

## The Particular Judgment

- 1) Death:
  - a) Puts an end to the time of accepting/rejecting Christ (CCC 1021)
  - b) "No repentance for men after death" (St. John Damascene; CCC 393)
- 2) The Particular Judgment (Heb 9:27; CCC 1021-22)
  - a) Each Individual
  - b) Rewarded at the very moment of/immediately after death
  - c) In accordance with faith and works
  - d) With regards to the final destiny of the soul
- 3) Particular Judgment in the Old Testament: Immortality of the Soul (Wis 3:1-10)
- 4) The Parable of the Poor Man and Lazarus: (Luke 16)
  - a) Different abodes in "Hell" (Hb, Sheol; Gk Hades) (CCT Art. 5)
  - b) Realm of the Damned: The Pit (or Gehenna/ "Hell" proper)
  - c) Realm of the Suffering: The Prison (Purgatory)
  - d) Realm of the Righteous: Abraham's Bosom (before Heaven opened by Christ)
- 5) Particular Judgment in the New Testament
  - a) Each will appear before the "judgment seat" of Christ (2 Cor 5:7-10)
  - b) Three Options (CCC 1022)
    - i) Heaven (permanent)
    - ii) Purgatory (temporary)
    - iii) Hell (permanent)
  - c) The Intermediate State: destiny of the soul before the resurrection of the dead

## Heaven

### Introduction

- 1) The Intermediate State: destiny of the soul before the Resurrection of the Dead
- 2) Confusion about the Intermediate State
  - a) Immortality of the Soul: not the ultimate hope of Christianity (Ratzinger, 104)
  - b) All souls will be reunited with the body in the Resurrection (John 5:)
  - c) Purgatory will cease to exist at the end of time

### Heaven in the Bible

- 1) Indescribable: not as much to say as we would like (CCC 1027; 1 Cor 2:9)

- 2) Heaven: can mean "sky" or "dwelling of God" (Hb shamayim; Gk ouranios)
- 3) Ancient Judaism: Three "Heavens"
  - a) 1st Heaven: The Sky
  - b) 2nd Heaven: The Realm of the Stars
  - c) 3rd Heaven: The Realm of God (2 Cor 12:1-5)
- 4) The Life of the Trinity: in the "bosom" of the Father (John 1:18)
- 5) Being with Jesus (Phil 1:23; 1 Thess 4:17)
- 6) Perfect Self-Knowledge (Rev 2:17)
- 7) Perfect Knowledge of God (1 Cor 13:12; 1 John 3:2)
  - a) The Kingdom of Heaven (Matt 8:11-12)
  - b) The Heavenly Temple (John 14:1-7)
  - c) "Paradise" (Gk paradeisos) (Luke 24:43)

#### Heaven in the Catechism (CCC 1023-1029)

- 1) Perfect Communion: with the Most Holy Trinity and the Saints (cf. CCC 260)
- 2) Supreme Happiness: fulfillment of deepest human longings
- 3) Being with Jesus: heaven is "to be in Christ"
- 4) Perfect Self Knowledge
- 5) Perfect Knowledge of God: The Beatific Vision (CCC 1028)
- 6) The Kingdom of God: to "reign" with Christ forever

#### The Heaven Controversy (CCC 1023; Ratzinger 136-38)

- 1) Martin Luther: "soul sleep" between death and the final resurrection
- 2) Modern Theologians: "resurrection" happens at the moment of death
- 3) Pope Benedict XII (Benedictus Deus 1336 A.D.)
  - a) Heaven has been opened since the Ascension
  - b) Souls in Heaven enjoy unmediated Beatific Vision now
  - c) They will be reunited with their bodies at the Resurrection of the Dead

#### The Heavenly Mass

- 1) The Heavenly Mass (Revelation 4-5)
  - a) Priests/Elders (Gk presbyters) in White Robes with Crowns
  - b) Candles ("seven torches of fire") and a Crystal Floor around the Throne
  - c) Angels and Music: singing "Holy, holy, holy!" (Lat Sanctus)
  - d) Kneeling: The People fall down in worship, singing Hymns
  - e) Scripture: A Sacred Book (the "Scroll" no one is worthy to open)

- f) The Lamb of God: standing as if Slain
  - g) Incense: "The Prayers of the Saints" offered by Angels and Saints
  - h) "Amen": fall down again in worship
- 2) Where do we go in the Mass? To Heaven (Heb 12:18-24)