

THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF HELL
(Luke 16:19-31; Rev. 20:11-15)

- I. Consider the Four Words Translated “Hell”
- A. *Sheol*—Hebrew, meaning “the world of the DEAD”
1. Located in the LOWER REGIONS of the earth (Num. 16:30-33)
 2. The abode of the WICKED DEAD (Ps. 9:17; Isa. 14:9, 15)
 3. The abode of the RIGHTEOUS DEAD (Isa. 38:10; Hos. 13:14)
 4. The abode of both the WICKED and the RIGHTEOUS dead (Ps 49:14-15; Ezek. 31:15-18)—contains Eden (cf. Rev. 2:7)
- B. *Hades*—Greek equivalent of *sheol*
1. Located in the LOWER REGIONS of the earth
 2. Abode of the WICKED DEAD (Luke 16:23; Rev. 1:18; 6:8; 20:13-14)
 3. Abode of the RIGHTEOUS DEAD (1 Cor. 15:55—KJV)
- C. *Tartaros*—Greek, the abode of certain FALLEN ANGELS (2 Pet. 2:4)
- D. *Gehenna*—Greek, a valley in Jerusalem where GARBAGE was burned in CONSTANT fires, used figuratively for the place of ETERNAL torment
1. Located in OUTER DARKNESS (Matt. 8:12; 22:13; 25:30; 2 Pet. 2:17; Jude 1:13)
 2. Always used in a FUTURE sense (Matt. 5:22, 29; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; James 3:6)
- II. Consider Five Significant Passages
- A. Acts 2:27, 31 (quoting Ps. 16:10)—JESUS’ soul was not LEFT in Hades/Sheol, and His body saw no CORRUPTION
- B. Ezekiel 31:15-18—Implies TWO CHAMBERS
1. One place for TORMENT of the WICKED dead

2. Another for BLESSING the RIGHTEOUS dead in EDEN or PARADISE
(cf. Rev. 2:7)—Rabbinical Talmud called it “ABRAHAM’S BOSOM”
- C. Luke 16:23, 26—Implies TWO CHAMBERS
1. One where the rich man was in TORTURE (Hades)
 2. Another where Lazarus was COMFORTED in Paradise
 3. With a GREAT CHASM fixed between
- D. Luke 23:43—Christ promised the thief on the cross, “TODAY you shall be with Me in PARADISE”
- E. Ephesians 4:8-10—Christ descended into the LOWER parts of the EARTH and “led captive a HOST of captives, and gave GIFTS to men”

III. Conclusions

- A. PRIOR TO Christ’s death and ascension
1. ALL dead souls went to “SHEOL” (Heb.) or “HADES” (Gr.)
 2. Sheol/Hades was comprised of TWO CHAMBERS
- B. On the OCCASION OF Christ’s death and ascension
1. Christ descended into PARADISE
 2. Christ ascended to take the SOULS of the REDEEMED to the FATHER,
since Paradise is now with Him (1 Cor. 2:3; Rev. 2:7; cf. Ezek. 31:15-18)
- C. SINCE Christ’s ascension and prior to the RESURRECTION
1. Souls of the unredeemed go to HADES, in TORTURE awaiting JUDGMENT
 2. Souls of the redeemed go to PARADISE (“HEAVEN”), in bliss with God awaiting the RESURRECTION
- D. On the occasion of the RESURRECTION
1. The redeemed are raised to ETERNAL LIFE in the NEW HEAVEN and NEW EARTH
 2. The unredeemed are raised to ETERNAL DEATH in the LAKE OF FIRE