

Why Not Purgatory?

And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

(Revelation 12:9)

As with any false interpretation of the Scriptures there is always at least one telltale sign that deception has been the order of the day. The point being that not even the greatest deceiver of all time can compete with God's Word: Rev 12:9; 2Tim 3:13. As always, our Lord provides a verse or verses, demonstrating at one glance that a doctrine is false; as is the case with the teachings about a fiery place called Purgatory. It's important to note that the Scriptures never contradict themselves, and God does not have a place where the Souls/Spirits of His Children dwell in a fire after departing the Body; thus, before entering heaven. The Scriptures indicate one infallible truth coming to us through Jesus Christ the Word of God, not some group or organization claiming to be the sole voice of God on earth: 1Cor 8:6; 1Tim 2:3-5; Heb 6:17-20. Only by a judicial examination of God's Word (THE BIBLE) can we come to the truth: Psalms 119:123-135; Prov 2:1-11; Acts 17:10-11; Col 2:2-3. Never trust an organization that WOULD NOT encourage or recommend you to THOROUGHLY explore the Bible for yourself:

Woe to you, lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you yourselves did not enter, and you hindered those who were entering

(Luke 11:52)

The importance of the verse above can not be understated as this is a statement of Jesus regarding the dominating religious establishment of His day, claiming to be the sole voice of God to mankind. The word *Lawyers* in this passage is referring to those considered to be the experts regarding the Scriptures: (THE LAW OF MOSES). These same have in the past and will in the future kill those willing to challenge their so-called veracity in biblical interpretation: Mat 23:34-35. The Bible has a great deal to say of those who distort the Word of God:

... there are some things that are hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as {they do} also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him {be} the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

(2Peter 3:16-17)

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is {really} not another; only

*there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of
Christ.
(Galatians 1:6-7)*

...The Word of God, in several places, suggests that as the end of the Church age approaches, the Word will be distorted more and more.

*But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from
the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,
by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a
branding iron.
(1Timothy 4:1-2)*

JESUS CHRIST'S VICTORY

A. Where did Christ ascend and descend?

It is said that Jesus went to hell upon His departure from the cross; yet this statement at best is only partially true; therefore a person must examine the rest of the story that we never hear from these deceivers. The Apostles Paul often used the word "Deceivers", describing the dominating religious establishment of his day, their ranks emerging from the Roman Empire. These same were falling away from the true Gospel, sponsoring a completely false religion promoting the same old deceptions coming down from ancient times, but with a new face or, in other words, a makeover.

1. The following Scriptures demonstrate that all those calling on the name of the Lord Jesus would/will be in his presence immediately after their death. In the following, well known verse; Jesus dismisses His Spirit into the Father's Hands, therefore Jesus departed from His body: Luke 23:46. It's important to note that the Father is never said to visit the subterranean earth; but the scriptures can challenge our thoughts regarding these things.
2. Ephesians 4:8-10, Isaiah 9:6-7, and Jhn 14:8-10 put our thoughts to the test, expanding our perceptions of God:

*Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST
OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."*

*(Now this, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had
descended into the lower parts of the earth?)*

*He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the
heavens, so that He might fill all things.)
(Ephesians 4:8-10)*

(Isa 9:6-7) A child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. (Isa 9:6-7)

14:8-10: Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.

Here we're seeing that He who ascended is also He who descended into the lower parts of the earth. The answer to this dilemma is: **Residing in the body of Jesus was the very fullness of God:** John 1:14; Col 1:19, and God can be in two or more places at the same time. The greater question then would be: Why did He/God go down into the subterranean earth? The answer to this question can only be answered in two parts, because Jesus went down there for two different reasons: First of all, He went down there to retrieve all the Saints of old, taking them to heaven, which can be seen in the previous passage of Ephesians 4:8-10. These Saints were in "Abraham's Bosom", a place of peace and happiness, as told by our Lord in the story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31):

- 19) Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day.*
- 20. And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores,*
- 21. and longing to be fed with the {crumbs} which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores.*
- 22. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.*
- 23. In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.*
- 24. And he cried out and said, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame."*
- 25. But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.*
- 26. And besides all this, 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."*

27. *And he said, "Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house-*
28. *for I have five brothers- in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment."*
29. *But Abraham said, "They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them."*
30. *But he said, "No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!"*
31. *But he said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead".*
(Luke 16:22-31)

This place to which both believing and unbelieving people descend at death is called *Hades* in the Greek, and *Sheol* in the Hebrew, and of course we see it translated *Hell* in some Bibles. Across from Abraham's bosom are the unbelieving dead and incarcerated demons. A brief examination of this Luke passage reveals that those on Abraham's side were never on the side with the fire and, likewise, the ones in the fire could never pass to the opposite side of blessing. Abraham also indicates that no amount of prayer and intercession would change the outcome for those in the fire; even the idea of someone returning from the dead is dismissed. The point being: The decisions we make while in the (flesh) dictate entirely where we spend eternity: John 3:18, 3:36. In Revelations 20:13-14, we see that all those in Hades will be thrown in the lake of fire at the point of the last judgment, this event being near the end of time. This Last Judgment is also indicated by the phrase: "the second death".

2. The other reason our Lord went down in the heart of the earth was to make an announcement to the fallen Spirits/Angels. These Angels, in particular, were responsible for corrupting the human race during the times of Noah; these events taking place in a one hundred and twenty-year period prior to the Great Flood. The following passage is indicative of our Lord's announcement to these fallen creatures:

*For Christ also died for sins once for all, {the} just for {the} unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit; in which also **He went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison.***
(1 Peter 3:18-19)

Here the Lord makes it clear to all there was a victory over sin: Jesus announcing that He was in Charge of everything. Peter makes mention once again of this area for the Human dead and fallen Spirits: 2 Peter 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.*
(2Peter 2:4)

Here, the word "hell" is the Greek word *Tartarus* (i.e. the pit of darkness). John refers to this place as the bottomless pit (the Abyss) in which Satan is kept for a thousand years during our

Lord's earthly reign in the future: Rev 20:3. We also see this same Greek word for the Abyss is used by the Apostle Paul, illustrating to the Roman Believers that there was no effort required on their/our part to be saved: Rom 10:5-11: The Power to save is in our hearts and on our lips. The point Paul makes in this Romans passage is that Christ has already done the Work. All that we do is trust in Jesus; and naturally/eventually/inevitably there will be confession of His name for those who believe; just as a child will confess the name of his mom or dad once the speech process develops.

B. Jesus is our Victory over Sin and the Grave

If you hadn't picked up on it from reading the previous scriptures, Abraham's Bosom is now vacant, as Christ's work satisfied the righteousness of the Father/God, making way for all the believing to enter heaven immediately after death. This is why Paul says:

*"O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to
God, who gives us the victory (over death) through our Lord Jesus Christ.
(1Corinthians 15:55-57).*

Jesus is our Victory over sin/death and the Grave. The point Paul is making is that the Grave and Sin lost the battle to Christ, and those believing in Him share completely in that Victory. Now we live in Christ/God, never to die again: Rom 6:9. You might be saying to yourself: "I thought that at least some were in heaven Before Christ's Crucifixion". Yet we see in Christ's very own words, that no (man) had ascended to heaven before Him: John 3:13.

