



What Is The Difference Between Heaven, Paradise, Hell, Hades and Purgatory?

Part 2

Episode #149

Introduction

I. Today's Question

What Is The Difference Between Heaven, Paradise, Hell, Hades and Purgatory?

It is common to hear various terms used to describe the eternal state of mankind. What do these terms mean and do some of them describe the same thing?

II. Heaven and Hell: General Sense

- a. It is not uncommon to hear both Heaven and Hell in the church and the world.
- b. These terms are often used in a general sense to reflect greater truths.
- c. Often their use is due to a lack of understanding concerning the specifics of Biblical truth.

III. Hell, Hades and the Lake of Fire

- a. It is not uncommon to hear people talk of hell as place of punishment.
- b. The Scriptures present a more complex picture than the general statement we use.
- c. Hell or Hades are terms used to describe the destination of fallen humanity.

Scripture Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰ But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹ desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’ ²⁷ “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ ²⁹ Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’ ”

d. The Lost will go to Hell or Hades until the resurrection of the dead.

Scripture Revelation 20:11-13

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

e. At the final judgment, the condemned are cast into the Lake of Fire.

Scripture Revelation 20:14-15

¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

f. Hell, Death and Satan are cast into the Lake of Fire

G. The Lake of Fire is the second death.

III. What About Purgatory?

A. Purgatory is a Roman Catholic belief.

B. It is an intermediate state after physical death for expiatory or atoning purification.

C. The process of purgatory is the final purification of the elect.

D. It is entirely different from the punishment of the damned.

E. The doctrine emerged in Roman Catholicism in the 12th century.

F. Non-Roman Catholic churches do not hold to the doctrine of purgatory.

Conclusion