

# After Death and Before the Judgment: Hades

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

- A. Death is a certainty - Heb. 9:27
  - 1. Reminded - Obituary section of paper, funeral procession, cemeteries.
  - 2. Health, science and clean living can only postpone it temporarily.
- B. Comes to righteous as well as to wicked - Luke 16 - rich man and Lazarus.
  - 1. Great equalizer
  - 2. Sting of death for the wicked - 1Cor. 15:55-56
- C. Everyone accepts the inevitability of death; most don't know what comes after.
  - 1. Wishful thinking causes many to hope for oblivion.
  - 2. The lost will wish for that throughout eternity.
  - 3. Greeks - Netherworld; Taoists - 113 hells; Catholics' Purgatory; Jehovah's Witnesses - Oblivion; some brethren - no Hades / Judgment

## I. DEFINITIONS - (Chart #1)

- A. HADES - ades - "not seen; region of departed spirits; aidws - "all-receiving."
  - 1. Waiting place of the dead, both righteous and sinner alike.
  - 2. An intermediate between dying and judgment.
  - 3. Used 10 times in the New Testament.
    - a. Matt. 11:23; Luke 10:15 - Speaks of the deserved destination of Capernaum.
    - b. Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:27; Rev. 1:8 - speaks of Christ's power over it
    - c. Luke 16:19-31 - describes it.
    - d. Rev. 6:8, 20:13 - points out that it is only temporary - Jude 6
- B. SHEOL - Hebrew term for Hades - sa'al - "the deep"; s'l - "the inquired after"
  - 1. Used 28 times to mean the Hadean realm; the grave as a state, not the hole in the ground.
  - 2. Used in the OT to mean Hell, 28 times; context will determine which
- C. PARADISE - a realm of Hades for the righteous dead; paradeisos - "a park or garden of pleasure. Literally "near God."
  - 1. Originally used to mean the Garden of Eden - Gen. 2:8
  - 2. Means Abraham's bosom - Luke 16
  - 3. Possibly third heaven - 2Cor. 12:1-4
- D. SAHAT, BOR - sahat, bor - Hebrew for the Pit - Used 11 times.
  - 1. Means the realm of the unrighteous dead awaiting judgment.
- E. TARTARUS - A realm of Hades designed as waiting place of wicked angels.
  - 1. Tartarus - "pits of darkness"
  - 2. Jude 6 - a part of Hades; 2Peter 2:4
- F. GEHENNA - geenna - "valley of Einnom" - During the time of wicked kings of Judah, children were regularly sacrificed by fire in this valley near Jerusalem.
  - 1. Came to mean a place of unquenchable fire; used 12 times in NT.
- G. ABADDON - abaddon - "destruction" - a Hebrew term for hell - Job 26:6.

## II. SEEING THE "UNSEEN"

- A. The Bible teaches much concerning the unseen realm.

- B. Best description is in Luke 16:19-2
1. There's consciousness; sensed pain; could think; retained identity - v28
  2. Non-corporeal state - the soul is in anguish, not a body; 1Cor. 15 - incorruptible form not received until after second coming.
  3. The justice of God is served - righteous are blessed - Vs. 25
  4. Death the only entrance requirements - Vs 22.
  5. Vs 24, 27-28 - desperate torment.
  6. Within view of Paradise an added torment - Vs 23.
  7. Impossibly separated from the blessed realm
  8. Can determine which realm one will dwell in - 2Cor. 5:10 - (Chart #2)
  9. Instruction can be received, but it brings no comfort -25-26, 29, 31; nor can aught be done about it.
  10. One can remember his own past existence.
  11. Understand that this deals with Hades from the standpoint of the unrighteous, not from Paradise.
    - a. Consider what is implied about Abraham's bosom (Paradise)
  12. Everything said here must be accepted as inspired truth.
    - a. Some pass this off as a fable Jesus was relating
- C. Matt. 16:18 - Hadean realm will lose should it confront the church.
1. Cannot hold the righteous when Christ calls them - John 5:28-29
    - a. Christ will penetrate the walls and reclaim the righteous.
  2. Rev. 1:18 - Christ's power over death.
  3. Rev. 20:13-14 - only temporary; will end with the judgment.
  4. Christ once spent time in the Hadean realm - Acts 2:27-31.
    - a. Bruised heel - Gen. 3:15.
    - b. Tasted everything men taste in order to be a perfect Captain of salvation - Heb. 2:9-10, 14-17
  5. Little is known of the Paradise realm of Hades.
    - a. Rev. 2:7 - Reward for the righteous dead. Tree of life is there.
    - b. 2Cor. 12:4 - not possible for a mortal man to describe or understand - Vs 2-4.
    - c. Luke 16:25 - a place of comfort. In company with all righteous
    - d. Luke 23:42 - Christ has authority to determine who goes there.
- Matt. 28:18

