defense:

Primary: 2 Maccabees 12:42-45 – and gave themselves to prayer, begging that the sin committed might be completely forgiven. Next, the valiant Judas urged the soldiers to keep themselves free from all sin, having seen with their own eyes the effects of the sin of those who had fallen; 43 after this he took a collection from them individually, amounting to nearly two thousand drachmas, and sent it to Jerusalem to have a sacrifice for sin offered, an action altogether fine and noble, prompted by his belief in the resurrection. 44 For had he not expected the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead, 45 whereas if he had in view the splendid recompense reserved for those who make a pious end, the thought was holy and devout. Hence, he had this expiatory sacrifice offered for the dead, so that they might be released from their sin.

#### Secondary:

- Matt. 5:26; 12:32; 1 Cor. 3:15; 2 Tim. 1:18

#### ■ <u>Rebuttal</u>:

- Nowhere in the canonical Scriptures is this idea taught.
- In fact, it contradicts the clear teaching of Scripture on several fronts:
  - The sufficient sacrifice of Christ for sins, once for all (Heb. 1:3; 9:26; 10:12).
  - That we can add to the completed work of Christ.
  - That temporal suffering can expiate sin.
  - The joy and happiness of the departed believer (Rev. 14:13)
- This passage from Maccabees even contradicts what RC theology tries to make it teach.

### C. Limbo (infantum)

- Limbus, which means "fringe" or "border"
- 1) Limbus Infantum
  - Definition: a place on the fringes of hell, where the suffering and fires don't reach and where all unbaptized children will be kept eternally.
  - No "pain of sense" or positive punishment.
  - Full natural happiness and naturally love and know God
  - Forever excluded from the presence of God
  - Pope Benedict XVI rescinded

## C. Límbo (patrum)

- 2) Limbus Patrum
  - Definition: the place where OT saints were the souls of OT saints were kept until the resurrection of Christ.
  - Jews referred to this place as Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:23) and Paradise (Luke 23:43)
  - Christ descended into Hades, the place where all the dead dwell, which is divided into two compartments.
  - One compartment is a place of suffering for the wicked, and the other a place of joy for the righteous.
  - And out of the righteous compartment Jesus took the souls of the righteous back to heaven.
  - Protestants: the two compartment theory

## C. Limbo (patrum)

#### Defense:

- Christ's "descent into hell", based loosely on two primary passages:
  - Eph. 4:8-9 "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." 9 (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?
  - 1 Pet. 3:19 He went and made proclamation to the spirits *now* in prison.

## C. Límbo (patrum)

#### Rebuttal:

- According to historian Philip Schaff, the part of the Apostles' Creed "he descended into hell" wasn't added until 650 AD.
- Eph. 4:7-10
- 1 Pet. 3:19 "in the spirit also he went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison."
- Enoch (Gen. 5:24) and Elijah (2 Kings 2:11) are both swept away into God's presence, not some temporary holding facility.
- Matt. 17:3 behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.
- Luke 23:46 Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT."

# II. The Scriptural View

#### A. The Biblical Words

- 1. Sheol
  - Hebrew OT 65x
  - Used in two ways:
    - a) Place of the wicked dead (Job 21:13; Ps. 9:17; 31:17; 49:14; 55:15; 139:8; Pr. 5:5; 9:18; 15:24; 23:14)
    - b) The Grave (the place of the dead, both good and evil)
      - E.g., Gen. 37:35; 42:38; 44:29, 31; Job 17:13; Ps. 16:10;
         Pr. 9:18; Is. 38:10
      - Dominant OT usage
      - The place where their bodies go but not their souls.

#### A. The Biblical Words

- 2. Hades
  - Greek NT 10x
  - Equivalent to OT Sheol (LXX almost always uses Hades to translate Sheol)
  - Used in two ways:
    - a) A place when referring to punishment
      - Hell
      - Matt. 11:23; Luke 10:15; 16:23
    - b) The state of death which both believers and unbelievers enter when life is over
      - The grave
      - Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:27, 31; Rev. 1:18; 6:8; 20:13, 14

## B. The Biblical Arguments

- Key passages
  - Luke 16:19-31
    - Sensations of suffering
    - Awareness of circumstances (23-24)
    - Memory of the past (27-28)
    - Rational thought (30)
    - Communication with other spirits
  - 2 Cor. 5:1-8
  - Phil. 1:23
  - 1 Th. 5:10
  - Rev. 6:9-11

## B. The Biblical Arguments

#### Other passages

- Gen. 5:24 Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.
- 2 Kings 2:11 Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.
- Luke 23:43 He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."
- Heb. 12:23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
- Passages which present a different exit for body and soul...
  - Ps. 146:4 His spirit departs, he returns to the earth.
  - Eccl. 12:7 the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.
  - Matt. 10:28 "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul.

#### C. The Actual Conditions

- 1) Temporary (1 Cor. 15:52)
- 2) Without a body (2 Cor. 5:1-8)
- 3) Distinct
  - Unsaved suffering (Luke 16:23)
  - Saved
    - Immediately in the presence of the Lord (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8)
    - Bliss and joy (Luke 16:25; Phil. 1:23; 2 Cor. 5:8)
- 4) Ends with the resurrection of the body

### III. The Implications

- A. There are no second chances after death.
  - Second Probation
  - One's eternal state is fixed at death
    - Luke 16:26 between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.'
    - John 8:21 He said again to them, "I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come."
    - 2 Pet. 2:4 if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment... 9 the Lord knows how ... to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.
    - Jude 13 [false teachers are like] wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

## III. The Implications

- B. The intermediate state is better than life here.
  - Phil. 1:23 "I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better."

#### Better than here...

- Unmixed, undiminished, unending joy
  - Ps. 16:11 In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.
- Loving fellowship
  - 1 Cor. 13:13 now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.
- Sinless perfection
  - Heb. 12:22-23 you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of *the* righteous made perfect.
- The presence of Jesus Christ
  - Phil. 1:23 I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better.
  - 2 Cor. 5:8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

### III. The Implications

- A. There are no second chances after death.
- B. The intermediate state is better than life here.
- C. Our only hope of life after death is found in Christ alone.
  - John 11:23-26
  - "I am the resurrection and the life."