

HADES THE INTERMEDIATE STATE

Hades: The Intermediate State

What happens to our spirits at death? Do they go to Heaven, Hell, Purgatory, or is there yet another explanation? <u>The Scriptures teach that there is an ''intermediate</u> <u>state'' of souls between our physical death and the resurrection</u>. Luke 16:19-31 and others passages, will help to shed some light on this matter. So, open your Bibles and study with me about the Scriptural concept of ''Hades'' – <u>"the intermediate state</u>"

DEATH DEFINED

- The word "death" basically means a "separation ... it never denotes nonexistence" (Vine)
- (Ex): separation from <u>God</u> (Ep.2:1; Is.59:2); from <u>sin</u> (Rm.6:2); from OT <u>law</u> (Rm.7:4,6)
- Similarly, *physical death* is the separation of "body" and the "soul" or "spirit" (Jm.2:26)
- At death, the <u>body</u> goes to corruption in the grave; and the <u>soul</u> to "Hades" (Ac.2:26-27)

HADES DEFINED

- It is <u>NOT</u> Hell ("Gehenna" cf. Mk.9:43-f); but equal to OT "Sheol" (Ac.2:27; Ps.16:10)
- Some scholars say that it means "all receiving," but most say it means "unseen"
- I believe that it refers to an "unseen" <u>CONDITION</u> rather than an "unseen" <u>PLACE</u>!
- The body is "unseen" in the grave & the soul (immaterial part) is also "unseen"

HADES DESCRIBED

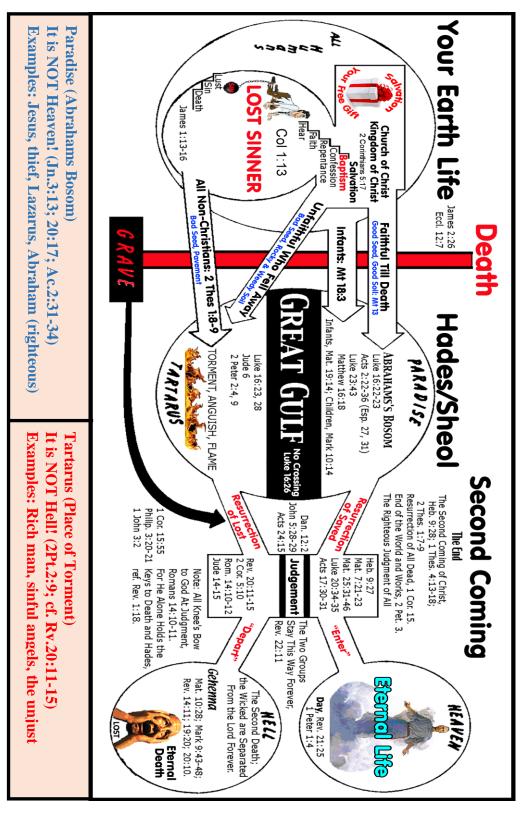
- The righteous are in a PLACE which is "with the Lord" (Ec.12:7; 2Cor.5:8; Ph.1:23)
- Hence, their CONDITION in Hades is "<u>comforted</u>" (Ac.2:27; cp. Lk.23:43; Lk.16:22-25)
- They are separated from the wicked by "a great gulf (chasm)," which is "fixed" (Lk.16:26)
- For the wicked, Hades is a "tormented" CONDITION; the PLACE is "in this flame" (Lk.16:22-24)

HADES DESTROYED

HOLY BID

- At the end, both Death and Hades will give up their dead (cf. Rv.20:11-15)
- Then, Hades will be "destroyed," for this "unseen realm" is no longer needed!
- Why? When resurrected, our bodies and souls are *reunited*! (cf. Ps.16:10)
- Then, the dead will be sent to their **<u>ETERNAL</u>** destinies (Mt.10:28; 25:46)

Bottom line: "Hades" is the "<u>unseen condition</u>" of departed spirits – the <u>intermediate state</u> of the dead, who are "reserved" for final judgment (2Pt.2:9). It can <u>roughly</u> be compared to "waiting" (condition) in a waiting room (place) to see your doctor, who gives his "final judgment" of your condition, followed by appropriate treatment. But most the important thing is to be ready for this final judgment! Are you ready?





join us for worship

Times of Service

Sunday Worship: 10 am Sunday Bible Study: 5 pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7 pm

Our Eldership

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