

CATHOLICISM

EPISODE 10. WORLD WITHOUT END: THE LAST THINGS

Explore the Church's conviction that life here and now is preparation for an extraordinary world that is yet to come a supernatural destiny.

Bishop Barron presents the Catholic vision of death, judgment, heaven, hell and purgatory as he journeys to Florence, Ireland and Rome. The vision of the Church sees beyond this world and invites us to consider a world without end. Bishop Barron shows how this vision is supported by the mystery and truth of the Resurrection of Jesus.

OUTLINE

- I. Eschatology: The Last Things
 - A. The four last things: death, judgment, hell, and heaven
 - B. Eschatology (*eschata*), means "the final things"
 - i. General eschatology: the "big picture" and the end of time
 - ii. Individual eschatology: each person's afterlife, final destination
 - C. Church teaching on heaven, hell, and purgatory are fascinating to some, upsetting to many others
 - D. Popular culture has many references to the afterlife, ghosts, angels
- II. Beginning with Dante
 - A. *The Inferno*: Dante is led through Hell by the poet, Virgil
 - B. The Devil is not in flames, but encased in ice, with wings and three faces
 - C. Hell is full of sadness, self-absorption, isolation, loneliness
 - D. Why is Satan in Hell? He chose it
 - E. Hell is the state that follows from refusing divine love
 - F. C.S. Lewis: the love of God lights up the fires of Hell
 - G. Catechism: Hell "consists of eternal separation from God" (CCC 1057)
- III. Purgatory
 - A. Often dismissed as "medieval" or "superstitious"
 - B. *Catechism*: purgatory is for those who "die in God's grace and friendship" but need to be fully purified (par. 1030-31)
 - C. Mortal and venial sins (1 John 5:16-17)
 - D. Purgatory is not a destination, but a continuation and completion of sanctification
 - E. C. S. Lewis: Purgatory is the washroom of heaven
 - F. Biblical foundations
 - i. 2 Maccabees 12:42-46: Prayers for the dead
 - ii. Matthew 12:32: Forgiveness in this age and the age to come
 - iii. 1 Corinthians 3: The fire will test the work of each man
 - G. Dante: Mount Purgatory and the seven deadly sins
- IV. Angels and Devils
 - A. Angels
 - B. Devil
- V. Heaven
 - A. Heaven is communion of life and love with the Trinity (CCC 1024)
 - B. Faith, hope, love—"the greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13)
 - C. No need for faith (fulfilled) or hope (realized) in heaven
 - D. Many different images and descriptions of heaven
 - i. The beatific Vision: perfect happiness
 - ii. Unending beauty