D. (Chart #3)

Conclusion:

- A. Direction determines destination. Judgment Day is only sentencing day.
1. In life, one can change from good to evil and from evil to good; death ends that possibility.
  2. I believe the greatest comfort of Paradise is in knowing that after the Judgment, we will be with God forever.
  3. The greatest torment of the pit is in knowing that it is only a prelude to an eternity in Hell. In which direction are you heading?

## Questions on After Death and Before the Judgment

## **I. WHAT SHOULD BE A CHRISTIAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD DEATH?**

- A. Precious in the sight of God - Psalm 116:15
  - 1. Viewed from God's perspective, death simply means that His children are coming home to stay
- B. Removed from evil and at peace - Isa. 57:1-2
- C. A saved being carried away by angels to bliss - Luke 16:22
- D. Leaving earth for Paradise - Luke 23:43
- E. A departure or exodus - 2TiM. 4:6; 2Peter 1:15
- F. Gaining something far better than living in this realm - Phil. 1:21, 23
- G. To be with Christ, at home with the Lord - 2Cor. 5:6-8
- H. Asleep in Jesus, yet living with Him - 1Thes. 4:13-14, 5:9-11
- I. Blessed rest from their labors - Rev. 14:12-13

## **II. ARE SOULS CONSCIOUS IN HADES?**

- A. The Scriptures often represent death as a sleep
  - 1. Matt. 27:52; John 11:11-14; Acts 7:60; 1Cor. 15:6, 18
- B. Other passages seem to say that the dead have no consciousness
  - 1. Psalm 30:9, 115:17; Ecc 9:5, 10; Isa. 38:18-19
- C. Answering passages where death is called sleep
  - 1. Nowhere do the Scriptures say that the soul of the departed fell asleep
    - a. It was the person who "fell asleep"
    - b. It speaks of the body, not the soul
  - 2. The term sleep is often a figurative reference for rest - Rev. 14:13
    - a. Sleep implies a ceasing of participation
    - b. Sleep is a prelude to an awakening
    - c. Sleep became a euphemism for death because of the sleep-like appearance of the body
- D. Answering passages which suggest the dead have no consciousness
  - 1. Notice first that these passages are in the Old Testament, when revelation of God's truth was not yet complete. The concept of life after death was not as developed and revealed as in the New Testament
  - 2. In some cases, the statements are made from an earthly perspective
    - This is especially true where the theme is "Life Under The Sun"
    - a. When one looks at things purely from an earthly perspective, it does not appear the dead know anything
- E. Passages that clearly teach consciousness of souls after death
  - 1. Luke 16:22-26, 23:43 - How can Paradise be a state of unconsciousness?
  - 2. Rev. 6:9-11 - Can souls cry out if they are not conscious?
  - 3. Rev. 7:9-17 - Can souls praise God if they are not conscious?
  - 4. Rev. 20:4-6 - Can souls reign with Christ if they are unconscious?

## **III. WILL SOULS RECOGNIZE ONE ANOTHER IN HADES?**

- A. Isa. 14:3-4, 9-11, 16; Ez. 32:17-32; Luke 16:19-31; 1Thes. 2:19-20; 2Cor. 4:14
- B. Matt. 8:11-12; 1Sam. 28:3-19; Matt. 17:1-5