

FROM THE BALTIMORE CATECHISM:

Study Lesson Number: 38

I BELIEVE IN . . . THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY, AND LIFE EVERLASTING:

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

Christ has told us that He is coming again at the end of the world. He will come sitting on the clouds of heaven and His angels with Him. The bodies of all those who have died will rise and go to meet Him. It is then that He will judge the living and the dead.

What is meant by "the resurrection of the body"?

By "the resurrection of the body" is meant that at the end of the world the bodies of all men will rise from the earth and be united again to their souls nevermore to be separated.

Why will the bodies of the just rise?

The bodies of the just will rise to share forever in the glory of their souls.

Has the body of any human person ever been raised from the dead and taken into heaven?

By the special privilege of her Assumption, the body of the Blessed Virgin Mary, united to her immaculate soul, was glorified and taken into heaven.

Why will the bodies of the damned also rise?

The bodies of the damned will also rise to share in the eternal punishment of their souls.

What is the judgment called which will be passed on all men immediately after the general resurrection?

The judgment which will be passed on all men immediately after the general resurrection is called the general judgment.

THE GENERAL JUDGMENT

"But when the Son of Man shall come in His majesty, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory: and before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another, as the shepherd separate the sheep from the goats; and He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, blessed of My Father, take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

"Then He will say to those on His left hand, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the everlasting fire which was prepared for the devil and his angels' "

(St. Matthew.

What is the judgement called which will be passed on each one of us immediately after death?

The judgement which will be passed on each one of us immediately after death is called the particular judgement.

If everyone is judged immediately after death, why will there be a general judgement?

Although everyone is judged immediately after death, it is fitting that there be a general judgment in order that the justice, wisdom, and mercy of God may be glorified in the presence of all.

The general judgment is not really a new trial, but a judgment, that is, a public declaration and manifestation of the sentences or rewards already given or made in the particular judgment.