



Logos Class

What Baptists Believe Session 7

Class for July 12, 2026

Rooms 123/124 Adult Ed Building

Class Schedule for the next few weeks

- ✓ *May 10, 2026. - What Baptists Believe Part 1- History & Distinctives*
- ✓ *May 17, 2026 - What Baptists Believe Part 2- God the Father*
- ✓ *May 24, 2006 – Dr Scott Downing - Free Will vs Predestination*
- ✓ *May 31, 2006. - Dr Scott Downing – Prophecy Overview*
- ✓ *June 7, 2026. - Charlie Owens – What Baptists Do - Missions*
- ✓ *June 14, 2026 - What Baptists Believe Part 3*
- ✓ *June 21, 2026. - What Baptists Believe Part 4*
- ✓ *June 28, 2026. - What Baptists Believe Part 5*
- ✓ *July 5, 2026. - What Baptists Believe Part 6*
- ✓ *July 12, 2026. -What Baptists Believe Part 7 (final session)*

Quick Update ...ICYMI

Middle East

- *MOU between the US and Iran is on the ropes. Attacks by both sides have renewed*
- *Israel is continuing to demand Hamas disarm; they have refused, and the removal continues*
- *Israel has a peace initiative with Lebanon, but Hezbollah is refusing to disarm, and Israel continues to defend*

US/World

- *The Russia-Ukraine war is going nowhere towards an end.*
- *Ukraine is taking the offensive to Russian territory. US has licensed them to produce Patriot Missiles*
- *Relations between the President and Congress are strained: cabinet picks, the economy, and war powers, Iran*
- *Troubling alliances between Russia, Turkey, and Iran are beginning to move them closer, and against Israel*
- *Europe is in an immigration crisis, with danger everywhere*

Earthquakes, Floods, volcanic eruptions, famine, and disease. Wars and rumors of wars. California fault lines are under the most pressure for hundreds of years

- *Many signs of the Tribulation are appearing with more frequency*
 - *Natural Disasters, Isolation of Israel, Antisemitism, Apostasy in the church, Peace in Israel to presage the Antichrist, Scoffers of Prophecy, and deniers of God. Time of Noah and time of Lot prophecies. Continuation of the Aliyah to Israel. Isolation of Israel, and end-time coalitions forming. Christian Apostasy and Lack of Unity. One World Religion*
 - *Substantial European acts to move away from Western values and embrace one-world ideas.*
 - *Remember, Israel is God's timepiece for the End of Time. Israel is the hour hand, Jerusalem is the minute hand, and the Temple Mount is the second hand*

Basic Baptist Beliefs, subject to the caveats mentioned earlier

Belief in

- ✓ Nature and Essence of God
- ✓ Jesus Christ
- ✓ Holy Spirit
- ✓ The Bible, including the authority and interpretation
- ✓ Nature and Essence of Man
- ✓ Man's relation to God
- ✓ Salvation
- ✓ Worship Purpose, not so much style
- ✓ New Testament Church, including Polity/Structure
- ✓ Family
- ✓ Marriage & Culture
- ✓ Government Relationship
 - End Times – generally, not in detail
 - Heaven/Hell



These are the basic topics
We will discuss in the follow-on
sessions

Unity in Essentials, Diversity in Non-Essentials

- ✓ **Some of the non-essentials are important, even if not a salvation issue (Free will / Predestination beliefs. Some Baptists hold Calvinistic beliefs)**

We will cover details of these beliefs in future sessions

Government Relationship

In today's world, many believe Christians should not be involved in politics and should not even vote...But what does the Bible say?

The Establishment of Righteousness

- Christians believe that the government has very important responsibilities, including a divine mandate to punish evildoers and to reward those who do right (see Rom. 13:1-7). The good of the commonwealth is necessarily a matter of Christian concern. Therefore, when Christians oppose sin, both in individual and in cultural terms, we are motivated by Christian love and concern.*
- In addition, we do not speak if we were not sinners. We speak to the larger society as sinners who have been redeemed and reborn by the power of Christ.*
- A Christian bears responsibility to engage the political and cultural order and to do so in a way that is distinctively faithful to the commands of Christ. We understand that the church is the people of God and the only institution on earth that will exist in the age to come. Governments and social orders will all pass away; history records the rising and falling of countless empires, kingdoms, and nations.*

