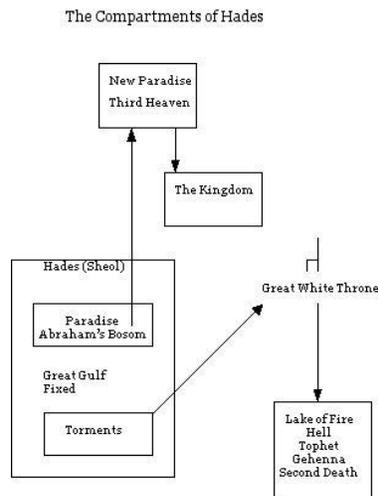


## Doctrine of Sheol

1. **Sheol** is a Jewish term for a place where all the pre resurrection dead once resided.
2. **Sheol** had two compartments, one for the pre resurrection believers and one for all unbelievers. **Sheol** is best thought of as a duplex, where on one side we find the beggar Lazarus being comforted by Abraham, and on the other side we find the rich man in terrible pain and suffering, begging for a return trip to earth to warn his brothers.
3. Let's look at a chart describing the compartments of **Hades** and our Lord's trip to the New Paradise side of **Sheol**, and then I will comment.



4. During the three days in the grave, Christ made two trips. He went to **Sheol**, or **Hades** as it is also called, to transport the souls of the believers from Abraham's bosom to heaven. He also went to **Tartaros** to let the fallen angels who had left their first estate know His victory was complete. For more information about the trip to **Tartaros**, see my *Doctrine of Tartaros*.

5. The Scriptures teach us that Christ went to **Hades** to transport the believers in **Sheol**, in the bosom of Abraham, to the Third Heaven. The Scriptures do not, however, teach us about the order in which each trip took place. It is my view Christ went first to **Tartaros** and then **Hades**. What we do know is Christ did go to **Sheol** and **Tartaros** during His three days in the grave.

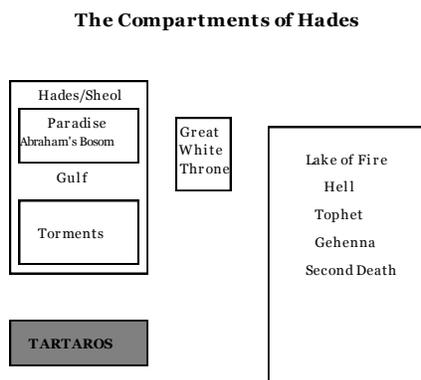
Eph 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Eph 4:9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

Eph 4:10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

6. What we do know, with a great deal of certainty, is that our Lord did go to **Sheol** and **Tartaros** during His three days in the grave.

7. The trip to **Tartaros** was made to tell those imprisoned there that the appeal phase of the angelic conflict was over and Christ was victorious. Let's add **Tartaros** to the chart displayed on page one.



8. **Sheol**, or its New Testament counterpart **Hades**, is mentioned several times in Scripture. **Sheol** appears in the Old Testament more than sixty times, where it is translated “hell, grave” or “pit.” Let’s look at several illustrations to better understand this mysterious place called **Sheol** in the Old Testament and **Hades** in the New Testament.

9. **Sheol** translated “hell”

9.1 God directs His anger at a rebellious Israel.

Deu 32:21 They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities; and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

Deu 32:22 For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest **hell**, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

9.2 God describes his judgment of those nations that reject the protocol of God.

Psa 9:16 The LORD is known by his justice; the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands.

Psa 9:17 The wicked return to **hell**, all the nations that forget God.

Psa 9:18 But the needy will not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the afflicted ever perish.

9.3 David, as a type of Christ, describes the attacks of angry men with the phrase “the sorrows of **Sheol** compassed me about.”

Psa 18:5 The sorrows of **hell** compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.  
Psa 18:6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.  
Psa 18:7 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth.

9.4 Isaiah uses hell to describe the discipline of Babylon for their destruction and capture of Jerusalem.

Isa 14:4 That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!

Isa 14:5 The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers.

Isa 14:6 He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth.

Isa 14:7 The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing.

Isa 14:8 Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us.

Isa 14:9 **Hell** from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.

10. **Sheol** translated “grave”

10.1 David was sure the Lord would not leave his soul in the grave.

Psa 16:9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

Psa 16:10 because you will not abandon me to the **grave**, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.”

10.2 Hannah sings a song of thanksgiving for answering her prayer.

1Sa 2:6 The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the **grave**, and bringeth up.

1Sa 2:7 The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

10.3 Job describes the finality of death.

Job 7:9 As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the **grave** shall come up no more.

