

## Where is Purgatory in the Bible?

The concept is simple. Only a perfect, sinless soul may enter the Kingdom of Heaven. One must be as perfect as God himself to abide with Him. There is a place we go to be finally purified to enter into Heaven.

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### 1. There is punishment for sin, even after you have been forgiven.

#### 2 Samuel 12:13-18

<sup>13</sup> And David said to Nathan: I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said to David: The Lord also has taken away your sin: you shall not die. <sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, because you have given occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, for this thing, the child that is born to you, shall surely die. <sup>15</sup> And Nathan returned to his house. The Lord also struck the child which the wife of Urias had borne to David, and his life was despaired of. <sup>16</sup> And David besought the Lord for the child: and David kept a fast, and going in by himself lay upon the ground. <sup>17</sup> And the ancients of his house came, to make him rise from the ground: but he would not, neither did he eat meat with them. <sup>18</sup> And it came to pass on the seventh day that the child died: and the servants of David feared to tell him, that the child was dead. For they said: Behold when the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he would not hearken to our voice: how much more will he afflict himself if we tell him that the child is dead?

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### 2. We must be perfect to get into Heaven.

#### Matthew 5:48

<sup>48</sup> So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.

#### Hebrews 12:14

<sup>14</sup> Strive for peace with everyone, and for that holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

#### James 3:2

<sup>2</sup> for we all fall short in many respects. If anyone does not fall short in speech, he is a perfect man, able to bridle his whole body also.

#### Revelation 21:27

<sup>27</sup> but nothing unclean will enter it, nor any[one] who does abominable things or tells lies. Only those will enter whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

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### 3. There is an action, or process through which the spirits of Just men are made perfect.

#### **Hebrews 12:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> But you are come to Mount Zion, and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to the company of many thousands of angels, <sup>23</sup> And to the church of the firstborn, who are written in the heavens, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

#### **1 Corinthians 3:13-15**

<sup>13</sup> each man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire itself shall prove each man's work of what sort it is. <sup>14</sup> If any man's work shall abide which he built thereon, he shall receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as through fire.

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### 4. There is a place besides Heaven or Hell where we can suffer loss, yet be saved, (but only as through fire) and where we can be forgiven of sins from a previous age and where we cannot escape until our entire debt is paid.

#### **Matthew 5:26**

<sup>26</sup> Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.

#### **Matthew 18:32-35**

<sup>32</sup> His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' <sup>34</sup> Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. <sup>35</sup> So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart."

#### **Matthew 12:32**

<sup>32</sup> And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

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### 5. It is good and hopeful to pray for the dead who may raise again in God's grace.

#### **2 Maccabees 12:44-46**

<sup>44</sup> for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. <sup>45</sup> But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. <sup>46</sup> Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be absolved from their sin.

#### **1 Peter 3:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the spirit. <sup>19</sup> In it he also went to preach

to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who had once been disobedient while God patiently waited in the days of Noah during the building of the ark, in which a few persons, eight in all, were saved through water.

### **1 Peter 4:6**

<sup>6</sup> For this is why the gospel was preached even to the dead that, though condemned in the flesh in human estimation, they might live in the spirit in the estimation of God.

### **2 Timothy 1:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> May the Lord grant mercy to the family of Onesiphorus because he often gave me new heart and was not ashamed of my chains. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to Rome, he promptly searched for me and found me.

<sup>18</sup> May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day. And you know very well the services he rendered in Ephesus.

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1. There is punishment for sin, even after you have been forgiven.
  2. We must be perfect to get into Heaven.
  3. There is an action, or process after death through which the spirits of Just men are made perfect.
  4. There is a place besides Heaven or Hell where we can suffer loss, yet be saved, (but only as through fire) and where we can be forgiven of sins from a previous age and where we cannot escape until our entire debt is paid.
  5. It is good and hopeful to pray for the dead who may raise again in God's grace.

Catholics call this place Purgatory from the Latin *purgare*, to purge, the root of *purgatorius*, purifying, or to purify, later anglicized to purgatory.