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Post Mortal Life

Readings: True to the Faith pp. 116-117, 139, 140, 92-95

Explain five LDS beliefs concerning post mortal existence:

1. As before life, intelligence and individuality exist after life. After death, the “veil will be lifted” and every being will regain the knowledge they had before their mortal life.
2. Depending on one’s intent, they will await judgement in either spirit prison or prison paradise. If their intent if malicious, they will be placed in spirit prison, and “the righteous spirits rest from earthly care and sorrow”.
3. During the second coming of Yeshua, those worthy of the Celestial and Terrestrial glory will be resurrected. Satan will be “bound”, violence of all kinds will cease, and Yeshua will reign personally over the world for 1,000 years.
4. After 1,000 years the final war between Michael and his armies and Satan and his armies will be fought, Satan will lose, and the earth will “receive its celestial glory”. All souls will be judged and placed into the Celestial, Terrestrial, and Telestial “kingdoms” dependent on their actions on earth.
5. Those who have known God the Father, but rejected him and his plan, will be labelled as “sons of perdition” and will “suffer with Satan for all eternity”.

Email two people you know who aren’t Mormon and get their response to the question: “What happens after a person dies?” Record their answer in the ½ page below. Thanks.

1. Catholics believe that death is the end of physical life. However, we see this as more of a change than an ending. For instance, we believe that our physical bodies will die (they are buried or cremated) but we will receive a spiritual resurrection body and have the possibility of eternal life with God. Catholic beliefs about Judgement Catholics believe that when a person dies, God passes judgement on his or her soul. This is called ‘particular judgement’. Each person is responsible for their own actions. There will be a final judgment when the whole of creation will be judged. Catholic beliefs about Judgement are presented in three of Jesus’ parables. The ‘Sheep & Goats’ teaches that God will separate the ‘good’ and the ‘bad’ just like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. The parable of the ‘Unmerciful Servant’ helps Catholics to understand beliefs about forgiveness and life after death. If you are willing to show mercy and forgive others, then God will show mercy and forgive you. The parable of the ‘Rich Man & Lazarus’ informs Catholics about the type of actions that are required to gain access to heaven with God. Catholic beliefs about Heaven and Hell Catholics believe that a person who has lived a holy life will be rewarded with eternal happiness in heaven. Heaven is eternal existence in God’s presence. In the Bible, heaven is often described as a banquet or a feast, but Christian ideas about it vary widely. The Bible teaches that there is no sadness, pain or suffering in heaven. Christianity teaches that hell is a lack of God for all eternity. An unrepentant sinner is someone who does not regret the things they have done wrong and refuses God’s offer of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus. Catholic beliefs about Purgatory Catholics believe in a state after death called purgatory. It comes from the word “purge”, to cleanse or get rid of sin. They think that most people are not bad enough to go to hell but not good enough to go straight to heaven, as they have sinned in their lives on earth. Purgatory is a state of purifying, a time of cleansing and preparation to enter heaven. St. Paul used the image of fire in his first letter to the Corinthians. Protestant Christians do not accept this idea of Purgatory as there is no mention directly of purgatory in the Bible. Catholics believe that they can help the souls in purgatory by praying for them. There is a long tradition of praying for the dead. Catholics can ask God for mercy to forgive the soul’s sins so that they can enter heaven and have eternal life with God more swiftly.
2. Your muscles relax. Your muscles loosen immediately after death, releasing any strain on your bowel and bladder. Your skin may also sag, making it easier to see your bone structure beneath. Your temperature drops. Your body temperature gradually decreases about 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit per hour. Eventually, your body temperature will match your surroundings. Your blood gets pulled downward. Gravity pulls your blood downward, toward the Earth. Your skin may look purplish-red in the spots where blood pools. Your body stiffens. Your body stiffens, first, at your face and neck. The stiffening progresses to the trunk of your body and gradually radiates outward to your arms and legs and then your fingers and toes. Your body loosens again. A few days after death, your body’s tissue breaks down, causing the stiff parts to relax again.

Questions (2):

1. If souls exist, wouldn’t there be some objective measurement taken at time of death to prove its existence?
2. Why don’t other Christian denominations believe in “degrees of glory”?