*"No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven:
The Son of Man".
(Jhn 3:13)*

The next passage, often used to support the case for the Purgatory's existence, actually, indicates the very opposite of what the deceivers are purporting, as can easily be pointed out:

*For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are
dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the
Spirit according to God.
(1Peter 4:6)*

As always, deceivers use a passage demonstrating a great truth and turn it on its head so it can't be understood correctly: Rom 16:18. With the verse in 1Peter 4:6 they are trying to say that *the dead are having the Gospel preached* to them. The passage, actually, is indicating that those in the FLESH not only receive the Gospel but also receive punishment and suffering IN THE FLESH so that they may live in the Spirit according to the will of God, rather than living in carnality. The verse speaks of the past tense: "The Gospel [HAS] for this purpose [BEEN] preached." The word *was* will work without changing the meaning—it is rendered this way in some bibles. Please take note and read that **the very context of verse six starts at the beginning of chapter four, not the middle of Chapter three**, as the

deceivers will try to show us. Christ's suffered while living in the flesh and, of course, while being nailed to a tree was the last of His sufferings related to bearing our sins:

*Therefore, since Christ has suffered **in the flesh**, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,
so as to live the rest of (his) time in the **flesh** no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.
(1 Peter 4:1-2)*

Yet the ones who seek to deceive are taking a person's attention to verse nineteen of the (previous) chapter to support their deceptions regarding the preaching of the Gospel to spirits.

What is the overlying point that is being made in all this? Even those who were destined for destruction had the very same opportunity to believe in God just as we have now. Prior to the Post (Cross), the truth of Jesus Christ was revealed through the animal sacrifices related to the Law. This is why the word regarding Abraham's bosom is so important. It is these stories that give us clarity regarding our so great salvation.

C. What did Jesus promise the Criminal hanging next to Him?

Prior to our Lord's departure from the cross, did not Jesus give assurance to the criminal next to Him, that they would both be in Paradise that same day?

And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!"

*And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."
(Luke 23:42-43)*

Those wishing to deceive state that verse 43 should read as follows "...*Truly I say to you today, you shall be with me in Paradise*" (using a comma after the word "today"); their argument is: since Greek does not have any punctuation marks, it is lawful to interpret that Jesus was giving that promise "today" in order to accomplish it at some other time in the future. A major point that can be made regarding this assertion is that many times we see Jesus saying the phrase "TRULY I SAY TO YOU" but none other than this case, with the thief, do we see the word "today" being used. In fact, to add the word "today" makes no sense at all unless it's referring the period of time just before evening. No one speaks like the deceivers are suggesting. It's obvious when someone is speaking to us, that we're hearing them the same day or at the very moment they're speaking, for that matter. It almost seems ridiculous that we're forced to explain this. The much

greater point is this: We know very well from scripture that Jesus would be in Paradise that same day. Unless one was trying to be ambiguous, one would never include the word today unless the person was indicating when something's going to happen i.e. when they would be in paradise. Obviously, both would be in paradise that same day. There is yet another point that will put this issue to rest once and for all: the fact, that even in three of the main bible versions the deceivers use, Luke 23:43 reads as follows:

The New Jerusalem Bible:

He answered him, 'In truth I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.'

Christian Community Bible:

Jesus replied, "Truly, you will be with me today in paradise."

Vulgate Latin:

Et dixit illi Jesus: Amen dico tibi: **hodie** mecum eris in paradiso.
(*And Jesus said to him: Amen I say to thee: **This day** thou shalt be with me in paradise.*)

FURTHER DETAILS OF JESUS' DESCENT AND ASCENT

A. Who are the spirits now in prison?

For the sake of argument, we will go to 1Peter Chapter three, verses nineteen thru twenty.

"...He went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison, who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark..."
(1Peter 3:19-20)

Before we go any farther it is important to note that the words "preach" and "proclaim" are both from the same Greek word [*kerusso*.- to herald]. The Greek word is not indicative, in any way, that spiritual or even biblical information is being talked about. This Greek word is generic and does not indicate a certain type of declaration. Our English word "preached" leads a person to think that religious information is being proclaimed. What we are saying is that the word simply means to proclaim or give proclamations regarding **any subject**, and is not necessarily indicative of religious teaching and neither does it exclude the idea that Spiritual information is being proclaimed. The English word "preached", we almost always associate with the church setting. But this Greek word, *karisso*, is simply indicative of an emphatic proclamation.

Who are these spirits now in prison? What would the specific issues be regarding the spirits that were ONCE disobedient during the times of Noah prior to the flood? What do these

spirits have to do with us now? Those that point out this verse are doing so, trying to point out there being a prison with fire (“purgatory”) for those whose actual destiny is heaven, and heaven alone! They purport there being an interim place of flames and fire for all those eventually going to heaven. Before we look at all the related scriptures regarding the identity of these spirits, there are a few points that can be made regarding this particular deception:

First of all, if a person is going to call a place Purgatory and their teaching is that it’s *a place of fire*, then Where is the *fire* mentioned here? As you can see there is nothing supporting that this is a place of fire from the beginning of Chapter four thru verse six. The second point is that there is nothing in 1Peter 3:19 (in the previous chapter) that would indicate the Gospel was *preached*. Leaving out information stating that the Gospel was preached would be leaving out the most important detail if this were true. What then was proclaimed or announced? In brief, we see at the end of chapter three, that our Lord Jesus made **proclamations** regarding His supremacy over all things. Jesus, in essence, would be telling everybody that he was completely in charge, being ruler over everything:

*Who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels,
and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.
(1Peter 3:22)*

The following verses further indicate our Lord being given all authority and power after the crucifixion. Matt 28:18; Ephesians 1:21-23; Col 1:15-19, 2:10-11; 1Tim 6:15; Heb 1:3.

In fact, these disobedient spirits/angels were responsible for corrupting true humanity such to the extent that no true humanity would be left on earth had it not been for the intervention of the flood. We will see this to be true in the following verses. Let’s first go to Genesis 6:2 and see a very rare word construction in the Hebrew. Here we see the statement: “The Sons of God saw that the daughters of men were Beautiful...”

*Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land,
and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters
of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they
chose.*

Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever,
because he also is flesh; nevertheless, his days shall be one hundred and
twenty years."*

*The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when
the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore {children}
to them. Those were the mighty men who {were} of old, men of renown.*

*Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth,
and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was continually evil.*

(Genesis 6:1-5)

“Sons of God” is a Hebrew construction that is found only in three other places in the Old Testament: Job 1:6, 2:1, and 38:7. We see first a great gathering of Angels in the heavenlies with Satan seeking to test Job; also seeing that the second verse in Job is displaying the same issue but the testing is going to escalate to the next level. Finally, in Job 38:1-7, the Lord is speaking of a time before the earth’s creation was complete. During these prehistoric events, we see that the Sons of God shouted for Joy. This speaks of a time before man, when there was just God and His celestial hosts. Later in literature these beings became known as Angels. The Hebrew word for angel (“*mal’ak*”) literally means *Messenger*. So, what we know by now is that these Celestial Beings thought the women of the human race were Beautiful and were taking them as wives.

To learn more about these disobedient Angels from 1 Peter, let’s move on to a passage in Jude:

*And **angels** who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has **kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,***

*just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, **since they in the same way as these** indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.*

(Jude 1:6-7)

The Angels Spoke of in Jude 1:6 are said to have not kept their own domain but abandoned their proper abode and are being kept in chains pending the judgment. Reading on in verse seven we see that in the “same way as these”, meaning those of Sodom and Gomorrah indulged in strange flesh, participated in likes to the Angels, cohabiting with Humans. The context indicates that both the Angels and those at or around Sodom and Gomorrah were indulging in sexual perversion. This passage is mentioned in comparison, because some men in Sodom were seeking to have sexual relations with the Angels sent to rescue Lot and his family; the contrasting point being that (fallen spirits/angels) are still a source of temptation to mankind even now. Yet it’s evident these we read about in Genesis 6 were angels capable of creating a pregnancy in a human female; therefore, this type of **fallen Angel** have long been **imprisoned**.

and they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them."

(Genesis 19:5)

My people consult their wooden idol, and their {diviner's} wand informs them; For a spirit of harlotry has led {them} astray, And they have played the harlot, {departing} from their God.

(Hosea 4:12)

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be **tempted by the devil**. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. **And the tempter came** and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread”.*
(Matthew 4:1-3)

*But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, **paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons***
(1Timothy 4:1)

(See also: Mat 4:1; 1Thess 3:5; Eph 6:12).

Back in 1 Peter 3:19-20, it is plain to see, reading on to the end of the chapter, that Peter is emphasizing that our next destination from this life is **heaven** and that no amount of rituals with water can bring heaven any closer to us; noting that Noah and his family were above the water, symbolically resembling our resurrection of life with God, Peter makes it clear that no amount of *literal* water was enough to appropriate God’s saving gift; also indicating that *literal* water was limited to only cleaning the flesh; the context dismissing this as being an issue.

...in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you —not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience— through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.
(1Peter 3:20-22)

Remember to look at 2 Peter 2:4 again. These particular Angels had the ability to create pregnancy; ultimately resulting in a super race of half man-half Angel creatures; this combination subsequently created a greater tendency for violence: Gen 6:5. The major significance of all this is that our Savior, Jesus Christ, was to be born of true humanity and not this unholy mixture of fallen angel and man. This combination of man and Angel came to be known as the *Nephilim* (giants), the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown as said in Genesis 6:4. So you see these spirits spoken of in 1 Pet 3:19-20 are not human beings at all. Those that deceive do so because it’s in their nature, not even realizing they are doing it. This is in accord with Satan, the leader of all those loving and serving the lie: John 8:44.

*“And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called **the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world**; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”*
(Revelation 12:9)

*For such men are false apostles, **deceitful** workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.*

*No wonder, for even **Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.***

*Therefore it is not surprising if **his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness**, whose end will be according to their deeds.
(2Corinthians 11:13-15)*

B. The Two Compartments in Hades

Now we need to go back to the Rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). This passage, once again, sets a tremendous precedence, since *the great divide* prevents anyone from either side from passing to the other side; and this fact and others related to these two places in the earth deserve special attention. First of all, Abraham's bosom is one compartment of Hades, while the other side is called Tartarus. These two places in the lower parts of the earth are talked about in some detail; yet the deceivers, supporting the Idea of Purgatory, don't want you to know anything about the scriptures and what they really have to say regarding these places. Until now, you were probably not even aware that the Bible explains these places with some detail. God provides more of these insights in Luke 16:27-31:

And he said, "Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house

- for I have five brothers- in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment."

But Abraham said, "They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them."

But he said, "No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!"

But he said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead."

Luke 16:27-31

We see again that not even a person rising from the dead would be able to provide any type of intercession for those in the flames. The greatest lesson to learn from this passage is that our decision to put trust in God and living in His ways while in the flesh is the sole determining factor as to our lives in the eternal state. In the case of this present age, the Bible makes very clear that we trust in Jesus for eternal life: John 3:16. There is none other name under heaven by which we can be saved: Acts 4:12. So this place of the dead in the earth is

called “Tartarus”, this being the place where the spirits of the fallen await the final judgment of hell; this being the temporary place, prior to the lake of fire:

*Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.
(Revelation 20:14)*

C. Offerings and Prayers for The Dead

Those who believe there is a purgatory present another passage; this time from a book called 2Maccabees 12:43-46:

He then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which 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 of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.

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.

Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

For starters, 2Maccabees belongs to the Apocrypha, a group of 14 books not considered canonical or divinely inspired by the Jewish people nor by the early church; none of the writers of the New Testament, including our Lord Jesus, ever bring up the slightest quote from any of the Apocryphal books, with only the possible exception of a passage in Jude. Finally, the teaching exposed by the verse cited above is clearly contradictory to any related doctrine in the Old and New Testament, such an idea not being supported by anything in the Scriptures; therefore, falling under the principle that no single witness is to be considered credible except when confirmed by at least one more **scriptural** witness. For case and point, turn to Psalms 49:7-9, where it's indicated that a soul is without a redemption price and that we're to cease from any attempts to do this, leaving the dead in the hands of God; otherwise being involved in things punishable by death:

Psalms 49:7-9:

***No man can by any means redeem {his} brother Or give to God a ransom for him** -For the redemption of his soul is costly, And he should cease {trying} forever -That he should live on eternally, That he should not undergo decay.*

The scriptures strongly prohibit any attempts to communicate with those that have passed on:

"There shall (no)t be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead".

(Deuteronomy 18:10-11)

(See also: Isaiah 8:19-20). On the other hand, Jesus made it clear that all Prayer is to be directed to our Father in heaven:

"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name'".

(Matthew 6:9)

We see no other practices other than these adopted by the Apostles or the Prophets of Old. This means that any and all communications we are to have with the heavenly is to be with God and no one else: Mat 6:6. And with regards to offerings, there is no need of offering more than what Jesus has presented, by which He has also perfected forever those who are sanctified: Heb 10:14. Paul in Corinthians said "imitate me just as I have also imitated Christ": 1Cor 11:1. There are many activities that we are doing that neither Paul nor our Lord were doing. The Apostle Paul, in principle, said not to go beyond what is said; the idea is to not add words nor deeds beyond the truths we find in scripture. There are undeniable conclusions that we are forced to face once we have enough of the scriptures residing in our hearts.

