Is there a place called 'Purgatory'?

There are some who believe that Purgatory is a place of suffering for sins committed while in the body. That when a person dies, if he doesn't go to hell that he must go to Purgatory before he could go on and enter heaven. They say this is necessary to cleanse the spirit of the person so that he could then enter the presence of God. It's called purification after death.

The difference between going to hell and Purgatory would be the state of death. In other words, if a person dies and he has made a last confession of his sins and has received forgiveness for his sins, he will eventually go to heaven, but only after he goes to Purgatory and pays for all the trivial sins he committed in his lifetime. This of course differs from the person who has not received forgiveness for their sins when they die. This person would go straight to hell and would never enter heaven.

To believe in this place of purification after death would be to deny the Biblical teaching that Jesus Christ, God in human form, came to the earth and died on the cross, shedding His Divine blood, and giving Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of man. Not some sins, not just past sins, but all sins, past , present and future.

Where did this heretical belief come from? When did it materialize?

In tracing it back in time, it appears that it started with the Babylonians.

The Babylonian Religion was the first false religious systems after the flood. It started in Babel by the great hunter Nimrod, (Gen 10). Nimrod married a real conniving women named, Semerimus. I say conniving, because this woman was well ahead of others. She was aware of the promise of a future Redeemer, the promise given in Genesis 3:15, and that the Redeemer would come through the woman, and would bring the blessing to the world. She then devised a plan whereby after she was impregnated by Nimrod, that her child would be the promised Seed. She made herself and her son the objects of worship. She called her son, Tammuz. (He is mentioned in the scriptures, Ezekiel 8:14). The symbol of this new worship system was the figure of a mother holding a child in her arms. (Is that familiar today? Yes. In fact there are carved images of the woman holding a child in her arms. They are celebrated today as the Virgin Mary holding the baby Jesus.)

She made up the story that her son, Tammuz, was killed, and she called the temple virgins together, and they prayed and fasted for 40 days and nights, for Tammuz, and at the end of the ordeal, Tammuz rose from the dead. This became an annual feast symbolizing the restoration of Tammuz from the dead. They set aside the egg as sacred to Tammuz, which was exchanged on the feast of Ishtar as the symbol of life out of death. The evergreen tree, the symbol of life, was made the symbol of Tammuz and it was displayed in wid-winter at the birthday celebration of Tammuz. (Dwight Pentecost, Prophecy for Today).

Semerimus claimed that she was the way of approach to God. She adopted the title, 'Queen of heaven,' and taught that salvation was administered through her.

She instituted the sprinkling of water and ceremonial cleansing**. She also proclaimed purgatorial cleansing after death.**

The Babylonian religion spread over to Phoenicia, where they changed the name Semerimus to Ashteroth, and added the worship of the sun. They called this new religion, Baal. From Phoenicia it spread to Pergamos in Asia Minor. Pergamos was the third church wrote about in Revelation 2:12-17. It was the place of Satan's seat, or throne was. Pergamos became the center of this Babylonian religion, as it passed down through the empires. -(It passed from Babylon to the Medio-Persian empire, then to the Grecian Empire, and finally into the Roman Empire.

In the time period of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Caesars were crowned as the Emperor of the Roman Empire and also given the title, Pontifex Maximus, or High Priest of the mother/child cult religion as well.

It was when the Emperor of Rome, who at that time was a person named Constantine, in 312 AD, declared Christianity the state religion. He allowed the Christian Church which was held underground up until that time to be recognized. He of course became the head of the new Christian Church, as the first Pope, carrying the Roman religion title, Pontifex Maximus, which the pope of the Roman Catholic Church still bears today. When Constantine allowed the church to become the state religion, it continued to celebrate the Babylonian religion that Rome had been celebrating all alone. In other words, the Christians now celebrated the feast of Ishtar, and eventually called it Easter, the feast of Semerimus and Tammuz. They also erected the green tree on December 25th, the birthday of Tammuz, and celebrated it along with the Romans. The Christians celebrated it as the birth of Jesus Christ.

The Roman Catholic Church has inherited this system of belief and oversees it today.

To believe that our Lord Jesus Christ did not redeem us from all sins is to believe not in the Jesus Christ of the Bible, but in another Jesus. Paul warned us in II Cor 11:4, "if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

(There are variations of the gospel, not really, but made out to be. There is one true gospel, found in the scriptures. If you don't know the real, you can't recognize the false ones.)

Jesus Christ died for all of our sins, thereby eliminating any more penalty due them. The Babylonian religion claiming a Purgatory is a false religious claim.

(see the studies of the 3rd and 4th churches, Pergamos and Thyatira.)