

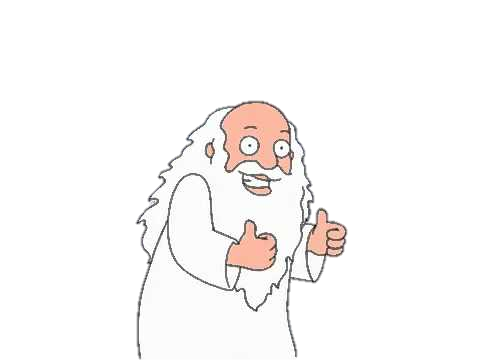
The spiritual part of a person, their soul, joins God in heaven at death. However, Christians also believe that at the end of time there will also be a physical resurrection. This means that people will be brought back to life with physical bodies – just as Jesus was.  
This belief is stated in the creeds. At the ends of time, a trumpet will sound and the dead will rise up. This signifies the victory over death – “**death has been swallowed up in victory**.”

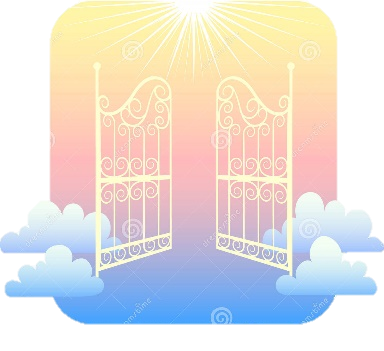
**1 Corinthians 15:42-55**

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; **43**it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; **44**it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. **45**So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. **46**The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. **47**The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. **48**As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. **49**And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2015:42-55#fen-NIV-28768b)] bear the image of the heavenly man.

**55**“Where, O death, is your victory?  
    Where, O death, is your sting?”







The Bible refers to heaven a lot,   
however it does not describe heaven a lot, which   
explains why Christians have different views about it. Some people believe that heaven is an actual, physical place. Others believe heaven exists in a more spiritual dimension – it is beyond this world.

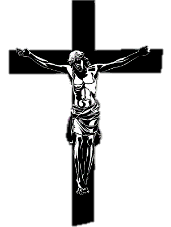
Christians also have different opinions about what hell is, although most believe that it is a place of suffering. Some Christians believe that it is a physical place where people burn eternally. Others believe it exists in a more spiritual dimension. Most Christians think that the real torment of hell resides in absolute separation from God as he is not present in hell.

**To be in hell is not to be in the presence of God.**

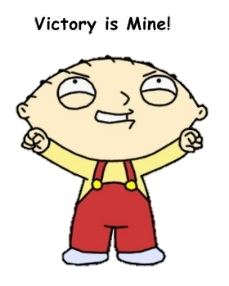
**Eschatology**, meaning ‘last things’, refers to beliefs about death, judgment, heaven and hell. These are also known as the ‘last things’.

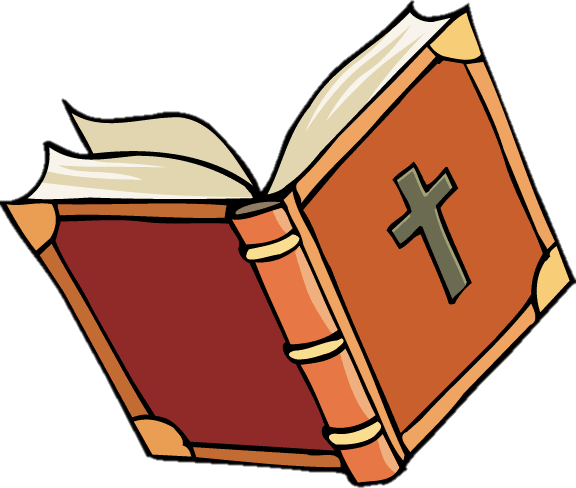
Christians believe:

1. That Jesus was resurrected and that they, too, will resurrect
2. Life is a preparation for an afterlife to be with God in heaven
3. In the Nicene Creed: “We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come”
4. Jesus’ death and resurrection provides them with evidence that death is not the end
5. The physical body dies and the immortal soul lives on
6. The cross is symbolic of death and resurrection
7. In John’s Gospel, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. Jesus says that anyone who believes in him will never die
8. The way to heaven is through faith in Jesus



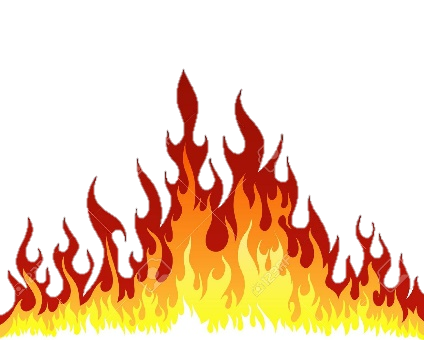


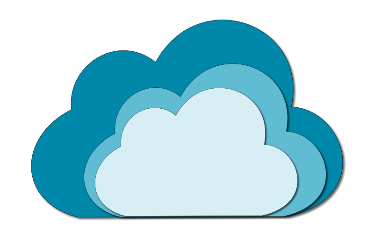
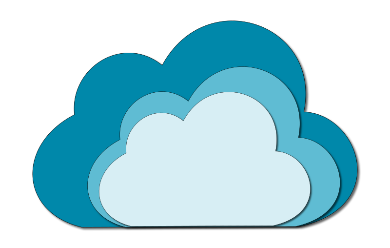




“We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.”







1. There will be a Judgment Day where people will be judged by the quality of their lives
2. On Judgment Day, Jesus will return to earth in a ‘second coming’
3. Judgment Day marks the end of human existence on the earth. This belief is known as the ‘Parousia’
4. Jesus will separate the people who go to heaven from those who go to hell, like a shepherd separates the **sheep from the goats** (Matthew 25:31-46)

**Parable of the rich and poor man**

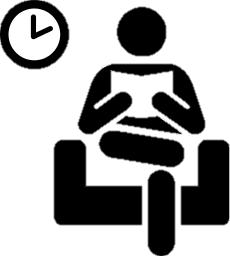
A **parable** is a short, simple story which contains a deeper meaning or message.

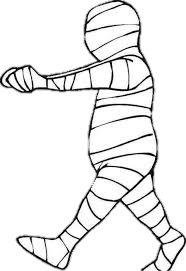
Jesus frequently used parables to explain his teachings. The parable of the rich and poor man has a clear divide between those who will be rewarded in heaven and those punished in hell, and the afterlife is only achieved by faith and good actions, regardless of success or wealth in an earthly life. (Luke 16: 19-31)

1. Traditionally, hell is ‘below’ or underground
2. Traditionally, heaven is in the sky
3. Heaven is a place where God is
4. Hell is a place where God is not
5. Heaven and hell are a divine reward and punishment
6. Roman Catholics believe in Purgatory – a waiting room and a place of   
   cleansing and purification before entering heaven
7. On Judgment Day, all those who are in purgatory will go to heaven
8. It is important to pray for the souls of the dead and those in   
   purgatory

**Questions raised:**

1. If God is forgiving and loving, wouldn’t everyone eventually   
   go to heaven?
2. Can heaven and hell exist physically if the afterlife only   
   refers to the continued existence of the   
   soul?





The belief that Jesus  
rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, conquering death.