So, what are we to do? >>Read Matthew 5:13-16 SALT and LIGHT

We are to be Salt and Light

Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount in **Matt 5: 13-16**

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven

 ***We are to preserve and illuminate our world***

 ***We do this by engaging in culture and politics, all in faithfulness to the Lord and His WORD***

List of topics covered in the BF&M book

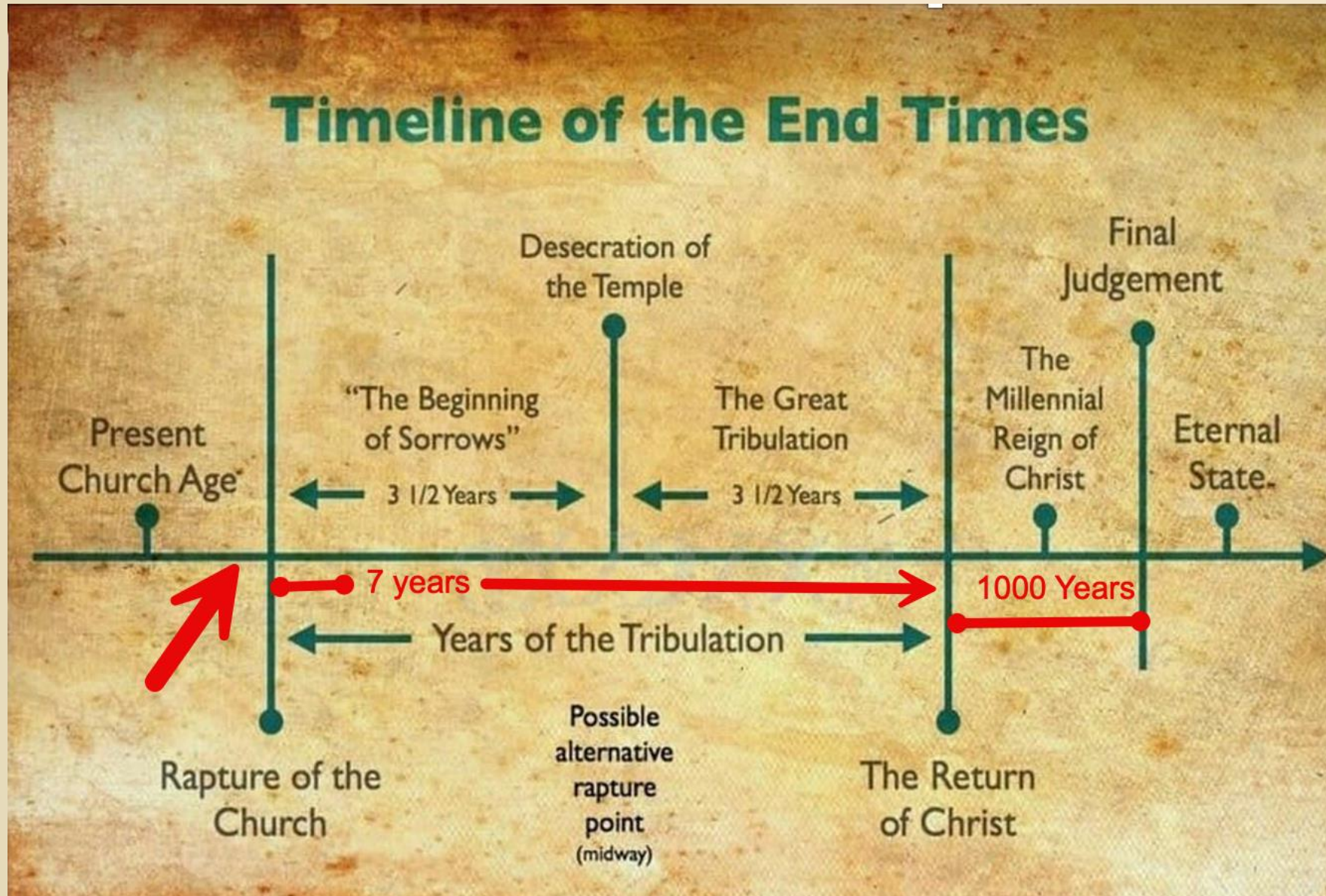
I want to finish this study, cover three important topics, and then answer any of your questions. I will cover:

