

The Apostles' Creed



The Apostles' Creed

- *Intro to the Creed Itself*
- *God the Father*
- *God the Son*
 - *Christ's Birth*
 - *Christ's Crucifixion and Death*
 - *Christ's Death and Resurrection*
 - *Christ in Heaven*
 - *Christ as Judge*
- *God the Holy Spirit*
- *The Church*
- *The Forgiveness of Sins*
- *Eternal Life*



Eternal Life

- “We believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting...”



Eternal Life



Funky little teaching moment...

- The Jehovah's Witnesses have created something of a “cottage industry” in telling Christians that what they've always been taught is actually wrong
 - In particular, they love to talk about how Heaven will be on Earth, and that people will have a flesh-and-blood existence here instead of up in the clouds, like those apostate *Christian* churches teach
 - Why do you think that they stress that?
 - Because it's totally true—and totally false
 - It's totally true that the Bible clearly teaches a physical, earthly eternity
 - It's totally false that most Christian churches teach anything different—it's just that way too many individual *Christians* falsely believe that



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 - Why do you think that they stress that?
 - Because it's totally true—and totally false
 - To be fair, that's what we've been inundated with by the world for centuries
 - The Greek idea of Elysium and Olympus being up in the clouds, the Norse idea of Valhalla, the Season Seven finale of *Magnum P.I.*, etc.
 - Besides, Heaven is *currently* in the clouds, right?
(technically—if you'll remember—“Heaven” just means “sky,”
(basically, an “above-us-place”—
Hebrew “שָׁמַיִם” or “šāmayim” and
Greek “οὐρανός” or “ouranos”)



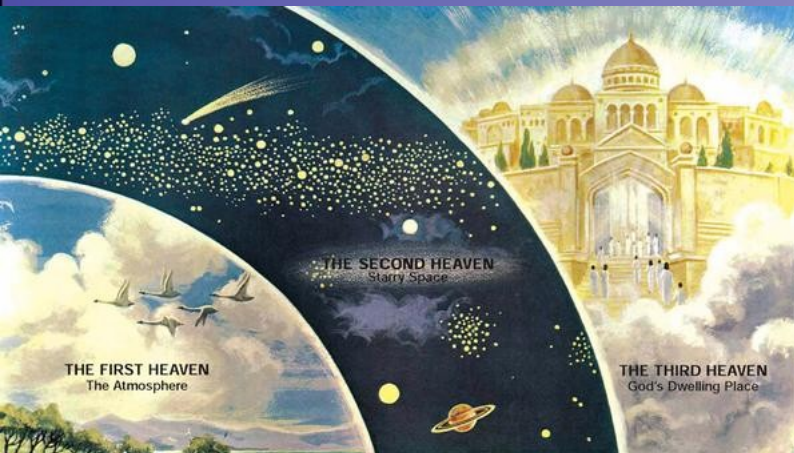
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 - Besides, Heaven is *currently* in the clouds, right?

(technically—if you'll remember—“Heaven” just means “sky,” and when the Bible talks about God “in Heaven” it's talking about God being in the *third* “above-us-place that's *beyond* the clouds, beyond even the stars...” so no, it's *not* currently in the clouds)



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 - Besides, Heaven is *currently* in the clouds, right?
 - Okay, but the *angels* are in Heaven, and we'll be like angels when we die, right? (see verses like Matthew 22:30, etc., which say that “at the resurrection,” we “will be like the angels in heaven”)

There's a new angel in Heaven!



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 - We'll be like angels in that we'll neither be married nor *get* married, but will be focused on our relationship with God and on our *fully-realized, perfected* relationships with *everything*

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 - Angels are angels, humans are humans—we're different creatures