D. Jesus leading into heaven

Moving on, we see Philippians 2:10-11 is a verse reflecting on a time very near the last Judgments, where all those in heaven and earth and under the earth are bowing a knee to Jesus. This is a time very close to the end where even the enemies of God are willing to concede to the true identity of Jesus: that being almighty God:

so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:10-11

Since the time of our Lord's resurrection, Abraham's Bosom is empty because the price for sin was paid making way for the heavenly entrance for the saints of old testament times.

We've seen that prior to Jesus' crucifixion, no human was in heaven with the Father: John 3:13. Now, just as the criminal went into the presence of the Lord after death, so do all those in Jesus. When Jesus breathed his last on the tree, the veil of the temple was ripped in two; signifying that heaven was now open. Prior to this, the veil was in essence saying: "STAY OUT, YOU'RE HOLYNESS IS NOT YET COMPLETE". But now, we have received the Lord's righteousness, therefore making us acceptable to God.

*And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last.
And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.
(Mark 15:37-38)*

*Now the main point in what has been said {is this:} we have such a high priest [Christ], who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty **in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.**
(Heb 8:1-2)*

*Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a {mere} copy of the true one, **but into heaven itself**, now to appear in the presence of God for
us
(Hebrews 9:24)*

***Our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ**
(Philippians 3:20)*

***The hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, is the gospel**
(Colossians 1:5)*

As seen before, Jesus is leading a host of captives into heaven in Ephesians 4:8. You might object and say these are "captives". We see especially in the Old Testament that this wording for God's people is favorable. They were always saying that they wanted their captivity restored which indicated *restored fellowship with God*: Psalms 85:1, 126:4; Amos 9:14. Israel wanted to be in the captivity of their Lord in Jerusalem rather than the captivity of a foreign land.

Saint John said that all those that believe in Jesus shall overcome just as Jesus overcame: 1John 5:4. The Apostle Paul said that if we have died with Jesus we shall also live with Him. Once we have died to sin we can no longer live in it. Paul said we are dead to sin and alive to righteousness: Rom 6:8-11. How great and comforting is the list of promises God has for His Saints. The Apostle Paul said in 1Corinthians 1:2: "...to those who have been **sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their {Lord} and ours.**" Also, look at these verses carefully and notice that **the Word of God only differentiates between two places, or two states; it never shows any intermediate or third place that the deceivers call purgatory:**

Romans 8:29-39:

29. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined {to become} conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

30. and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

31. What then shall we say to these things? If God {is} for us, who {is} against us?

32. He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

33. Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

34. who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

*35. **Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword***

36. Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

37. But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

38. For 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.***
(Romans 8:29-39)

(See also 1Cor 1:4-8; 2Cor 5:1-8; Eph 2:4-7; Philip 1:21-23; 2Tim 4:7-8, 18; 1Peter 1:3-6).

TWO MAJOR POINTS THE DECEIVERS DO NOT BOTHER WITH:

A. Symbolism in Scriptures

Let's look at the verse that is most commonly associated with Purgatory; but before we do this, we'll look at the many ways God's Word uses symbolism when communicating things to us. We can start by looking at the Levitical offerings and sacrifices that were symbolically depicting the crucifixion of Jesus, or its associated results. First of all, cattle, Sheep/goats, and birds were used to illustrate the crucifixion of Jesus. Their throats were cut by the one offering the creature: the knife in one hand, while the other hand was placed on the head, signifying the transfer of sins from the person to the animal. In the case of a bird; the head was pulled off. Remember we are showing all the symbolism here, so we can show places the deceivers pull symbolism completely out of line with the true realities.

Then the LORD called to Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying, "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them,

'When any man of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of animals from the herd or the flock.

'If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer it, a male without defect; he shall offer it at the doorway of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the LORD.

'He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, that it may be accepted for him to make atonement on his behalf.

*'He shall slay the young bull before the LORD; and Aaron's sons the priests shall offer up the blood and sprinkle the blood around on the altar that is at the doorway of the tent of meeting.'"
(Leviticus 1:1-5)*

I think you can already see that this does not display with complete similarity what Jesus experienced on the cross; but, nonetheless, symbolizes it in that it displays our sins inflicting the spiritual/physical death of Jesus. The animal only died physically; whereas Jesus died spiritually *and physically*, and blood loss was not the actual cause of Jesus' death; Jesus body was not held by the powers of natural death, as His body did not rot because it was preserved by God during the time in the grave. So, in this sense, Jesus body really did not die physically as Doctor would evaluate the situation. Once again, the body of Jesus was preserved alive by God.

You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; **Nor** will You allow Your Holy One to **undergo decay**.
Psa 16:10

He (*David*) looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, **NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY**.
Act 2:31

*...this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put {Him} to death. "But **God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power...***
(from Acts 2:22b-31)

*(Our Lord) ... has become {priest} not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but **according to the power of an indestructible life.***
(Hebrews 7:16)

Indeed, Hebrews 7 leaves no room for any doubt as to the fact that Jesus did not die physically, And we have a couple more witnesses of the same experience: Enoch and Elijah:

Heb 7:8, 23-26 In this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case one (Melchizedek) receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives on. ... The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by (physical) death from continuing, but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore, He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. It was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;

Gen 5:23-24 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

2Ki 2:1, 111 And it came about when the LORD was about to take up Elijah by a whirlwind to heaven, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. ... As they were going along and talking, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.

Jesus breathed out His Spirit at the timing of His own choosing; His Spirit/Soul leaving His Body: John 10:17-18; Luke 23:46. However the animals' death was not of the animals' choosing and the animals were never willing to be slaughtered; whereas Jesus willingly endured the cross for the Father, and for us: Heb 10:8-10, 12:2. We know from many passages in the new testament that the Animal sacrifices actually did nothing to remove sin but symbolized the removal of sin that would take place in the future Messiah:

*For it is **impossible** for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.*
(Hebrews 10:4)

*All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused **the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.***
(Isaiah 53:6)

*The next day he {John} sees Jesus coming to him and says, "**Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**"*
(John 1:29)

*"But when **Christ** appeared {as} a high priest of the good things to come, {He entered} through the greater and **more perfect tabernacle**, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;*

*and not through the blood of goats and calves, but **through His own blood**, He entered the holy place once for all, **having obtained eternal redemption.***

(Hebrews 9:11-12)

(Follow up with Heb 10:1-10 and 1Peter 2:24-25 would be very beneficial)

Jesus was nailed to a piece of wood while alive; while the animal was placed dead and partially dismembered on a metal structure with wood under it to be burned, signifying the judgment of God on sin: Lev 1:6-9. Jesus was neither burned on the cross nor did he die physically but spiritually which was a (Brief interruption of fellowship with the Father) when the sins of the world were poured out upon Him from the Father:

Rom 6:10 *For the death that He died, **He died to sin** once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.*

Jesus knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill scriptures said, "*It is finished; Father into your hands I dismiss my Spirit oh God of truth*": John 19:28; Psalms 31:5; Luke 23:46.