- *End Times – generally, not in detail*
- *Heaven/Hell*
- *Religious Liberty*

There are many other subjects that we could cover, but I have shortened our discussion to what I consider key beliefs. An index of the Chapters in the BF&M book

- Chapter 1: The Scriptures
- Chapter 2: God
- Chapter 3: God the Father
- Chapter 4: God the Son
- Chapter 5: God the Holy Spirit
- Chapter 6: Man
- Chapter 7: Salvation
- Chapter 8: God's Purpose of Grace
- Chapter 9: The Church
- Chapter 10: Baptism & the Lord's Supper
- Chapter 11: The Lord's Day.
- Chapter 12: The Kingdom
- Chapter 13: Last Things
- Chapter 14: Evangelism and Missions
- Chapter 15: Education.
- Chapter 16: Stewardship.
- Chapter 17: Cooperation.
- Chapter 18: The Christian and the Social Order
- Chapter 19: Peace and War.
- **Chapter 20: Religious Liberty**
- Chapter 21: The Family

End Times Chronology – Simplified (not to scale)



End Times Short Discussion (very short)

- We are presently in the **Church Age**
- The next thing to come is the Rapture of the Church, where those who are **born-again believers** will meet Jesus in the Clouds and be resurrected to Heaven to become the Bride of Christ. Those who died in Christ will also be resurrected.
- After that time, the world will enter a 7-year period known as the **Tribulation**, or the **time of Jacob's trouble**
 - **Two purposes** – **Regeneration of the Jews who believe**, and **punish those who are in unbelief**
 - During this period, large numbers of people will come to faith, and die as martyrs in the reign of the Antichrist. God's wrath will be poured out on the earth to drive people to Him or drive them away to judgment. ***The choice will be stark.***
 - At the end of the Tribulation period, Christ will return to earth, with all the Saints to protect Israel from destruction, and mete out final judgment,
- After this time, there will be 1000 years of Christ's rule on earth, known as the **Millennial Kingdom**
- After this, final judgment on Satan, the False Prophet, and Death will be done, and we will enter the Eternal State forever. Forever with the Lord in Heaven

All of these things are laid out in prophetic scripture

Heaven, what does the Bible tell us?

The Bible presents heaven as a concrete, eternal reality—not merely an abstract concept—characterized by God’s presence, restoration, and the absence of suffering.

Nature and Location

- The Bible describes **three heavens**, with the third heaven being God’s abode.
 1. The atmosphere we breathe (1st Heaven)
 2. The Space where the moon, stars, and planets reside (2nd Heaven)
 3. Where God is, and where we will be
- Heaven is fundamentally a place, not simply a state of mind or abstraction.
 - Scripture depicts it as a glorious city, the new Jerusalem.
 - Jesus describes it as “**my Father’s house**” with “**many mansions**,” a place he prepares for believers, and also calls it “**the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**”

Heaven

The Experience of Heaven

- *When **believers** die, their souls go immediately to heaven. (Immortal bodies to come later)*
 - *Heaven is home for God, angels, and the souls of all redeemed humans.*
 - *The experience involves profound restoration: heaven represents “the eternal presence of everything that can make a saint happy, and the eternal absence of everything that can cause sorrow”—sickness, pain, death, poverty, and all forms of conflict and evil will have no place there.*

What Heaven Offers

- *The curse will be removed, and God’s blessing will be manifest and multiplied.*
 - *Believers will experience continuity of existence, reunion with loved ones, and most significantly, the presence of Christ.*
 - *The biblical portrait emphasizes not escapism from physical reality but rather the restoration of all that is good and the elimination of all that corrupts. A Place for eternal worship and praise of God*

What is Hades or Sheol

- **Sheol** is the Hebrew term for the “resting place of souls”
- **Hades** is the Greek term for the same place.
- In Biblical understanding, it is divided into two spheres
 1. Those who die **in Faith**, looking forward to the Messiah (OT) – ***This is also called Abraham's Bosom***
 2. Those who die **not in Faith**
- There are nuances in all of them worth discussing

Hades and Sheol, with Abrahams Bosom

The Bible uses three distinct terms to describe the afterlife realm and the condition of the dead, each with particular nuances.

