August 1, 2022

Greeting to all . . .

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirit. Summer is almost at its peak but I think it started early this year. California is having a heat wave mean time at least 26 people have died in the devastating rainfall that deluged eastern Kentucky with more rain expected. Keep the people of Kentucky in your prayers.

Now, about the topic this month. As I was going through my library, I notice I had additional notes on a topic I had send out earlier. Some of you recall, I did a **Bible Scripture Letter (BSL)** two years ago to the day, on a topic called “**What do you know about Hell”?** I found these notes were of additional value to the reader because of the scripture verses location found in the bible, that I decided to follow up on this subject for August **BSL** topic called **Hades, Sheol & Gehenna**. You will note that on this **BSL**, I include the source website for your information in case you would like to do a follow-up. I would like to add, when I do my research, I look for articles that backups the writers’ statements with bible scripture. I just don’t want an opinion, I’m looking for scripture and I hope you do the same. One last thing, on the **BSL** “**What do you know about Hell”,** I included achart that you might want to use as reference when you read this month **BSL**.

So, let’s get started on today’s topic “**Hades, Sheol & Gehenna”.**

Your Brother in Christ, Tony Gonzalez

**1 Peter 3:15**

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

**Hades, Sheol & Gehenna**

Christiananswers.net/dictionary/hell.html

The word “**hell**” is derived from the Saxon helan, to cover; hence the covered or the invisible place. In [Scripture](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/scripture.html) there are three words translated as “**hell**”:

1. [**Sheol**](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/sheol.html), occurring in the Old Testament sixty-five times. This word “**sheol**” is derived from a root-word meaning “to ask,” “demand;” hence insatiableness ([Prov. 30:15,16](http://christiananswers.net/bible/prov30.html#15)). It is translated “grave” thirty-one times ([Gen. 37:35](http://christiananswers.net/bible/gen37.html#35); [42:38](http://christiananswers.net/bible/gen42.html#38); [44:29,31](http://christiananswers.net/bible/gen44.html#29); [1 Sam. 2:6](http://christiananswers.net/bible/1sam2.html#6), etc.). The Revisers have retained this rendering in the historical books with the original word in the margin, while in the poetical books they have reversed this rule.

In thirty-one cases in the Authorized Version [King James Version] this word is translated “**hell**,” the place of disembodied spirits. The inhabitants of [**sheol**](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/sheol.html) are “the congregation of the [dead](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/death.html)” ([Prov. 21:16](http://christiananswers.net/bible/prov21.html#16)). It is…

* 1. the abode of the wicked ([Num. 16:33](http://christiananswers.net/bible/num16.html#33); [Job 24:19](http://christiananswers.net/bible/job24.html#19); [Ps. 9:17](http://christiananswers.net/bible/psa9.html#17); [31:17](http://christiananswers.net/bible/psa31.html#17), etc.)
  2. of the [good](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/goodness.html) ([Ps. 16:10](http://christiananswers.net/bible/psa16.html#10); [30:3](http://christiananswers.net/bible/psa30.html#3); [49:15](http://christiananswers.net/bible/psa49.html#15); [86:13](http://christiananswers.net/bible/psa86.html#13), etc.).

[**Sheol**](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/sheol.html) is described as deep ([Job 11:8](http://christiananswers.net/bible/job11.html#8)), [dark](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/darkness.html) ([10:21,22](http://christiananswers.net/bible/job10.html#21)), with [bars](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/bar.html) ([17:16](http://christiananswers.net/bible/job17.html#16)). The [dead](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/death.html) “go down” to it ([Num. 16:30, 33](http://christiananswers.net/bible/num16.html#30); [Ezek. 31:15,16,17](http://christiananswers.net/bible/ezek31.html#15)).

1. The [Greek](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/greek.html) word [**Hades**](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/hades.html) of the [New Testament](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/newtestament.html) has the same scope of signification as [**sheol**](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/sheol.html) of the Old Testament. It is a [prison](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/prison.html) ([1 Pet. 3:19](http://christiananswers.net/bible/1pet3.html#19)), with gates and bars and locks ([Matt. 16:18](http://christiananswers.net/bible/mat16.html#18); [Rev. 1:18](http://christiananswers.net/bible/rev1.html#18)), and it is downward ([Matt. 11:23](http://christiananswers.net/bible/mat11.html#23); [Luke 10:15](http://christiananswers.net/bible/luke10.html#15)).

The [righteous](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/righteousness.html) and the wicked are separated. The [blessed](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/bless.html) dead are in that part of [**hades**](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/hades.html) called [**paradise**](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/paradise.html) ([Luke 23:43](http://christiananswers.net/bible/luke23.html#43)). They are also said to be in [Abraham’s bosom](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/abrahamsbosom.html) ([Luke 16:22](http://christiananswers.net/bible/luke16.html#22)).