*and **He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross**, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.*
(1Peter 2:24)

Obviously, the animal's body was reduced to ashes signifying the cleansing of sin by the judgment/fire of God. **Jesus' body was placed in the grave and all the tissues of the body remained alive because of God's care; therefore, the flesh of Jesus did not undergo decay**: Acts 2:29-31. The thrust of the spear in the side of Jesus was after he was considered dead, the wound revealing ample blood and water in his body: John 19:33-34. When a person dies from loss of blood the liquids and the solids of the blood do not separate in the upper extremities of the body as did they in the case of Jesus. Why state all of this? —This all displays that many things happened to the animal that did NOT LITERALLY happen to Jesus at any time, and vice versa.

The Prayers of the saints were depicted by burning incense in a fire pan; the Smoke rising depicting our prayers rising to God. So, this symbolically displays the fires within us reaching out to God above.

*He shall take a firepan full of coals of fire from upon the altar before the LORD and two handfuls of finely ground sweet **incense**, and bring {it} inside the veil.*

(Leviticus 16:12)

*Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much **incense** was given to him, so that he might add it to **the prayers of all the saints** on the golden altar which was before the throne.*

*And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before **God** out of the angel's hand.*

(Revelation 8:3-4)

Incidentally this previous Revelations passage is indicative of all the unanswered prayers of believers throughout history regarding their desires of divine Judgement being given to the Great Harlot, thus God finally answers these prayers with Her destruction shortly before the end of the Tribulations (This Judgement of the Harlot is still a future event.)

The old testament is full of examples of Prayers not being answered; thus many of Israel were slaughtered by their enemies. The same is true during the future Seven Year Tribulation. The saints will be crying out in prayer but the enemies of God are allowed to kill millions of believers. God's enemies are allowed to exercise their will in regards to murdering the Saints. Despite all of this, God remembers all of these prayers; thus the judgement is thrown down to earth; hence the judging of all the ungodly.

More regarding symbols

I think we have heard it said before, that a person *is really on fire for the Lord*; but we don't have a literal Fire burning in ourselves. The animal did not rise from the dead but our Lord certainly did. The animal's Body was skinned out and partially dismembered to prepare for roasting and eating: Lev 6:26; whereas our Lord's body was neither skinned, dismembered, nor roasted, and/or eaten for a meal.

So, we see that many words and passages are to be seen as symbolic; like Psalms 12:6, which speaks of the purity of the Lord's words comparing them to refined silver:

The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times.

(Psalms 12:6)

As for a handful of other passages that indicate precious metals and other things being tried by fire? God uses a vast amount of symbolism to describe the human condition. The word of God uses different types of soil to describe different types of people: Matt 13:18-23; but a human is not soil but was made from soil as we see in the beginning of the Bible: Gen 2:7. Much of what we see in the Bible is symbolic as is much, but not all, of what we see about *fire*. Truly one must read the bible faithfully and the wealth of God's word will fill your heart and mind in Christ Jesus: Joshua 1:8; 1Tim 4:13-16; 2Tim 3:14-17.

There are many, many more things that could be said about all that is symbolic in the bible and is not to be taken literally but reveals things that are eternal and invisible to the eyes of our Heart. Now I think we have made the issue clear enough to anyone interested in the truth rather than lies. So, because of this, it is easy to see that **much of what we see in the scriptures is something visible pointing to the invisible pictures of the things in heaven hidden in our hearts, hidden in the WORD, revealed to those with a love of the truth:**

Therefore, it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

*For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a {mere} copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us
(Heb 9:23-24)*

B. The Contexts in Scriptures

Of course, the deceivers never bother to take us to the beginning of the context where many of these things can become apparent to even the untrained eye. This is why **they never encourage us to read our Bibles regularly**. Please note that all these Metaphors are symbolic because we're told elsewhere in the scriptures precious metals are perishable as is everything on EARTH, aside from the Spirit/Soul which, in the case of believers, will exist in God; and the soul/spirit of the liars and/or murders will live in judgment separated from God forever: Rev 21:27, 22:15. In the case of all those that distort the Word of God, the answers are always in front of their faces but can't be seen because of blindness. The Bible says that *"they are always learning but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."* (2Tim 3:7). Peter says the unprincipled men distort the word of God; these same thinks of the plan of God as a way of financial gain to feed off the unsuspecting soul to their own destruction:

holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

*who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not {teach} for the sake of sordid gain.
(Titus 1:9-11)*

*...things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as {they do} also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.
(2Peter 3:16)*

I solemnly charge {you} in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

preach the word; be ready in season {and} out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but {wanting} to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,

*and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.
(2Timothy 4:1-4)*

FIRE TESTING FOR BELIEVERS

A. Our Faith is Tested by Fire

Our future as Christians is heavenly and of a different substance than this world: 2Cor 5:1; Heb 3:1; 2Peter 3:13. **As Christians our sufferings are limited to the sufferings in this Body, just as Christ's sufferings were limited to when He was in the flesh:**

*Since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.
(1Peter 4:1-2)*

Another passage that is used to deceive is 1 Peter 1:3-9. Once again, here we have a passage using fire to symbolize testing and trials as is common to man. In this passage, the point being made is that **our faith is tested. The fire symbolizes that purity will be the natural result of the process of sufferings:** Once the metal goes through the fire the impurities are burned off. 1Peter 1:3-9:

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to {obtain} an inheritance {which is} imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that **the proof of your faith, {being} more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;** and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.*

1 Peter 1:3-9

Within the context of chapter one, we can see that Peter states in verses 22 and 23 that **the Word of truth purifies our souls.**

B. Fire to Test those that seek to exalt God

Here we see fire being used to describe the testing that will come upon those that seek to exalt the true words of God: 1Peter 4:12-19:

*Beloved, do not be surprised at the **fiery ordeal** among you, which comes upon you **for your testing**, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if {anyone suffers} as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. For {it is} time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if {it} {begins} with us first, what {will be} the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? AND IF IT'S WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER? **Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.***

1Peter 4:12-19

These testings and sufferings are reserved for those willing to go outside the gates bearing the reproaches of Christ: Heb 13:12-13. Rather than staying within the confines of worldly religions and traditions, we are to speak the truth (“*We believe, therefore we speak*”: 2 Cor 4:13). Just in the same way Christ was rejected by men, so too us, if we are in the truth. At all cost, we refrain from sin, not putting a stumbling block in the path of anyone.

As we saw in 1 Peter 4:17, for those in Jesus Christ, our Judgment is in this life, and we are punished in the flesh for our sins; whereas the judgment of unbelievers is reserved for the end of time. Notice verse seventeen and the surrounding context indicate that **the Judgment of “God’s Household” is now**. These statements of verse seventeen are always true for those of God’s household that are walking in the flesh.

