

# Parousia-related Heresies



# Parousia: Second Coming Heresies



- Purgatory
- Indulgences
- Prayers for the Departed
- Millennial Rule
- Salvation of non-believers
- Heresies on the timing of Parousia

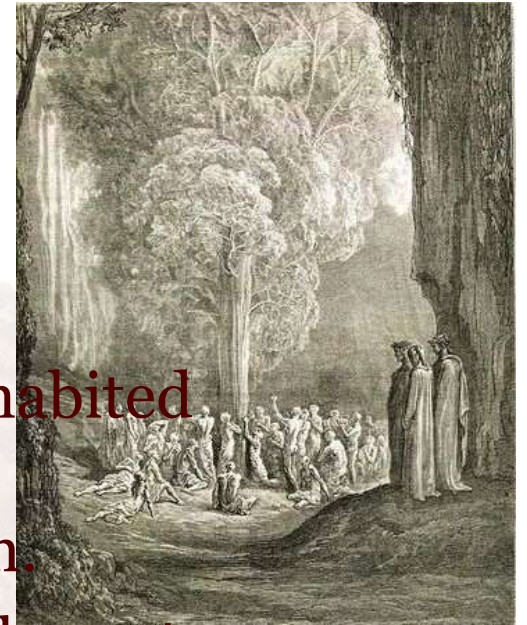
# Purgatory - المطهر

## † Roman Catholic doctrine:

- ✦ A place or state (or both) of suffering inhabited by the souls of sinners who are atoning their (minor) sins before going to heaven.
- ✦ It is: fire, torment, imprisonment, punishment, retribution, and an act of penance
- ✦ The soul repays its debt to the divine justice.

## † Three groups of people:

- ✦ Righteous: will go to Heaven
- ✦ Evil: will go to Hades
- ✦ Believers who did not repay all their debt – most people in this group: will go to purgatory
  - *Until they have “paid the last penny” (Matt 5:26)*



## Location of Purgatory

† “The location of the purgatory is not certain”

† “Temporary prison” “السجن المؤقت”

⌘ Seeped into Prostration Prayer- صلاة السجنه

⌘ *“Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.” (Matt 5:25-26)*

† “Place of grief, sorrow, and groaning”



## Location of Purgatory

† “St. Thomas thought that it is at the bottom of the earth where Hell is, so that the fire that torments those who perish in Hell is the same that cleanses the righteous in Purgatory.”

✧ *“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth” (Phil 2:10)*

✧ Those who are under the earth are those in Purgatory

✧ “intelligent” fire that tortures the damned, tests and purifies the mixed, and is pleasant to the saints.

• *(1 Cor 3:11–15) – this verse is about service!*

† Problems:

✧ Hell is a final destination; saints in Hell?

# History of Purgatory

## † In Scripture:

- ✧ Not a single reference in either testaments
- ✧ 2Mac 12:42-45: *“Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful dead might be fully blotted out. The noble Judas exhorted the people to keep themselves free from sin, ... 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 in mind**;*

## † Patrology: not a single reference

- ✧ First mention: Pope Innocent IV to Cardinal Eudes (1254)
- ✧ *“...we, considering that the Greeks assert that they cannot find in the works of their doctors any certain and proper name to designate the place of this purgation... this name is Purgatory”*
- ✧ Accepted in Second Council of Lyon (1274)
- ✧ Many Catholics reject this dogma, but it was pronounced by an “infallible Pope”



## Orthodox Response



† The blood of Christ is sufficient

✦ *“The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1Jn 1:7)*

† Repentance, not purging, forgives sin

✦ *“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out” (Act 3:19)*

✦ *“But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him” (Ezk 18:21-22)*

## *Orthodox Response*

### † Purgatory contradicts Divine Justice

- ✦ Divine justice was paid in full on the Cross!
- ✦ Requesting payment twice is unjust
- ✦ Punishment after forgiveness is unjust
- ✦ Punishing the spirit only is unjust
- ✦ Punishing in fire for “minor” sins is unjust



# زوائد القديسين - Indulgences of the Saints

## † Catholic Dogma:



⌘ “A way to reduce the amount of punishment one has to undergo for sins... through the action of the Church which dispenses and applies the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and all of the saints”