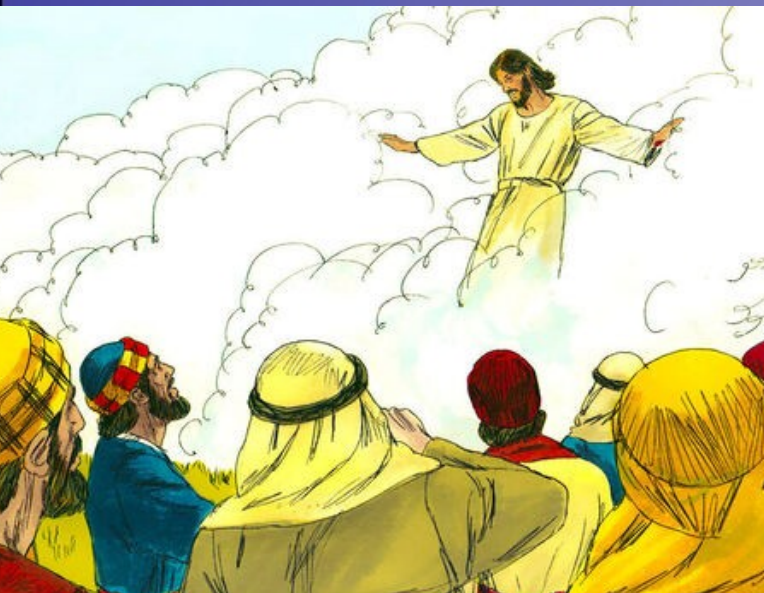


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 - Okay, but the *angels* are in Heaven, and we'll be like angels when we die, right?
 - But read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
 - Aren't we going to be “caught up in the clouds” with Jesus?
(since He went *into* the clouds in Acts 1:9)

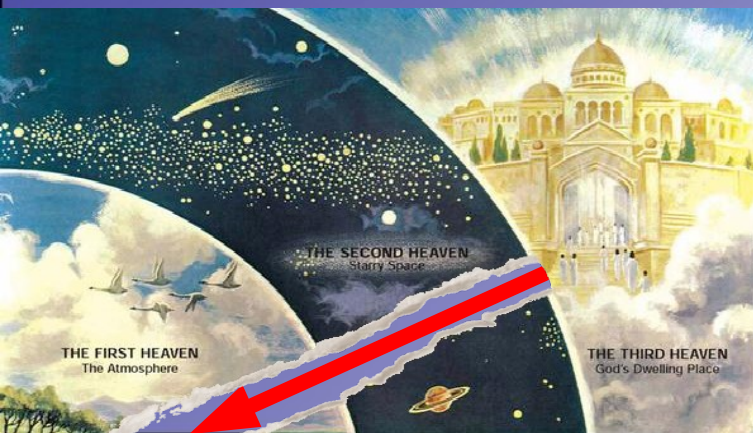


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 - But read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
 - Aren't we going to be “caught up in the clouds” with Jesus?
 - Yes, but as He's coming *back* down to *Earth* (read Revelation 21:1-4)



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 - The Greek idea of Elysium and Olympus being up in the clouds, the Norse idea of Valhalla, the Season Seven finale of *Magnum P.I.*, etc.
 - Long story short, it's just such a pleasant, serene image to think of—and humanity has always preferred a pleasant untruth to a complicated truth
 - And, long story short, cults have *always* loved to prey on people's ignorance in order to seem wise by comparison



Eternal Life

- “We believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting...”

(NOTE: Ecclesiastes 3:11 tells us that God has “set eternity in the hearts of men”—that we were originally *designed* for eternity, so we all naturally seek it out but Romans 1:21-23 tells us that humanity is broken so “their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles”—we seek eternity, but on our own terms, built on what we desire in this temporary place)

(As if to illustrate that point, Woody Allen once said, “I don’t want to achieve immortality through my work; I want to achieve immortality through not dying. I don’t want to live on in the hearts of my countrymen; I want to live on in my apartment.”)

(Thinking about all of this, how is our expulsion from Eden in Genesis 3:22-24 arguably not part of the *curse*, but technically part of God’s *grace* to us, even after our sin?)