On the other hand, we have The Statement **“*There is no condemnation for those in Christ*”** (Rom 8:1); this is because the debt of sin has been completely paid making way the direct path to heaven, as stated earlier. Our resistance exerted to refrain from entering into Satan’s deceptions is often a source of great suffering, as was experienced by our Lord in the Desert prior to His earthly ministry starting. For the sake of God’s plan, Jesus was nearly starved to death and was heckled by Satan there and after until He was presumed dead on the Post (“Cross”). Just as Jesus resisted sin, likewise we must resist sin while in the flesh. As seen in this passage: Those of us who are determined to speak the Word to our friends and neighbors and the World; will likewise suffer with those that do the same:

But resist him, firm in {your} faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.
(1Peter 5:9)

Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.
(2Timothy 3:12)

The Apostle Paul states that *“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it”*
(1Cor 10:13).

And the scripture states that flesh and blood can not inherit the kingdom of God: 1Cor 15:50. Now, we will see even more verses in the New Testament that state and display these things clearly; and, certainly, the deceivers are not willing to show you these things, knowing if they did they would lose their financial support as soon as the truth sheds light:

*If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited {and} understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between **men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.***
(1Timothy 6:3-5)

The New Testament has a verse that instructs us not to be slaves of men but of God: 1Cor 7:2; also, our Lord Warns of those that will rest on the Traditions of men rather than the Word of God:

"...THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN."

*"Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."
He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition."
(Mark 7:6-9)*

*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.
(Colossians 2:8)*

There are many Verses in the New Testament displaying the fact that our Judgments are of this life, and related to sufferings in the FLESH. Many of these sufferings are designed to stop us from sinning:

*"They will burn your houses with fire and execute judgments on you [Jerusalem] in the sight of many women. Then I will stop you from playing the harlot, and you will also no longer pay your lovers.
(Ezekiel 16:41)*

(Look also at: John 5:14; 1Cor 11:29-32; Col 3:25; Heb 12:9-11). Paul states that sin is in the flesh, but the Christian Life is in the Spirit, and we are in Christ, and in the Father, dead to sin and alive to Righteousness: Rom 8:1-10. It is important to note that The Apostle Paul was given a thorn in the flesh by a demon so he would stop exalting himself:

*Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me--to keep me from exalting myself!"
(2Corinthians 12:7)*

This pain helps keep us humble and stops the sinning that we are accustomed to doing. We are able to give God more of our attention when we are suffering in the flesh: 2Cor 12:10. This is why over and over in the Old Testament we see the disciplinary action that affected the flesh of His children in order to bring them to obedience: Neh 9:15-31; 1Cor 10:1-11. That is why Boys are to be spanked as this gets their attention and teaches that there are consequences regarding misbehaving and sin:

*Proverbs 22:15:
Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him.*

Pro 23:13-14

Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. You shall strike him with the rod And rescue his soul from Sheol.

Hebrews 12:4-11

*You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom {his} father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but **He (the Father) disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.** All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.*

Proverbs 29:15:

The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.

(See also: Prov 3:11-12; 19:18, 23:13; Eph 6:4)

C. Our Works tested by Fire, not our Spirit

Ok, here we go with the verses the deceivers will not show you and they don't want you to read them or understand them. You will see that the passage says our works will pass through the fire and says nothing about our Spirit residing in fire. **It would have been very easy for Jesus or any of the apostles or the prophets of old to say directly something to the effect: "Almost all of us will spend a certain amount of time in the flames so let's be fervent in prayer so as to reduce the time that our brothers and sisters have to spend there."** In fact, if purgatory were a true reality, a great deal would have been written about it, and certainly, with very direct dialogue. What we do see is a complete lack of dialogue describing such an existence for believers after death; certainly, indicative of altogether different conclusions. Other than what we see in spurious books never intended to be a part of the Bible, there is no direct vocabulary stating that for most of us believers, we have a date with the fire. In the following passage, one must read from the beginning of the chapter and you will see that many portions of the passage are symbolic.

1Corinthians, chapter 3:

Brethren I could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able {to receive it.} Indeed, even now you are not yet able because you are still fleshly, since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, are you not walking like mere men? When one of you says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not acting like regular men? What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Are they not Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave {opportunity} to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. Because no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Therefore, if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, and wood, hay, and straw; then each man's work will become evident; because the day will show it because it is {to be} revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet as though through fire.

So, the deceivers will never point out that the man's works are being tested for quality, NOT the person. The person is save solely by the Works of Christ, ie The Foundation.

Let's continue with verse sixteen to include the full context, and then to the end of the chapter.

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Do you not know that you are a temple of God and {that} the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are. Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "{He is} THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS"; and again, "THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS." So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.

So, this angle shows we are a temple of God which means we have fellowship with Him and are to be careful how we edify ourselves and each other lest we receive the Lord's discipline. Again, these verses indicate our **works** will be tested by fire, not our Spirit. This Fire test is to determine the quality of the **works**. Symbolically, our works are displayed as wood, hay and straw; and Gold, Silver, and precious stones: 1Cor 13:12. The precious metals and stones are indicating works of a heavenly/eternal quality; whereas the Wood, Hay, and Straw are indicative of an earthly/temporal quality. Wood and especially Straw catch on fire easily. The precious metals and stones represent all the good deeds we did in the filling of the Spirit: Eph 5:18; whereas the Wood, Hay and Straw are the Good deeds we wanted to do but nonetheless we were out of fellowship with God at the time, and did not realize it; these types of deeds are also known as dead works: Heb 9:14. Neither category of symbolic Metaphor is meant to symbolize sin. If God wanted to demonstrate these things as being sin, then some leaven would have been shown sprinkled on it:

1Co 5:6-7 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough? 7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, because you are in fact unleavened; because, Christ our Passover, has been sacrificed.

Now, even though dead works do not involve sin, they are still rejected by God; this is portrayed by the holding out of the honey: Lev 2:11. In other words; a person acting sweetly is no indication of spirituality. Honey was never to be burned in a sacrifice (**Burning these Gift offerings portrays the believer presenting his works for God's inspection**), hence no Human good was accepted. Only good deeds done (in the filling of the Spirit) are acceptable to God. This is also why nothing will be made out of wood, hay or straw in the New Jerusalem:

*And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.
(Revelation 21:10-11)*

THE SIN LEADING UNTO DEATH

Leading to Hell or plain Death?