† Saints have a “treasury” of penance that they don’t use

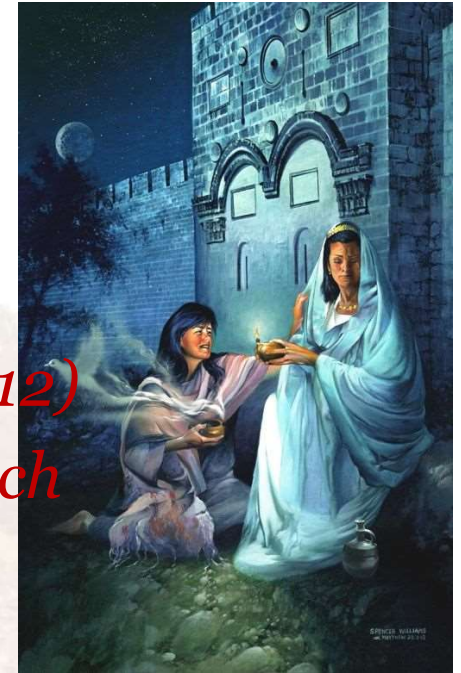
⌘ The church can dispense (sell) this extra unused penance to sinners who need them, to reduce their burden in Purgatory

# Orthodox Response

† No one is perfect and has “extra”!

✦ *“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on” (Phil 3:12)*

✦ *“When you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants’.” (Lk 17:10)*



† No one can grant his penance to others

✦ *“And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘No...” (Matt 25:8-9)*

† Each person must offer his own penance:

✦ *“The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.” (Ezk 18:20)*



## Prayers for the Departed

### الصلاة على الراقدين

✚ *“There’s no death for your servants but a departure”  
(Litany of the Departed)*

✦ Departure from struggling to victorious church – one church

✚ The departed are alive in Paradise, participating in prayers with us

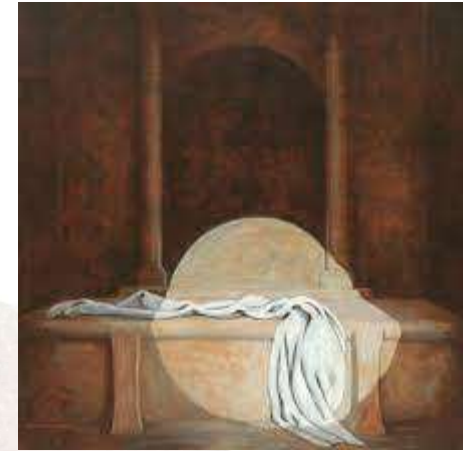
✦ Intercessions: *“Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my heart would not turn toward this people.” (Jer 15:1)*

## *Effect of the Prayer - on Departed*

- † Forgiveness of sins – absolution by church
  - ✦ Repented sins, that were not confessed
  - ✦ Sins of ignorance or unintentional sins
- † Does not lighten punishment - No Purgatory!
- † No prayers on those who die in sin
  - ✦ heretics, intentional suicides, unrepentant
- † Prayer benefits the repentant believer, but not the adamant sinner
- † Commemorations: departed feel those prayers and are joyful they are remembered
  - ✦ *“For this, O Lord, is the command of your only-begotten Son, that we share in the commemoration of uour saints”*



## Effect of the Prayer - on Living



- † Grants comfort to the family
- † Grants joy: the departed has gone into Paradise and left the sufferings of the world
- † Reminds us of the temporality of life
- † Confirms us in the dogma of eternal life:

✠ *“We look for the resurrection of the death and the life of the age to come”*

✠ *“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.” (1Th 4:13-14)*

# Millennial Rule / Rapture (Rev 20)

## الملك الألفي - الاختطاف

*“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;*





## (Rev 20)

*“3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.” (Rev 20)*

# *Heretical Interpretations*

- † Christ will come, take the righteous
  - ✦ Rapture for living/ First Resurrection for departed
  - ✦ Will this be before or after Great Tribulation?
  - ✦ Take them where? Who will be left?
- † He will bind Satan for 1000 years, overcome antichrist
- † Initial judgement: righteous will rule 1000 years on earth
  - ✦ How/where will they will rule, if they've been taken?
  - ✦ *"My kingdom is not of this world." (Jn 18:36)*
- † After 1000 years, Satan will be loosened to deceive the nations
  - ✦ Why? The righteous have already been judged!
- † Shortly Afterwards, the sinners will arise (2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection) for final judgment
  - ✦ Two resurrections, two judgments, three comings of Christ!

