

HANDOUT – DEATH, HADES, THE LAKE OF FIRE AND PARADISE

We know Hades=Sheol because there is a passage in the Old Testament Hebrew (Psa 16:10) about Sheol that is quoted in the New Testament in Greek and is rendered Hades (Acts 2:27).

Messianic prophecy that God will not leave Jesus in Sheol

Psa 16:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

Acts 2:26 - Acts 2:27 (NASB)

²⁷ Because You will not abandon my soul to Hades,
Nor allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

➤ To be dead in the Old Testament means to go to Sheol

Psa 89:47 - Psa 89:48 (NASB)

⁴⁸ What man can live and not see death?

Can he deliver his soul from the power of Sheol?

2 Sam 22:6 (NASB)

⁶ The cords of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me.

➤ Sometimes also called "the pit"

Job 33:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ He keeps back his soul from the pit,
And his life from passing over into Sheol.

Psa 30:3 (NASB)

³ O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol;
You have kept me alive, that I would not go down to the pit.

➤ There is a lower level of Sheol – a place of suffering for the wicked.

Deut 32:22 (NASB)

²² For a fire is kindled in My anger,
And burns to the **lowest part** of Sheol,

Job 24:18 - Job 24:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ "Drought and heat consume the snow waters, *So does Sheol those who have sinned.*

➤ The righteous go to Sheol, but not to the lower level. They do not suffer.

Psa 86:13 (NASB)

¹³ For Your lovingkindness toward me is great, And You have delivered my soul from the **depths** of Sheol.

Job begs for release from his suffering by dying and going to Sheol:

Job 14:13 (NASB)

¹³ "Oh that You would hide me in Sheol,

That You would conceal me until Your wrath returns *to You*, That You would set a limit for me and remember me!

Prov 15:23 - Prov 15:24 (NASB)

²⁴ The path of life *leads* upward for the wise That he may keep away from Sheol **below**.

Luke 16:19 - Luke 16:31 (NASB)

¹⁹"Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. ²⁰"And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, ²¹and longing to be fed with the *crumbs* which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores.

²²"Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. ²³"In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw^{*} Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴"And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' ²⁵"But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶"And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so

that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and *that* none may cross over from there to us.’²⁷“And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father’s house—²⁸for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’²⁹“But Abraham said*, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’³⁰“But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’³¹“But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’”

➤ Sheol/Hades is personified and is linked closely with Death (the first Death)

Prov 27:20 (NASB)

²⁰ Sheol [is] never satisfied,
Nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied.

Prov 30:15 - Prov 30:16 (NASB)

¹⁵ ...There are [four] things that will not be satisfied,...¹⁶ Sheol [is one of them].

Isa 28:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death,
And with Sheol we have made a pact...

Hab 2:4 - Hab 2:5 (NASB)

⁵ ...He enlarges his appetite like Sheol,
And he is like death, never satisfied.

Hos 13:13 - Hos 13:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from death? O Death, where are your thorns?
O Sheol, where is your sting?

Rev 6:7 - Rev 6:8 (NASB)

⁷When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, “Come.”⁸I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him.

➤ Sheol is a place of waiting. The time for activity and decision-making has passed.

Eccl 9:10 (NASB)

¹⁰Whatever your hand finds to do, do *it* with *all* your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.

Psa 6:5 (NASB)

⁵ For there is no mention of You in death; In Sheol who will give You thanks?

Isa 38:18 - Isa 38:19 (NASB)

¹⁸ “For Sheol cannot thank You,
Death cannot praise You;
Those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your faithfulness.

¹⁹ “It is the living who give thanks to You, as I do today;

➤ God sees Sheol and is in control of who goes to Sheol (who lives or dies)

Job 26:5 - Job 26:6 (NASB)

⁵ “The departed spirits tremble
Under the waters and their inhabitants.

⁶ “Naked is Sheol before Him,

1 Sam 2:6 (NASB)

⁶ “The LORD kills and makes alive;
He brings down to Sheol and raises up.

Psa 139:7 - Psa 139:8 (NASB)

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.

➤ Christ went to Sheol when He died, but did not stay there

Psa 16:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

Jon 2:2 (NASB) (Jesus refers to “the sign of Jonah” as prophecy that the Messiah must be in the grave three days)

¹Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the stomach of the fish, ²and he said, “I called out of my distress to the LORD, And He answered me.

I cried for help from the depth of Sheol;

You heard my voice.

Matt 12:38 - Matt 12:40 (NASB) ³⁸Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” ³⁹But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and *yet* no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; ⁴⁰for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Acts 2:29 - Acts 2:31 (NASB)

²⁹“Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰“And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat *one* of his descendants on his throne, ³¹he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay.

