

# The afterlife

If you're a Christian, then everything that happens to you, all the decisions you make, your whole life in fact, is just a sort of audition. What's really important, is where you go afterwards.

This life all happens rather quickly. The afterlife, though, it's forever. So you're going to want to get a comfy seat. But not everyone gets one – it's all decided at your judgement.

That's when all your actions on Earth are weighed up. Those who, on balance, lived good lives, get admitted into the Kingdom of Heaven. Heaven isn't a physical place, like Swansea, it's more of a state of being, or another dimension.

Those who don't make the grade, have to go to Hell, a realm of eternal suffering where one is apart from God and honestly, the seats there are awful.

Final Judgement is also referred to in Jesus' teachings as the separating of the sheep from the goats. Apparently goats are a whole lot naughtier than sheep. It's important to remember that it's not just your actions that are weighed up, it's also your faith in God. Someone who lacks faith, even if they've lived a good life, will probably be found to be a bit too goaty.

It might seem strange, to be judged, seeing as God created everything in the world, including you, and everything that has ever in any way influenced you. So, doesn't he already know what choices you're going to make before you're even born?

Well, it seems that when he created humans, one of the design features was free will, so we may live entirely in God's creation, but we can still make our own choices, even

if those choices are offensive to God.

There is a third possibility at Judgement, Purgatory. You wouldn't really want to go there on holiday, it's all about suffering and pain in order to purge sins. But the upside is that you don't have to stay there forever, once all those sins have been cleaned away, they'll find room for you in Heaven.

It should be noted, though, that Purgatory is only a Catholic belief, as other denominations don't think it exists.

Life after death is perhaps the most central belief of Christianity. The fact that Christ's tomb was found empty, and that he was resurrected from death, demonstrates to Christians that death isn't final, and Christ's example shows everyone the way to enjoy an eternal existence with God.

Some believe that all matters of judgement will be fully settled on Judgement Day, when Jesus will return to Earth to battle the Antichrist. During this process, unfortunately, the Earth will be ever so slightly completely destroyed, so from then on, the afterlife really will be the place to be.

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