## Orthodox Response

### † The Millennial Rule started on the Cross

- ✦ After the fall, death ruled over all, Satan became the prince of this world.
- ✦ Through the Cross, Satan was bound, and we rule
- ✦ *“For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.” (Rom 5:17)*
- ✦ *“Say among the nations, “The Lord reigns;... He shall judge the peoples righteously.” (Ps 96:10)*

### † The binding of Satan:

- ✦ He can not work freely as before the Cross
- ✦ He has no power over the righteous souls

## Events of Second Coming (1 Thes 4)

† <sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.



## The Rapture

- † 5<sup>1</sup> ...We shall not all sleep,  
but we shall all be changed—  
5<sup>2</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the  
last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and  
the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we  
shall be changed. (1Cor 15)
- † ...shall be caught up together with them in the  
clouds to meet the Lord in the air. (1 Thes 4)
- † The righteous who are alive will be changed and  
caught up with the Lord.
  - ⌘ Instantaneous death and resurrection





## Salvation of Non-believers

† Heresy: All will be saved because God does not wish the death of a sinner.

✧ Origen: Salvation of Satan!

✧ *“Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?” says the Lord God, “and not that he should turn from his ways and live?.” (Ezk 18:23)*

† How do we reconcile:

✧ *“But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.” (Rev 21:27)*

# Orthodox Response

## † Faith, Love, Baptism, Repentance, Deeds

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Choosing God          | <i>"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore <u>choose life</u>, that both you and your descendants may live" (Deut 31:19)</i> |
| Faith, Baptism        | <i>"He who <u>believes</u> and is <u>baptized</u> will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (Mk 16:16)</i>                                                                                          |
| Deeds                 | <i>"<u>Work</u> out your own salvation with fear and trembling;" (Phil 2:12)</i>                                                                                                                                         |
| Perseverance          | <i>"But he who <u>endures</u> to the end shall be saved." (Matt 24:13)</i>                                                                                                                                               |
| Perseverance, Justice | <i>"Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, <u>severity</u>; but toward you, <u>goodness</u>, if you continue in His goodness." (Rom 11:22)</i>                                          |
| Fruitful              | <i>"Every branch in Me that does not <u>bear fruit</u> He takes away" (Jn 15:2)</i>                                                                                                                                      |

*For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries." (Heb 10:26)*

# Salvation - Questions

† Will ALL believers be saved?

⊕ Faith is the beginning, Baptism is the gateway

⊕ Deeds will lead us to salvation

⊕ Examples of believers that perished:

- *Judas the Apostle, Demas the servant, Nicolas the deacon, Arius the priest, Nestorius the Patriarch*

† Have you been saved?

⊕ Salvation is a process:

- *I have been saved, I'm being saved, with the grace of God, I will be saved*



## Salvation - Questions

† What about people in the jungles of Africa?

⌕ The Word of God is preached everywhere

⌕ God's mercies are limitless, and we do not understand them all

⌕ *“For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law... these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves” (Rom 2: 12,14)*

⌕ We can only determine based on what God revealed to use; we can not guess what God's mercy will judge.

## Timing of Parousia



† *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” (Mk 13:32)*

† Does The Lord Christ not know?!

⊕ According to the Humanity, He does not.  
According to the Divinity, He does.

- *Matt 24: tells details of the end of time!*
- *He is the creator and one with the Father (Jn 16:15)*

⊕ The capacity to share the knowledge:

- *Example: students asking a teacher if about test material.*

# *Heresies on the Timing of Parousia*

- ✦ Thessalonians (1<sup>st</sup> Century)
- ✦ Montanus (2<sup>nd</sup> Century), Joachim of Fiore (12<sup>th</sup> ), Quakers (17<sup>th</sup>)

| Author                                                    | Heresy                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Adventists</u></b><br>William Miller                | Second Coming was imminent: 1843.<br>calculation based on Daniel's prophecy                                                                                                                                                      |
| Samuel S. Snow                                            | Calculated that the return of Christ was to take place on<br>"Great day of Atonement" October 22, 1844.<br>His followers went up the mountain all dressed in white<br>praising until the next day. "Great day of Disappointment" |
| Hiram Edison                                              | Received a revelation on October 23, 1844, that gave hope to<br>the disappointed Adventists: Christ did come, but entered in<br>the Most Holy in HEAVEN and began the "Great Atonement"                                          |
| <b><u>Jehovah's Witnesses</u></b><br>Charles Taze Russell | Coming of Abraham and many prophets, and Christ in 1914.<br>He build a huge mansion in CA.<br>Jesus Christ came and has been ruling in heaven as king since<br>1914                                                              |