

# Question-

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Where did purgatory come from?  
Why do they refer to those in  
Purgatory as “The Poor Souls” in  
Purgatory?

# What is Purgatory?

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The belief that there is purification that must be experienced by those who **die in God's grace and friendship**, but still need **some purification** to become perfectly clean to enter into heaven.

To be in God's grace and friendship is not to have a Mortal Sin at death, only Venial sins.

## Purgatory: Where is that Name in the Bible?

The word **purgatory** is not in Scripture. This is true, and yet it does not disprove the existence of purgatory or the fact that belief in it has always been part of Church teaching.

The words “**Trinity**” and “**Incarnation**” aren’t in Scripture either, yet those doctrines are clearly taught in it.

ANGLO-NORMAN FRENCH

purgatorie

LATE LATIN

purgare

LATE LATIN

purgatorius

purifying

MEDIEVAL LATIN

purgatorium

ENGLISH

purge

purgatory

*Middle English*

# References found in the bible about Purgatory...

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**Rev. 21:27-** “Nothing unclean will enter the presence of God in heaven..

**Luke 12:59-**“I tell you, you will never get out till you have paid the very last copper”

# Clean vs Unclean

## Mortal vs Venial

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Anyone who has not been **completely freed of sin and its effects is**, to some extent, “**unclean.**”

Through **sorrow, repentance, confession, Last Rites**, we may have gained the grace needed to be worthy of heaven for we have been forgiven of our **mortal sins**.

But that's not sufficient for gaining entrance into heaven. There can still be many **impurities** in us, specifically **venial sins** and the **temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven**.

**\*\*We need to be cleansed completely to enter heaven.\*\***

# 1 Cor 3:15

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“When we are judged, each man’s work will be tried. And what happens if a **righteous man’s** work fails the test? “**He will suffer loss, though he himself *will be saved*, but only as *through fire*..”**

Now this loss, this penalty, can’t refer to consignment to hell, since no one is saved there; and heaven can’t be meant, since there is no suffering (“fire”) there.

**The Catholic doctrine of purgatory alone explains this passage**

## 2 Macc. 12:43–45.

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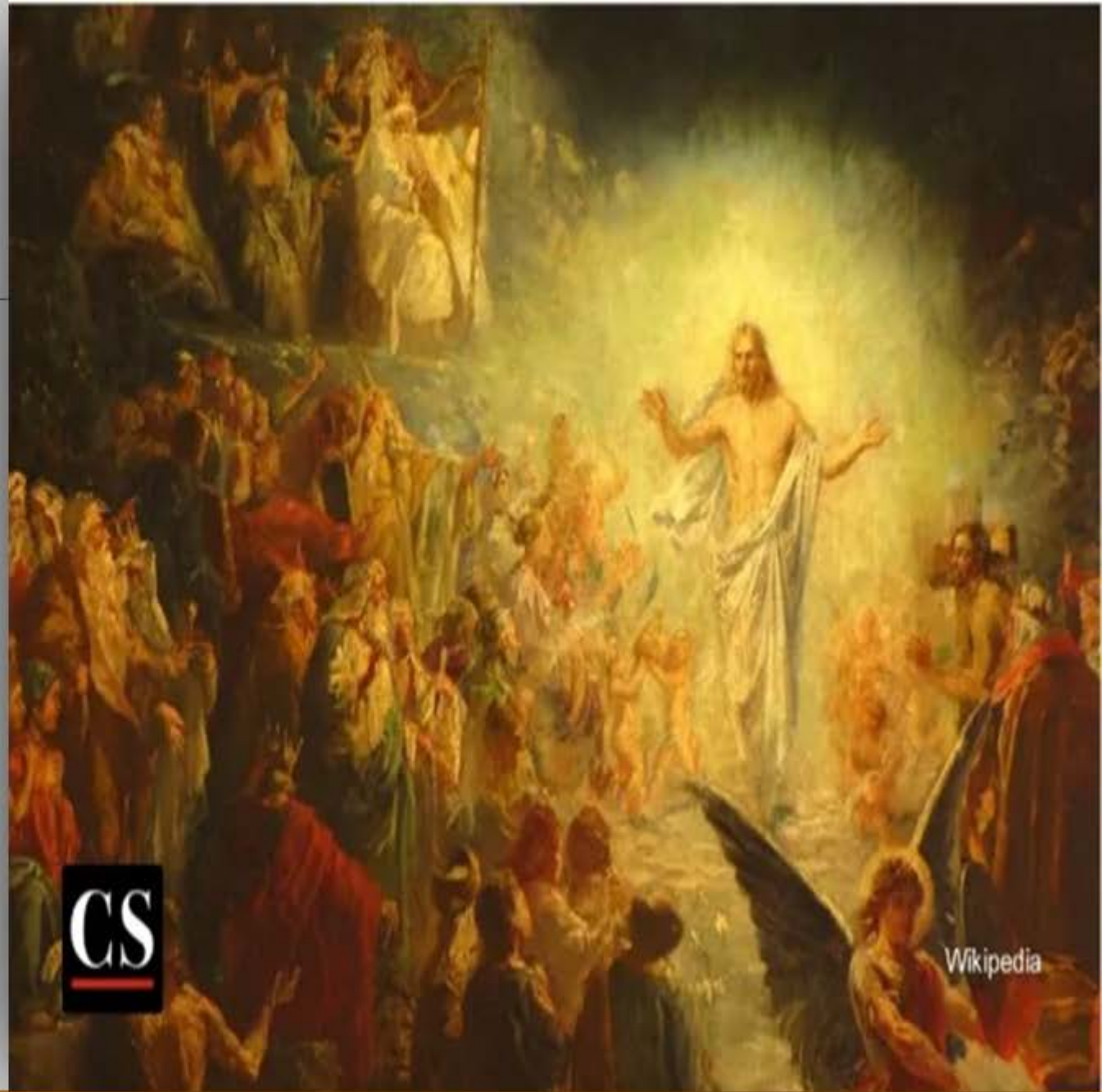
“In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as **he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the dead to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death.** But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits 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..**”



# 1 Peter 3:19

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“After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits..”



Wikipedia

There are two types of Judgement

**Particular/Private Judgement**

happens when a person dies

**Final Judgement**

will happen when Christ comes again  
on the last day

It is between the **particular**  
and **final** judgments, that  
the soul is purified of the  
remaining consequences of  
sin that purgatory takes  
place.





We want to  
emphasize that  
purgatory is a  
**temporary** place





## Why are they called “Poor Souls”

They are called **poor souls** because they are **in pain** and will be until the time of their **purification is done**—and that's why they need our suffrage.

They are also called **holy souls** because they **died as faithful believers without mortal** sin on their souls





# Mass and prayers for our dead relatives

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1) They **lessen the pain** of their purification

2) They are able to **shorten their time** of purification.

Somehow our prayers are able to hasten that time of spiritual purification and help the deceased enter more quickly into heaven.

# What do other religions believe about Purgatory?

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While only the Catholic Church calls the state between death and Final Judgement “Purgatory”, some religions, like the Eastern Orthodox, do acknowledge an intermediate state after death and before Final Judgement. These groups also pray for their dead ones.

That a person does not believe in Purgatory does not mean the person can bypass it if they are need in perfection.

Remember no one is allowed in heaven unless clean and purified.