Sheol (Old Testament): *Sheol is the Hebrew term for “the place of the dead” or “the place of departed souls/spirits.”*

- *In the Old Testament, all people—righteous and wicked alike—were destined for Sheol.*
- *Sheol is envisioned as a physical place beneath the earth, as evidenced by the account in Numbers 16, where the ground opened and swallowed those who joined Korah’s rebellion, who were described as going “down alive to Sheol.”*
- *Once there, the dead could not return. The state in which you died, determines your destination*

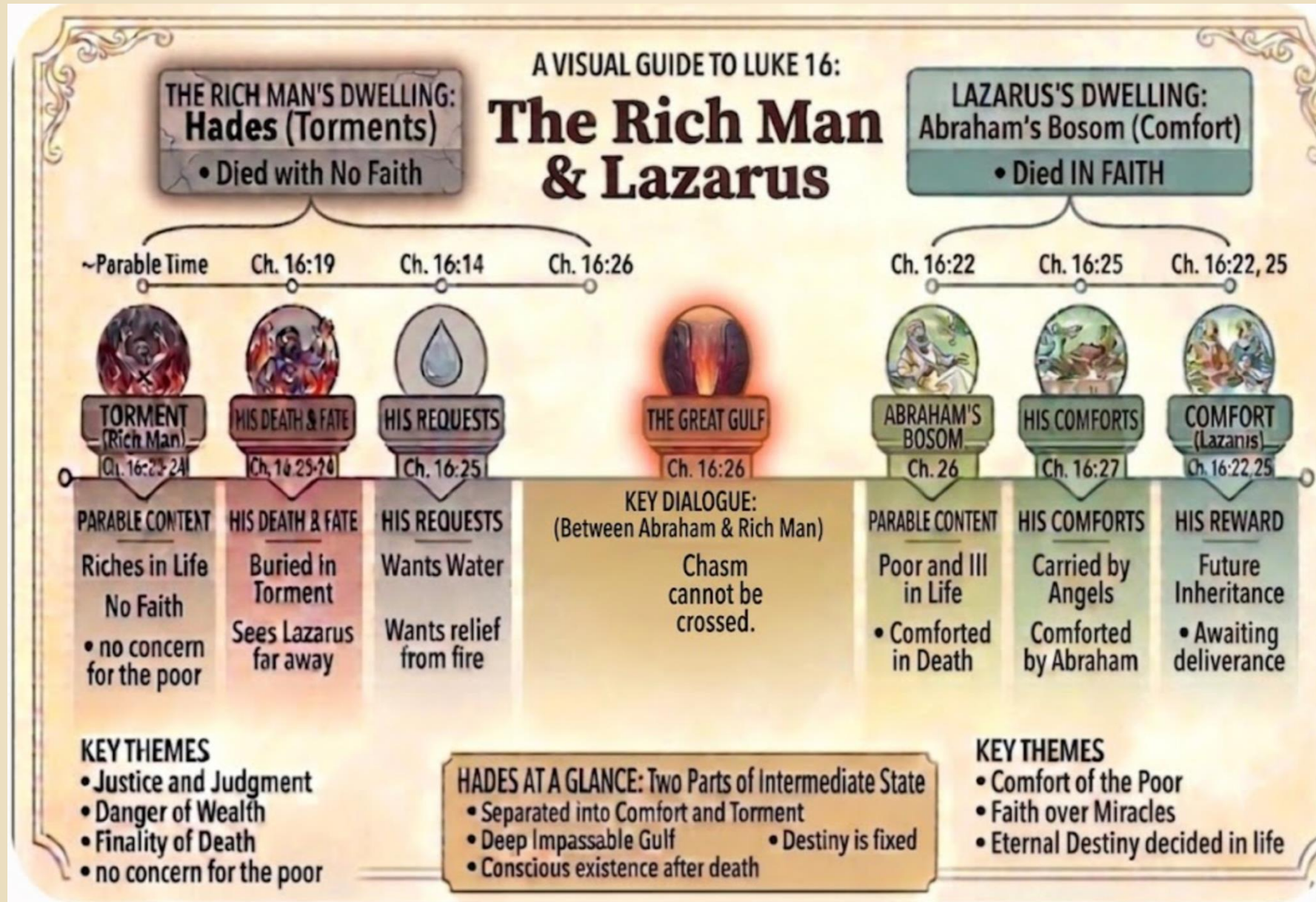
Hades (New Testament): *Hades is the Greek equivalent of Sheol and also refers to “the place of the dead.”*

