

Study Lesson Number:22

THE REDEMPTION: (continued)

What do we mean when we say in the Apostles' Creed that Christ descended into hell?

When we say that Christ descended into hell we mean that, after He died, the soul of Christ descended into a place or state of rest, called Limbo, where the souls of the just were waiting for Him

The word "hell" simply means THE PLACE OF THE DEAD. Usually it refers to the place of the damned souls, but here in the Apostles' Creed it has its first meaning of the place of the dead. However, Christ did not go to all the dead, but only to the good souls, such as Abraham, Moses, David, St. Ann, St. John the Baptist, St. Joseph, and many others who had died before He did.

The Good Thief (Dismas) was the very first person who entered heaven, and this because of the conversation which took place while he and Our Lord were hanging on their crosses.

Why did Christ go to limbo?

Christ went to limbo to announce to the souls waiting there the joyful news that He had reopened heaven to mankind.

The gates of heaven had been closed since the sin of Adam and Eve. Absolutely no one had entered heaven before the time of the death of Jesus Christ.

Where was Christ's body while His soul was in limbo?

While His soul was in limbo, Christ's body was in the Holy Sepulchre.

When did Christ rise from the dead?

Christ rose from the dead, glorious and immortal, on Easter Sunday, the third day after His death.

Why did Christ rise from the dead?

Christ rose from the dead to SHOW that He is true God and to teach us that we, too, shall rise from the dead.

Christ did not rise by the power of His HUMAN nature, but by the power of His DIVINE nature, which He shares with the Father and the Holy Ghost. It is now said that Christ WAS RAISED from the dead, as if someone had to help Him back to life. If Christ had to have help to return to life, then He was no greater than anyone else who has been raised from the Dead. Christ, being God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, RAISED HIMSELF from the dead.

Discussion Questions:

1. Did God plan the death of His Son? Explain.
2. Was God mean and ugly to do this?
If yes, why? If no, Why?
3. Which was the more important in redeeming us: Christ's bodily pain or the love of His Sacred Heart? Why?
4. Does Christ love us more than His Father does? Give a reason for your answer.
5. Could we make full satisfaction for our own sins if Christ had not died on the Cross for us?
6. Could God have forgiven us if Christ had not died on the Cross?