*If anyone sees his brother committing **a sin not {leading} to death**, he shall ask and {God} will for him give life to those who commit sin not {leading} to death. **There is a sin {leading} to death**; I do not say that he should make request for this.*

*All unrighteousness is sin, and **there is a sin not {leading} to death**.
(1 John 5:16-17)*

This is a passage that is used by many to display those going to a permanent hell and those who are not. Once again, one must *add many words* to convince/deceive someone into believing these erroneous conclusions. In fact, there is no information whatsoever in this passage plainly stating that a person is going to hell. God does not leave us to our own imaginations to guide us. Two types of sin are definitely in view here: sin leading to death and sin not leading to death; and Jesus suffered the cross to pay for both types of sin: Col 2:14. We see in this passage that it is a brother that is in view. The word *brother* in this context is always referring to a fellow believer in Jesus Christ. The sin *not* leading to death is a sin that is confessed and forsaken, whereas the sin leading to death is a sin that we have been warned about but are not willing to forsake. Now we just said a mouthful in this past sentence; and you might ask yourself: “Well, where is this information to be found in the passage?” Certainly, these principles are taught in the Bible so nothing is left to our imaginations. We will look further into these things, in just a moment.

The next issue is What is it with verse eighteen of 1 John 5?

We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.

How is it that we **who are born of God don't sin**, since just a little earlier in John's letter we see that *if we say (we) are without sin (we) are liars and the truth is not in us? On the other hand, if we confess our sins He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sin and to cleans us from all unrighteousness* (1John 1:8-9.) First John 1:5-10 makes it clear that we do sin:

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

If we say that we have fellowship with Him and {yet} walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

(1Jhn 1:5-10)

And notice that The Apostle John is including Himself and it's all spoken in the present tense. Because of what John has taught and also that of the Apostle Paul, it is very easy to see how **both are true**: Romans 7:23, 25:

*but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and **making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.***

*Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! **So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.***
(Romans 7:23, 25)

Once we are Born of God we have the Spirit of God in us as a seal of the righteousness of God: 2Cor 1:22. The scripture says that we are already seated with Him, the scripture says we are one Spirit: 1Cor 6:17; Eph 2:6. So we have two Natures, one incorruptible and one that remains corrupted: Rom 7:18, 25. Our flesh remains corrupted with the sin nature past down from Adam: Rom 5:12. In the same way Jesus, being the Second Adam, had two natures—that being of God and Man: Isaiah 9:6; Gal 4:4,— and was subjected to our sins, having His body corrupted with our sins and being defiled in the flesh: 2Cor 5:21; Isaiah 53:4-5; 1Peter 2:24.

We see that when He died we died with Him; and he who dies is never to die again. Those that have died with Christ will never die again: i.e. *the Second Death*, where only unbelievers are judged at the end of time.

knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For **the death that He died, He died to sin once** for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
(Rom 6:6-11)

You might say, “Wait a minute; everybody dies sooner or later.” Yes, you are correct; but this passage is talking about **Spiritual death i.e. separation from God**. This is why Jesus said: “*My God, My God why have you forsaken Me?*”: Mark 15:34; Psalms 22:1. The Father forsook Him as the Father could have nothing to do with sin. The scriptures state that Jesus was put to death in the flesh **because of sin** but made alive in the Spirit **because of God**: 1Peter 3:18. We are dead to sin and alive to righteousness: Rom 6:11-13. We have died to the law in Christ: Gal 2:16, 19.

So, to continue in sin means we will die sin unto death because we did not treat the body and blood of Jesus Christ as Holy: Heb 10:26-31:

*26. For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, **there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,***

27. *but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.*

28. *Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on {the testimony of} two or three witnesses.*

29. *How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?*

30. *For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE."*

31. *It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

But nonetheless, because of Christ's gift, we will Be with God after death, as indicated in the following 2 passages:

1Corinthians 5:1-5:

It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.

You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.

For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present.

In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in Spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus,

deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his Spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

And 2 Corinthians 5:1-5:

*For 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.***

For indeed in this {house} we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,

inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked.

For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.

*Now **He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.***

We should encourage one another while it is called “today” to continue in faith or we will be caught in the deceitfulness of sin: Heb 3:13. If the case is the latter we still have an advocate with God: 1John 2:1-2.

So, on one hand, we are dead in the flesh; but on the other hand, we are alive in the Spirit because of God. So let us *not* keep partaking in the deeds of the flesh; in the flesh we must die because of sin, that our Spirit not be judged with the world:

1Corinthians 11:21, 29-32:

for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk.

For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly.

For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.

But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

1Cor 10:7-15:

Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY."

Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.

Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents.

Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

I speak as to wise men; you judge what I say.

As we have already seen, our body can be destroyed by the touch of Satan but our nature of God is untouchable: 1John 3:9, 5:18. If we continue in sin (sowing to the flesh) then in our flesh we shall we reap corruption; if we continue in sin, we must die as our allotment from God is to sow to the Spirit and reap our eternal life: Gal 6:7-8.

It is important to understand that we break into our eternal life at the moment of putting our trust in Jesus Christ: John 6:47. After the day of salvation, anything that is not of Faith is sin: Rom 14:23. We must continue in Faith in order to reap the {full} benefits of our Spiritual life with God. If we do not continue to grow in the Spirit, then we are giving up many of the protections for the Body that our relationship with God affords us; instead, the terrifying expectation of Judgment, as seen in Hebrews 10:26-27 and 1Cor 3:16-17. Because a person refuses to sow to the Spirit, that person is punished to death in the Flesh; yet the Spirit of God within us can not be put to death. This is a terrible way to die; yet God does this judicial punishment to his children; without this judicial punishment, we would be judged with the world: 1Peter 4:17; 1Cor 11:32. If we do not receive this discipline designed to stop the deeds of the flesh, then the scriptures indicates we are not really a Son of God at all, having not truly believed in Jesus Christ:

It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom {his} father does not discipline?

*But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.
(Hebrews 12:7-8)*

The writer of Hebrews was well aware that the recipients of his letter were all believers, covered with the blood of Christ; yet many of them were under severe discipline to get them back to the true realities regarding their so great salvation.

But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking to you in this way.
(Hbr 6:9)

FINAL FIRES

A. Symbolic Fire and Literal Fire in the Future

1. The following is a prophecy from Zechariah, which will be fulfilled subsequently to our Lord Jesus' return to the earth in defense of His people Israel, this happening very near the end of the tribulations. By the context of this prophecy (chapters 12:1 and 13:1) you can see "all the land" the prophet is referring to is the land of Israel/Judah and Jerusalem as their main city:

*"It will come about **in all the land**," Declares the LORD, "That two parts in it will be cut off {and} perish; But the third will be left in it.*

*"And I will bring the third part **through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested.** They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' And they will say, 'The LORD is my God.' "*
(Zechariah 13:8-9)

Notice the figurative or symbolic language used by the prophet: "fire", "refine", "silver", "gold"... One out of three parts of Israel will be left in the land after this war being fought against them; this being very near the end of the great tribulation, where their Lord intervenes to save them from the nations surrounding them: Zech 14:3, 12-15; Rev 19:11-21..... As you can see, **this refining fire is used right here on the earth, not at some invented imaginary place like "the purgatory"**.

