

Death and the Particular Judgment

Introduction

- 1) Worldview: The Five Ultimate Questions
 - a) Who are we?
 - b) Where do we come from?
 - c) What is the problem?
 - d) What is the solution?
 - e) Where are we going? What is the ultimate destiny of the world?
- 2) Eschatology: study of the "end" (Gk eschaton) (cf. Ratzinger, Eschatology)
 - a) Personal Eschatology: study of the "end" of life
 - b) General Eschatology: study of the "end" of time and history
 - i) End of human history
- 3) Traditional Designation: The "Four Last Things"
 - a) Death, Judgment, Hell, Heaven
 - b) The "Penny Catechism" or Baltimore Catechism
- 4) The Seven Last Things:
 - a) Death, Judgment, Heaven, Purgatory, Hell, Resurrection, New Creation
 - b) The New Catechism: section on "Resurrection and Life Everlasting" (Creed)

Death

- 1) Pope Benedict on Death in the Modern World: self-contradictory (p. 69-71)
 - a) Hides it away (modern medicine); it is unseemly and must be hidden; in real life we hide it away
 - b) Glorifies it (modern television and movies); it is also always on show; but still fascinated by death as it shows up in so many movies and shows
 - c) Ultimately, still fascinated by it (e.g., Modern Literature – our modern world doesn't have an answer to death which is why it is so fascinated by it)
- 2) What is Death?
 - a) The End: person ceases to exist; no hope after death (Sadducees; Nihilism)
 - b) Passing Away: spirit/soul departs, but to where? (Greeks)
 - c) Reincarnation: soul leaves one body to take up another (Hinduism; Hollywood)
- 3) Biblical Definition of Death
 - a) The end of earthly life
 - b) The separation of the soul from the body
 - c) Mystery of Death: Separation (CCC 1005-1007; Eccl 12:1,7)

d) No Reincarnation (CCC 1013)

The Separation of the Soul from the Body (CCC 362-68)

- 1) Human Being: both a soul and a body
- 2) The Soul: the human "life" or "person" (Hb nephesh; Gk psyche)
- 3) The Body: animated by a spiritual soul
- 4) Unity of the Two: the Soul is the "form" of the Body
- 5) The Soul is immortal
- 6) The "Soul" and the "Spirit"

The Origin of Death

- 1) Death is a consequence of sin (CCC 1008)
 - a) God did not make death: it was "contrary to his plans"
 - b) God made Man immortal; he would have lived forever had he not sinned (Vat II)
- 2) God's Command not to eat the Fruit (Gen 2:17; 3:3; 3:19)
- 3) God did not make death (Wis 1:12-15; 2:23-24) (cf. Evolutionary Worldview says death is just part of the world)
- 4) Where does death come from? Original Sin (see CCC 400, 402-406)

Death in the Old and New Covenants

- 1) Death in the Old Testament: often very pessimistic
 - a) The dead do not praise God (Ps 6:5)
 - b) Sheol and the depths of the Pit (Ps 88:3-7, 10-12)
 - c) Man and animals die alike (Eccl 3:16-22)
 - d) Two Exceptions: Enoch and Elijah (Gen 5:24; 2 Kgs 2)
 - e) Hope for Resurrection (Job 19:25-27; Isa 26:19; Dan 12:1-2)
- 2) Death in the New Testament: death is transformed by Christ (CCC 1009)
 - a) The curse of death is now a blessing (Phil 1:21)
 - b) Baptism: we participate in Jesus' Crucifixion and death (CCC 1010; Rom 6:3-11; Gal 2:20; 6:14-15)
 - c) Natural Death: is the completion of our participation in the Cross
 - d) We can now even desire death; face it with hope (Phil 1:23; CCC 1011-12)
 - e) Preparation for Death (CCC 1014; Hail Mary; St. Joseph)
- 3) Final Prayer over the Dying Catholic (CCC 1020)

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