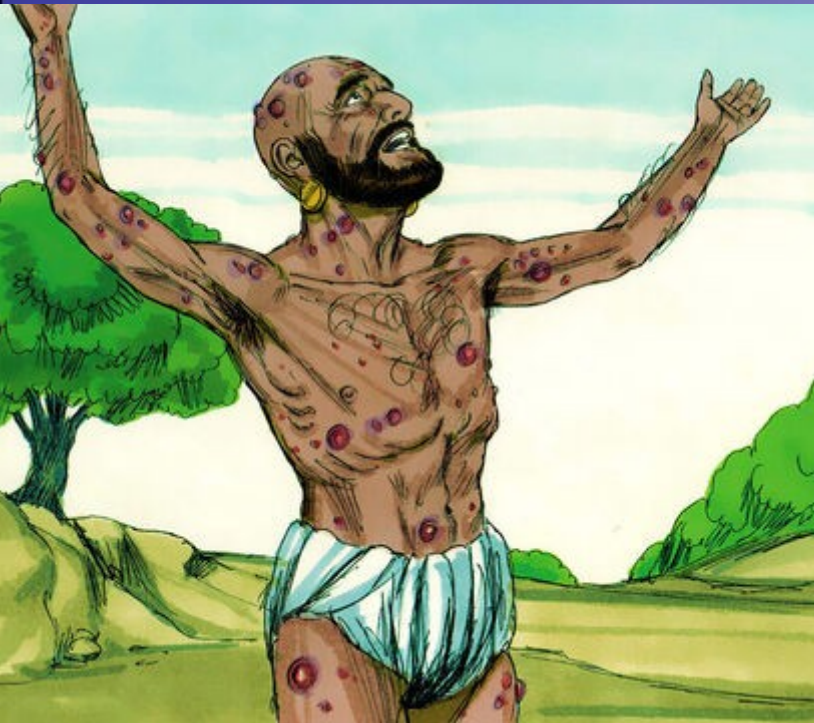
Eternal Life

- “We believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting...”
 - First things first—we will be resurrected physically (so let's look at some familiar verses about that)
 - Read Acts 23:8
 - Why did the Sadducees *not* believe in a resurrection?
 - The Old Testament *totally* preached a physical resurrection—just not in the *Torah* (which was the only part of the Old Testament that the Sadducees considered canon)



Eternal Life

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 - Read Acts 23:8
 - Read Job 19:25-26
 - What did Job conclude here?
 - How was knowing that his skin would be “destroyed”—and that he would nonetheless be given new flesh—actually a *comfort* to him at this point?
 - Is death and resurrection actually a comfort to you—why or why not?



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 - Read Acts 23:8
 - Read Job 19:25-26
 - Read Psalm 23:6
 - What does David conclude here?
 - Is his final resting place going to be the grave?
 - How does that bear out with what David sang in Psalm 16:8-10?



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 - Read Acts 23:8
 - Read Job 19:25-26
 - Read Psalm 23:6
 - Read Daniel 12:2-3
 - Is *anyone's* final resting place going to be the grave?
 - Technically, *everyone* will be resurrected, right?



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 - Read Psalm 23:6
 - Read Daniel 12:2-3
 - Read Philippians 3:20-21
 - What does Paul say here?
 - Paul uses three fun words here—
 - He speaks of the “body of our low, humble estate”
(our “ταπείνωσις” or “*tapeinōsis*”)



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 - He speaks of the “body of our low, humble estate”—meaning that it's not technically our *body* that's lowly, but rather our *position* here—and then speaks about how it will be “transformed”
 (“μετασχηματίζω” or “metaschēmatizō”)



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(NOTE: that's the same word that he uses in Romans 8:29 when he says, “those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son”)



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 - Read Psalm 23:6
 - Read Daniel 12:2-3
 - Read Philippians 3:20-21
 - Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-52
 - And all of that will be accomplished in a “flash” and a “twinkling of an eye”
(actually, it will all be accomplished in the “*beating of an eye*”—literally, in an *eyeblink*)
(and it's not in a “flash” but rather, in an “*ἄτομος*” or “*atomos*”—the smallest, most indivisible measure of time imaginable)
(so why does Paul take such pains to explain it this way?)



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 - I love how, in the verses leading up to this, Paul had tried to answer questions about what our new physical bodies will be like—
 - He said that they're like the plant that grows from our current seed (i.e.; an oak tree isn't an acorn... and yet, everything that an acorn really is finds its perfection/completion in the oak tree)
 - I like how C.S. Lewis put it:
“When you are learning to ride, they give you unimpressive horses. Only when you are ready for it are you allowed an animal that will gallop and jump...”



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 - How would you summarize all of this to someone who might need to hear that there's a hope—a tangible, physical hope—beyond this life?