Jesus said that He would be returning to the earth when His people were willing to say: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord": Mat 23:39. This time, shortly before the end of the tribulations, is the time when, figuratively, they are said to be passing through the fire. The prophet Jeremiah describes that day as **"the time of Jacob's (Israel's) distress"**:

'Alas! for that day is great, there is none like it; And it is the time of Jacob's distress, but he will be saved from it.
(Jer 30:7)

Yet, literally this is a time described as having the greatest plagues and wars the earth will ever know (this is clearly seen in the book of Revelations starting at chapter 6.) Though Zechariah uses figurative language, we see that these future wars will leave many dead in the flesh as a result of the devastations related to plagues and wars; but these same individuals will be alive in heaven. Others will pass through all of this unharmed in terms of the flesh,

and will be the remnant left to repopulate the earth during the thousand-year reign of our Lord. This remnant will also include many gentile believers surviving the destructions of these times.

2. Another aspect of this period of time is shown to us by the prophet Malachi; this time showing specifically the refining of Levi, the only true priestly order besides Christ himself, so they could be enabled to present pleasing offerings to the Lord during the 1000-year kingdom on earth: Rev 20:6. These will be the surviving human beings still in their Earthly, Fleshly bodies; which, of course, are not capable of enduring a literal melting pot of fire.:

"Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.

"But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

"He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness.

*"Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.
(Malachi 3:1-4)*

Reading on to chapter four of Malachi, we see the Chaff symbolizing the removal of all unbelievers from the earth at the end of the great tribulation:

Mal 4:1-3

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says the LORD of hosts, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch." "But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall. "You will tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing," says the LORD of hosts.

The birds of the earth will have their fill; having a great feast on their flesh: Mat 24:27-28; Rev 19:17-21. So, there is no Question that the period of time when this is all happening is the Great Tribulation.

Now look at the last three verses of chapter three of Malachi and you will see that there's still to be the distinguishing between the righteous and the wicked; this being indicative of the millennium, when men are in bodies of flesh:

Mal 3:16-18 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name. "They will be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "on the day that I prepare My own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him." So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.

Only after these thousand years will all believers be in Spirit's bodies like that of our Lord's; and, of course, the final judgment of those not having a love of the truth. The greatest case and point is that the Levitical Priesthood is (extinct) beyond the flesh and beyond these thousand years there will be no remnants of this priesthood taken into the eternal state. The Melchizedek Priesthood is that which goes beyond the flesh, our Lord being descended of Judah. So, you see this refining of Levi has to be while they're in the flesh rather than after death when nothing of the Levitical priesthood exists beyond the grave. Read the whole 7th chapter of Hebrews.

3. During the time of the great Tribulation, a judgment will come upon the earth by which one third of mankind will be killed literally by "fire, smoke and brimstone"; yet in these same plagues one-third of the Lord's people (Israel) are protected and remain alive, passing them through as survivors to our Lord's thousand-year earthy kingdom. We see that a third of mankind is destined to die of these literal fires and plagues, some of which would represent modern age weapons that burn with intense heat. The scriptures use the horse to describe power and speed, and the lion that does not retreat to describe the toughness and fierceness of these military machines. The fire coming out of their mouths describes modern machines that create intensely hot fires via explosive projectiles.

And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind.

The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: {the riders} had breastplates {the color} of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths precede fire and smoke and brimstone.

*A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths.
(Revelation 9:15-18)*

B. FINAL FIRE FOR UNBELIEVERS

1. The Wheat and the Tares/Chaff

Jesus told and explained a parable where it's said the wheat will be gathered into His barn once the tares are burned up. What are the wheat, the tares, the barn, and the fire? What does all that mean? Before we answer these questions, let us go through the following scriptures:

Parable of the Wheat and the Tares: Matthew 13:24-30:

24. Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field.

25. But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away.

26. But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also.

27. The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'

28. And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' The slaves said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?'

29. But he said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them.

30. Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn."

The Parable Explained: Matthew 13:36-43:

36. Then He left the crowds and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field."

37. And He said, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man,

38. and the field is the world; and {as for} the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil {one;}

39. and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels.

40. So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age.

41. The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness,

42. and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Now look at what John the Baptist has to say about the same event:

"His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

(Matthew 3:12)

The previous scriptures; (along with many others), confirm to us that the end times-harvest is the end of two different ages: ONE, at the end of the tribulation; and TWO, at the end of the one thousand-year reign, when the sons of the devil (unbelievers) will be “bundled up” and ultimately thrown into the lake of fire forever: This one at the very end is (the Second Death) reserved for only unbelievers.

And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

(Revelation 20:12, 15)

While the end-times believers:

“...came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

*Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the **second death** has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”*

(Revelation 20:4, 6)

It's easy to see there's no such “purgatory” for believers. All we see in the word of God is a blessed hope awaiting believers in heaven and, on the other hand, the penalty of eternal judgment to those who do not heed the true gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11:

For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10:

5. {This is} a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.

6. For after all it is {only} just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,

7. and {to give} relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,

8. dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

9. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

10. when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed--for our testimony to you was believed.

2 Thessalonians 2:10-15:

10. and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

11. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,

12. in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

13. But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

14. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15. So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word {of mouth} or by letter from us.

2. Resurrection of Life; Resurrection of Judgment

We are trying to display a variety of information from the bible that are demonstrating these truths for all to see. Once again, and as always, the bible displays only two different destinations for mankind at the end of our lives on earth; these being either the fire and separated from God, or the blessings of being with God for all eternity.

Therefore, we have displayed the symbolic fires that come to all of us while in the flesh to purify our hearts for giving glory to God. A few will die in the fires of this life, whether figurative and/or literal, then passing to heaven where there is no more sorrow, pain, or death; while others will lie and deceive, living free of these sufferings, until passing to Hades, then the lake of fire thereafter.

John 5:24-29:

24. "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

25. "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

26. "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself;

27. and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is {the} Son of Man.

28. "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice,

29. and will come forth; those who did the good {deeds} to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil {deeds} to a resurrection of judgment.

3. The Vine and the Branches

John 15:1-6:

1. *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.*
2. *"Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every {branch} that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.*
3. *"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.*
4. *"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither {can} you unless you abide in Me*
5. *"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.*
6. *"If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.*

The following is a short list of promises reserved for those **in Christ Jesus:**

John 3:16
John 5:24
John 6:47
John 10:27-29
Romans 5:17
Romans 8:33-39
1Corinthians 1:7-8
1Corinthians 3:22-23
1Corinthians 6:14
1Corinthians 15:40-49
2Corinthians 1:20-22
2Corinthians 4:14
2Corinthians 5:1-9
Galatians 3:22
Ephesians 1:13-14, 18
Ephesians 2:6-7
Ephesians 4:30
Philippians 3:20
Colossians 1:27

Colossians 3:4

Colossians 2:13-14

1Thessalonians 4:16

1Theessalonians 5:9-10

2Thessalonians 2:13-14

Titus 2:13

Hebrews 7:25

1Peter 1:3-4

2Peter 2:2-4

1John 5:13

Jude 1:21, 24-25