

# Hell

“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.  
Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”  
*Matthew 10:28*

Half of Jesus' parables have to do with hell.

13% of Jesus' teachings are specifically about hell.

With the exception of money, Jesus talks more about hell than any other topic.

In the OT (Old Testament), **Sheol** is the Hebrew word that means:

The 'grave' -or-

the 'abode of the dead' *Job 10:20-22*

The OT was not real specific on exactly what 'Sheol' was, except that there was a:

'**Bad**' Sheol *Psalms 21:9,10 & 9:17*

'**Good**' Sheol *Hosea 13:14* and *Job 19:25-27*

The OT also recognized that there would be two resurrections:

A 'good' one and a 'bad' one *Daniel 12:2 & Isaiah 66:24*

In the NT (New Testament), there are **three** words that refer to 'Hell'. The most common one is the Greek word '**Hades**'. Hades refers to the disembodied existence of all people; believers and unbelievers.

*Luke 16:19-31* says several things about this:

- 1) an unbridgeable chasm separates the righteous from the unrighteous.
- 2) death has fixed a person's destiny for **eternity**. There is no further opportunity for repentance. *Hebrews 9:27*
- 3) for the righteous, there is pleasure (Lazarus).
- 4) for the unrighteous, there is **torment** – not torture. Torture is inflicted on you by someone else. Torment is self-inflicted.
- 5) there are two parts to Hades:
  - A. The righteous part: Abraham's bosom or side; a nice place
  - B. The unrighteous part: a place of torment. Unbelievers are held there with the wicked angels, called the lower part of Hades (the Greek word 'Tartarus').  
*1st Peter 3:18-20, 2nd Peter 2:4,9* and *Jude 6* and *Luke 10:13-15* (depths = Hades)

*Matthew 16:18* Jesus says the gates of Hades will not prevail against the Church.

*Luke 23:43* Jesus says to the thief that **TODAY** he would be with Him in Paradise.

Paradise is a Persian word that means 'walled park.' So before Jesus' resurrection, Hades was made up of Paradise (the good part) and Tartarus (the bad part).

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When Jesus died, where did He go? To **Hades**. *1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:18-20*

Because Christ conquered death through His resurrection (*Colossians 2:15*), He has conquered Hades also. *Revelation 1:18*

***Hades is the unseen ancient Greek god of the dead.***

***Tartarus (Pontus in Greek) is the sea, the lowest region of existence. A deep, gloomy place of torment & suffering.***

In essence, Jesus went to Hades, announced to the ‘**bad**’ side (Tartarus) that their destiny was now sealed forever and took the ‘**good**’ side of Hades or Sheol (Paradise) up to heaven.

Now, when the righteous die, their spirits go to be with Jesus in heaven. *2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:8*

When He did this, the following happened on Earth:

***Matthew 27:51-53*** these people, along with Jesus, became the ‘first-fruits’.

*1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:20-24* in an agrarian society, the **first-fruits** were the first crops that were ready to be harvested of those that you planted. To the Jews, they were to give the first-fruits to the Temple, so the priests could survive. The first-fruits were an indication that the rest of the harvest would be bountiful. This is where the principle of tithing is illustrated. We are to give God the first-fruits of our **income** so the Church can survive and we can look to the rest of the money for our survival, trusting that God will supply all of our needs. If God is first, before our ‘**money**’, then our **hearts** are in the right place. *Matthew 6:19-21*

These resurrected believers were the first-fruits to convince people that the coming resurrection of the ‘saved’ was a done deal.

What happened to the lower part of Hades? It’s still there. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection, it will be cast into the “**lake of fire**.” *Revelation 20:11-15*

This means that there is an **intermediate** hell called Hades.

This Hades has existed from the fall in *Genesis 3* to the last judgement in *Revelation 20*. (Show graph)

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