- *However, during the intertestamental period, the Jewish concept of Sheol had evolved to include **two distinct compartments**—a place of torment for the wicked and a place of conscious bliss called “Abraham’s bosom” or “paradise” for the righteous.*
- **Abraham’s Bosom**
- *In Luke 16, when Lazarus died, he was carried by angels to Abraham’s side (bosom), while the rich man found himself in Hades in torment, seeing Abraham and Lazarus from afar. This passage reveals that hades was divided into parts: a place for the saved called “Abraham’s bosom,” and a place for the wicked, separated by an impassable gulf. Abraham’s bosom was used in the Talmud as a synonym for heaven, with the image of Lazarus reclining at Abraham’s breast at the heavenly banquet, so both paradise and Abraham’s bosom are synonymous with heaven.*

Note: Upon His ascension, Jesus took the inhabitants of Abraham’s bosom with Him to Heaven, and today believers upon death go directly to be with Jesus in heaven rather than to Hades. Their bodies go to the grave awaiting resurrection



Visual Guide to Hades and Sheol Compartments



Two other important places in Death

- **Tartarus** – This is a place only mentioned once in the Bible by name
 - Tartarus appears in 2 Peter 2:4, where Peter describes God casting sinful angels into this place of darkness and confinement to await judgment.
 - The term itself derives from Greek mythology, where Tartarus was the deepest, darkest region of the underworld—a **place of torment far below Hades**. By using this specifically Greek term rather than the Hebrew “Sheol” or the more common “Hades,” Peter employs language his Greek-speaking audience would immediately recognize as signifying the most severe punishment imaginable.
 - The same place is also referenced in Jude 6, and 1 Pet 3:19-20
- **Gehenna (Lake of Fire / Hell)**- Gehenna is the name in the OT used to represent the place where bodies were burned up after they were cast out with the trash.
 - In the NT we see it represented as Hell, or the Lake of Fire. It is the ultimate destination for all those who are not taken to Heaven at the final judgment

Note: There is no place in our Bible where any concept like Purgatory exists. This developed in Catholic tradition as early church leaders described what they thought about the afterlife and was formalized in Catholic Doctrine in 1439. This was a familiar concept for Greek philosophers

So let me summarize as simply as I can

In the OT, when a person died, **if they died in faith in God**, and looked forward to the Messiah coming, **they went to Abraham's Bosom (the upper portion of Sheol)**

If they died with no faith or concern, they went to the lower portion of Sheol

- After the cross, Jesus took those in Abraham's Bosom to be with him in heaven, and all believers (souls) thereafter go directly to heaven. See 1 Pet 3:19-20
- At the Rapture, all believers who are alive will go to meet Jesus in the clouds, and their bodies will be resurrected in immortal form. For the OT saints in Heaven, since they now believe, they died in belief, and they too will be resurrected with all the other dead in Christ. Those in Heaven that came after the Cross will be the church, and the others will be OT Saints and Tribulation Saints, but not the church

In the tribulation period, all those who come to belief will be in Heaven upon death, and those who survive will move into the Millennial Kingdom as humans, saved by Faith through Grace. The ongoing ministry of the Holy Spirit to unbelievers

Only at the final judgment (GWT judgment) will humans be sent to the Lake of Fire. ...Those who died in unbelief, and are NOT in the Book of Life

Religious Liberty

Baptists have historically been fierce defenders of Religious Liberty

- God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men **which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it.**
Church and state should be separate.
 - The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others.
 - Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. **The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work.**
- The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind.
- The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. **A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.**

Any Questions before we close in prayer?

- Anything I have discussed today, or in earlier discussions about What Baptists Believe?
- Any other things on the list I showed that I have not covered?
- Any burning questions in your mind?

Next week

We will start a new study, and I will let you know this week what it will be

➤ *Pray for our Nation and its leaders*

- *Pray for both the Iranian War and the Russia/Ukraine wars to come to an end*
- *Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and Peace for Israel*

➤ *Our State and its Leaders, and the elections to come, for God to give us Godly leaders*

➤ *Our Church, the Pastors and Leaders*

➤ *Pray for the needs of our class members and families*

Thank God for his mercy and grace for each of us as we struggle with all the issues and problems we are facing

Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem to come to the world