10.4 Job laments his condition and looks forward to the end of his time on earth.

Job 14:13 O that thou wouldest hide me in the **grave**, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!

Job 14:14 If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

Job 14:15 Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.

Job 14:16 For now thou numberest my steps: dost thou not watch over my sin?

Job 14:17 My transgression is sealed up in a bag, and thou sewest up mine iniquity.

## 11. **Sheol** translated "pit"

11.1 Korah and his co-conspirators rose up against Moses, and Moses predicted their demise.

Num 16:28 And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind.

Num 16:29 If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me.

Num 16:30 But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the **pit**; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD.

11.2 The ultimate discipline of Korah and his cohorts soon took place.

Num 16:31 And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:

Num 16:32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.

Num 16:33 They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the **pit**, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

11.3 Job speaks to his many friends about his hope for better times.

Job 17:11 My days have passed, my plans are shattered, and so are the desires of my heart.

Job 17:12 These men turn night into day; in the face of darkness they say, 'Light is near.'

Job 17:13 If the only home I hope for is the grave, if I spread out my bed in darkness,

Job 17:14 if I say to corruption, 'You are my father,' and to the worm, 'My mother' or 'My sister,'

Job 17:15 where then is my hope? Who can see any hope for me?

Job 17:16 They shall go down to the gates of the **pit**, when our rest together is in the dust.

12. Now let's see how **Hades** is used in Scripture.

13. **Hades** translated "hell"

13.1 Luke in his gospel describes an event that took place in **hell**.

Luk 16:19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day.

Luk 16:20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores

Luk 16:21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

Luk 16:22 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried.

Luk 16:23 In **hell**, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

13.2 Peter says the body of Jesus would not be left in **Hades**.

Acts 2:31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in **hell**, neither his flesh did see corruption.

Acts 2:32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

13.3 Christ declares that the gates of hell will not prevail against the universal church.

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of **hell** shall not prevail against it.

13.4 Christ declares in Rev 1:18 that He has the keys of hell and death.

Rev 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of **hell** and of death.

14. Hades translated "grave"

14.1 Peter in his first major sermon quoted David's message from Psa 16:10 concerning his short tenure in the **grave**.

Acts 2:26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope,

Acts 2:27 because you will not abandon me to the **grave**, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

14.2 Paul uses **Sheol** in 1Co 15:55 to teach how Christ's victory on the cross destroyed the sting of death and the grave.

1Co 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O **grave**, where is thy victory?

15. The spiritually dead await the second resurrection in **Sheol**. **Sheol** is presented not as a state of existence but as a place of existence. Samuel came “ascending from the earth,” another metaphor for **Sheol**.

1Sa 28:11 Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel.

1Sa 28:12 And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast thou deceived me? for thou art Saul.

1Sa 28:13 And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the **earth**.

1Sa 28:14 And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself.

16. **Sheol** was regarded as a temporary place for the saved; the believers anticipated the resurrection out of it.

Job 14:13 O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!

Job 14:14 If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

Job 19:25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

Job 19:26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

Psa 16:9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

Psa 16:10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Psa 16:11 Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Psa 17:15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

Psa 49:15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me.

Psa 73:24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Psa 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

17. Let me conclude by providing a summary of that which we have learned.

17.1 The dominion of **Sheol** will continue for the unbeliever until the Great White Throne, where he will be evaluated, found wanting and cast into a permanent place of horror.

17.2 The dominion of **Sheol** over the believing dead did indeed terminate with the resurrection of our Lord and His trip to **Sheol**. (Psa 16:10; Acts 2:27; 13:35-37 and Eph 4:8-9).

Psa 16:10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Acts 2:27 because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

Acts 13:35 Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption

Acts 13:36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

Acts 13:37 But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.

Eph 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Eph 4:9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

17.3 We could therefore conclude that the compartment called **Sheol** is a duplex having one side for unbelievers and one for Old Testament believers.

Psa 16:9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

Psa 16:10 because you will not abandon me to the **grave**, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.”

17.4 The duplex nature of **Sheol** is described in Luk 16:19-31 where we find Lazarus being comforted in the bosom of Abraham on one side, whereas the rich man on the other side of the duplex in torment, looking up and begging for water to cool his agony.

Luk 16:19 “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day.

Luk 16:20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores

Luk 16:21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

Luk 16:22 “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried.

Luk 16:23 In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

Luk 16:24 So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

Luk 16:25 “But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.

Luk 16:26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

Luk 16:27 “He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house,

Luk 16:28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

Luk 16:29 “Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

Luk 16:30 “No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

Luk 16:31 “He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'”