- While in Hades, Christ made a proclamation to those who had sinned during the days of Noah. It doesn't say what He proclaimed (presumably His victory over sin) or whether they received a second chance to repent.

1 Pet 3:18 - 1 Pet 3:20 (NIV) ¹⁸For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison ²⁰who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.

When He left Hades, he brought back with him captives (the righteous?) and led them into Paradise (Heaven) with Him

Eph 4:7 - Eph 4:10 (NIV) This is a quote of Messianic prophecy in Psa 68:18-20

⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸This is why it says:

“When he ascended on high,

he led captives in his train

and gave gifts to men.” *[the Psalm says He received gifts from rebellious men]*

⁹(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

Luke 23:42 - Luke 23:43 (NASB) ⁴²And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!”

⁴³And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”

- Now, at death, believers go straight into Paradise (Heaven) into the presence of God where they are in a state of rest with no hunger, no thirst and no tears

2 Cor 5:6 - 2 Cor 5:8 (NASB) ⁶Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight—⁸we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

Phil 1:21 - Phil 1:24 (NASB) ²¹For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²²But if *I am* to live *on* in the flesh, this *will mean* fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. ²³But I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better; ²⁴yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

Rev 6:9 - Rev 6:11 (NASB) ⁹When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; ¹⁰and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” ¹¹And there was given to each of them a white robe; **and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, ...**

Rev 7:9 - Rev 7:17 (NASB)

⁹After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm

branches *were* in their hands; ... And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have **washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb**.¹⁵"For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them.¹⁶"They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat;¹⁷ for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

- But the wicked continue to go to Hades where they are tormented, along with the wicked who were already there. In Hades, the wicked will await the Great White Throne judgment and their final sentence to eternal suffering in the lake of fire (the Second Death)

Matt 11:23 (NASB) (Jesus is speaking)

²³"And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day.

Rev 20:13 - Rev 20:14 (NASB) ¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds. ¹⁴Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

- When Jesus refers to "hell", He is not referring to Hades, which is a temporary state. He is referring to the eternal state of torment: the Second Death, the lake of fire. It is a different Greek word than "Hades". The word translated "hell" is "Ghe-enna". It has its roots in two Hebrew words ("Gei Hinnom") that refer to a valley outside of Jerusalem used for human sacrifice – literally burning humans to death. Jesus uses this term in Matt 5:22,29,30, Matt 10:28, Matt 18:9, Matt 23:15,33 and parallel passages in Mark and Luke.

Luke 12:4 – Luke 12:9 (NASB)

⁴"I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do.

⁵"But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!...⁸"And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will confess him also before the angels of God; ⁹but he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

- Throughout the Scripture, Jesus also refers to this as "eternal fire" and the "furnace of fire" and describes these as being accompanied by outer darkness and the weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matt 25:40 – Matt 25:41 (NASB)

⁴⁰"The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even the least of them*, you did it to Me.'

⁴¹"Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

Matt 13:49 - Matt 13:50 (NASB) ⁴⁹"So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, ⁵⁰and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matt 25:29 - Matt 25:30 (NASB) ³⁰"Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- There is another place "The Abyss" or "Tartarus" that is especially for fallen spirits (not men). These are translated as various words including "hell" and "the bottomless pit".

Luke 8:30 - Luke 8:31 (NASB) ³⁰And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. ³¹They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.

2 Pet 2:4 - 2 Pet 2:9 (NASB) ⁴For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell ["Tartarus"] and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; ...⁹*then* the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

Rom 10:6 - Rom 10:7 (NASB) ⁶But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down), ⁷or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)." [From this it appears that when Christ went to Hades, He went all the way to the Abyss.]

SUMMARY OF TERMS

Hades is the same thing as Sheol. It used to have two parts – one of torment and the other of rest and refreshment. Believers went to the part that was rest and refreshment (also called “the bosom of Abraham”). When Christ died, He went to Hades and led the believers out of Hades and into Paradise (Heaven).

Now Hades is the abode only of dead unbelievers. It is a temporary place of torment until last resurrection and the Great White Throne judgment. Once judged, the unbelievers will be cast into the eternal Lake of Fire (same thing as Hell, Ghe-enna, the furnace of fire, the Second Death, etc.). This Lake of Fire is in outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Since Christ's resurrection, believers who die enter directly into the presence of God and Christ in Paradise (Heaven).

The Abyss is neither Hades nor Hell (the Lake of Fire). Just as Hades is a temporary place of torment for unbelievers, the Abyss is a temporary prison and place of torment for spirits that have sinned. Both will ultimately be judged at the Great White Throne judgment and will be thrown into the Lake of Fire (Hell).

Various translations and Christians use the term “hell” indiscriminately between these various places, causing a great deal of confusion. When you run across one of these terms in Scripture, stop and determine which place is being referenced by looking at its description, its contents and its context.