

# Northridge Baptist Church

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## Doctrine of Hell

“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 2:31**

The word Hell makes you think of fire and torment, but if you do a word study of the Hebrew word “Sheol” it means, the world or realm of the dead. There are three words in the Old Testament that use this Hebrew word. They are Grave, Pit and Hell. By these words we find the verses in the Old Testament where it teaches that when the Old Testament saints died they did not go up to the third Heaven actually they went to the center of the earth.

This world of the dead is divided into two parts; paradise and the pit. The word Paradise means a park or a type of garden. This word is Persian in origin meaning the same as Webster’s dictionary. Paradise in Hebrew is Pardes, which is used in **Ecclesiastes 2:5** and **Solomon 4:13**. As an orchard. And Pardes in the Greek is our word Paradise. The other is well known, what is commonly referred to as Hell, but the Bible calls it the Pit. This knowledge was common to Jews in the Old Testament, who believed that the realm of the dead was in the center of the earth (Hell). Jacob when hearing of the death of Joseph said in **Genesis 37:35** “I will go down into the grave (Sheol-world of the dead) unto my son Joseph mourning.” Here we see Jacob knew about the world of the dead and said he would see Joseph there someday.

David also believed this because he says in **Psalms 16:10**. “For thou wilt not leave my (David) soul in hell (Sheol- world of the dead); neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One (Jesus) to see corruption (Pit). Here David is talking about Jesus and himself being in Paradise. All the Old Testament saints believed that when they died they would go to the world of the dead. Everyone from Moses, Hanna, Solomon, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Amos and many more. If you do a word study on Sheol you will believe what I am saying.

These verses are; **Genesis 42:38, 44:29, 31; Numbers 16:30; Deuteronomy 32:32; Job 11:8, 7:9, 14:13, 17:13,16, 21:13, 24:19, 26:6. Psalms 6:5, 9:17, 16:10, 18:5, 30:3, 31:17, 49:14, 55:15, 71:20, 86:13, 89:48, 116:3, 139:8, 141:7; Proverbs 1:12, 5:5, 7:27, 9:18, 15:11, 24, 23:14, 27:30, 30:16; Isaiah 5:14, 14:9,11, 28:15,18, 38:10,18, 57:9; Ezekiel 31:15-17, 32:21, 27; Song of Solomon 8:6.** To this very day Orthodox Jews believe that when they die the eternal destination of the righteous is Gan Eden (Garden of Eden).

These are some of the verses that talk about paradise. In **Luke 16** Jesus gives us a look into the realm of the dead. Here the rich man is in the Pit and he cries to Abraham to give him a drop of water. Abraham would not, because of the great gulf between them, which is between Paradise and the Pit. This makes up what we call Hell. The rich man tries to get Abraham to send Lazarus to come back from the dead and warn his brothers but he would not. Here we see a glimpse into Hell (world of the dead). Lazarus is in the bosom (an enclosed area in the earth, according to the Webster’s 1828 Dictionary), which is Paradise and the rich man is burning in the pit with a great gulf between them. This has remained the same for the first four thousand years. We know that before Christ no one had gone up to Heaven, because Jesus said so in **John 3:13**, “No man has ascended up to Heaven.” So no Old Testament saint could have gone to Heaven. An Jesus believed in Paradise, because he said to the thief on the cross, “Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise.” In **Luke 23:43**, so Jesus was in the Paradise part of Hell. Peter said in **Acts 2:27, 31**, “that his (Jesus) soul was not left in Hell.” As we already know that David prophesied that he and Christ would be in Hell in **Psalms 16:10**. The word Hell means “Hades” in the Greek which mean “the world of the dead.” The exact same word “Sheol” in Hebrew.

Therefore Jesus did not go to the Pit, but went to Paradise part of Hell. Peter confirms this when he says in **1 Peter 3:19**, “By which also he (Jesus) went and preached unto the spirits in prison.” Jesus even said that when He died He would go to Paradise. In **Matthew 12:40** it says, “so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” One last verse in **John 5:28** says, “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves (realm/world of the dead) shall hear His voice. Jesus went to Paradise part of Hell and do not miss that Hell is in the center of the earth. A great picture was in **Numbers 16**, where Korah was rebelling against Moses. God did an amazing thing in this story, when He opened the earth and swallowed up the rebels. It was not just that they fell into the earth, but that they fell into Hell. It says in **verse 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 (alive) into the pit (Sheol- world of the dead).” We do not know if he went to Paradise of the Pit, but what we know is that he went to the world of the dead. There are many verses talking about Hell being in the center of the earth. Also Solomon believed Hell was in the center of the earth, because he wrote in **Proverbs 15:24** “The way of life is above to the wise that he may depart from Hell (Sheol- world of the dead) beneath.” Here we see that Hell is beneath us in the earth. And in Amos wrote that Hell is in the earth when he wrote in **9:2** it says, “Thought they dig in Hell (Sheol-world of the dead), thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to Heaven, thence will I bring them down.” And Isaiah wrote about Hell also in **chapter 14:9** he writes “Hell (Sheol- world of the dead) from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming.” It is common sense that when Isaiah talks about Hell beneath you, he is talking about Hell being in the center of the earth. There are other verses that teach that Hell is in the center of the earth. These verses are **Ezekiel 31:14, 15; Job 11:8; Psalms 63:9, 86:13**. But when Jesus died He went to Paradise and spoke to the spirits in prison (O.T. Saints) in the earth. We believe that after Christ resurrection the Old Testament saints came out of the grave and were resurrected up to be in Heaven. It says in **Matthew 27:52-53**, “And all the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose and came out of the graves after His resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many.” We believe that after the Old Testament saints were resurrected and lead by Christ into Heaven.

It says in **Ephesians 3:8**, “Wherefore he saith, When He ascended up on high, He led the captivity captive (Old Testament saints in Paradise) and gave gifts (spiritual) unto men.” So now when we die we go to Heaven and we call the New Jerusalem Heaven because in **Ephesians 1:3** says, “who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Heavenly places in Christ.” That word “Heavenly” means in the Greek is celestial, which means dwelling in Heaven. That is why Paul wrote in **II Corinthians 5:8**, “to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”