

# Afterlife

1. **What** is the afterlife?
2. **How** does the afterlife work?
3. **Why** is the afterlife important?

## 1. **What** is the afterlife?

The afterlife can be defined as a state that exists after death and that human beings experience when they die (if they can experience anything at all). For Christians, there are three principal destinations for people at the end of their lives. All Christians agree on the existence of heaven. Other Christians, most famously Catholics, believe in the existence of purgatory; and, whilst purgatory might not be as pleasant as heaven, it is certainly not as nasty as the third and final potential destination, hell. Write definitions for "afterlife", "heaven", "purgatory", and "hell".

<b>Afterlife</b>	<b>Heaven</b>
<b>Purgatory</b>	<b>Hell</b>

## 2. **How** does the afterlife work?

What are the rules of the afterlife for Christians, and what can they expect if their beliefs are correct? First, many believe the afterlife will come shortly after Jesus's return and the Last Judgement. It is after this event that the saved are going to ascend to heaven, and the condemned are going to descend to hell. According to the gospels, these places are very real. Write a definition for "judgement" and explain how this concept is related to the Christian belief in the Last Judgement.

<b>Judgement</b>

First, Christians believe that all humanity will be resurrected immediately before the Last Judgement at the general resurrection; second, they believe that Jesus will return to judge everyone at this final event. According to the Gospel of Matthew, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another." Make a note about how Christians believe the general resurrection and Last Judgement are connected to the afterlife.

## How the Afterlife Works

### General Resurrection

### Last Judgement

### 3. **Why** is the afterlife important?

One primary reason the afterlife is so important is that Christian beliefs regarding it are bound up with teachings about the Last Judgement, which is only sometimes evident in presentations about the central beliefs and teachings of Christianity. Officially, all Christians believe that the dead will rise from their graves or tombs at some point in the future, as has been depicted in Christian art for centuries. At that time, the living and the resurrected will have their bodies transformed, and then all will be judged by Jesus. Make a note of three reasons why the afterlife is important.

### Why the Afterlife Is Important

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