1. [**Gehenna**](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/gehenna.html), in most of its occurrences in the [Greek](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/greek.html) [New Testament](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/newtestament.html), designates the place of the lost ([Matt. 23:33](http://christiananswers.net/bible/mat23.html#3)). The fearful nature of their condition there is described in various figurative expressions ([Matt. 8:12](http://christiananswers.net/bible/mat8.html#12); [13:42](http://christiananswers.net/bible/mat13.html#42); [22:13](http://christiananswers.net/bible/mat22.html#13); [25:30](http://christiananswers.net/bible/mat25.html#30); [Luke 16:24](http://christiananswers.net/bible/luke16.html#24), etc.).

***Hades***

http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/hades.html

**Hades** is a Greek word: that which is out of sight, the state or place of the dead. Equivalent to the Hebrew: [**sheol**](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/sheol.html). The word **hades** is mentioned in…

* [Mat 16:18](http://christiananswers.net/bible/mat16.html#18) (gates of **Hades** shall not prevail)
* Luke 10:15 (brought down to **Hades**)
* Luke 16:23 (in torments in **Hades**)
* Acts 2:27 (not leave my soul in **Hades**)
* [Acts 2:31](http://christiananswers.net/bible/acts2.html#31) (His soul was not left in **Hades**)
* [1 Cor 15:55](http://christiananswers.net/bible/1cor15.html#55) (O **Hades**, where is your victory?)
* [Rev 1:18](http://christiananswers.net/bible/rev1.html#18) (keys of **Hades**)
* [Rev 6:8](http://christiananswers.net/bible/rev6.html#8) (**Hades** followed with him)
* [Rev 20:13](http://christiananswers.net/bible/rev20.html#13) (**Hades** delivered up the dead)
* [Rev 20:14](http://christiananswers.net/bible/rev20.html#14) ([Death](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/death.html) and [**Hades**](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/hell.html) were cast into the [lake of fire](http://christiananswers.net/q-grace/hell-fire.html). This is the second [death](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/death.html).)
* [Mat 11:23](http://christiananswers.net/bible/mat11.html#23) (brought down to **Hades**) “Our [Lord](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/lord.html) speaks of [Capernaum](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/capernaum.html) as being ‘brought down to [hell](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/hell.html)’ (hades), i.e., simply to the lowest debasement, ([Matt. 11:23](http://christiananswers.net/bible/mat11.html#23))” (Matthew G. Easton).

“This is not the ultimate [**hell**](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/hell.html) (Greek: **gehenna**) referred to in [Matthew 10:28](http://christiananswers.net/bible/mat10.html#28), the same as the “[lake of fire](http://christiananswers.net/q-grace/hell-fire.html)” ([Revelation 20:15](http://christiananswers.net/bible/rev20.html#15)). **Hades** is another compartment in the pit… where the spirits of the [unsaved](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/salvation.html) dead are confined until the [day of judgment](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/judgmentthefinal.html). They were not set free when Christ freed the spirits of the [faithful](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/faith.html), but are still there” (Dr. Henry M. Morris, The Defenders Study Bible).

All the dead alike went into **Hades** ([**sheol**](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/sheol.html)) “In [Acts 2:27-31](http://christiananswers.net/bible/acts2.html#27) [Peter](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/peter.html) quotes the LXX. version of [Ps. 16:8-11](http://christiananswers.net/bible/psa16.html#8), plainly for the purpose of proving our Lord's [resurrection](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/resurrectionofchrist.html) from the dead. [David](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/david.html) was left in the place of the dead, and his body saw corruption. Not so with [Christ](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/christ.html). According to ancient [prophecy](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/prophecy.html) ([Ps. 30:3](http://christiananswers.net/bible/psa30.html#3)) he was recalled to life” (Matthew G. Easton).

In Christ's parable in [Luke 16:23](http://christiananswers.net/bible/luke16.html#23), he said “And being in torments in **Hades**, he [the rich man] lifted up his eyes and saw [Abraham](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/abraham.html) afar off, and [Lazarus](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/lazarus.html) in his bosom” (NKJV).

“Although the two compartments [of **Hades**] were impassable and separate from each other, they were within the range of mutual sight and sound. This also reveals that disembodied spirits are somehow still recognizable and capable of inter-communication, even though such phenomena are presently beyond our limited understanding” (Dr. Henry M. Morris, The Defenders Study Bible).

“The keys of **hell**” (**hades**) ([Rev. 1:18](http://christiananswers.net/bible/rev1.html#18))

“Philosophers and occult religionists are always searching for the keys to life and death, but only Christ has them. ‘**Hell**’ [in the King James Version of [Rev. 1:18](http://christiananswers.net/bible/rev1.html#18)] is actually ‘**Hades**,’ the abode of departed souls… . When [Christ](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/christ.html) died, His [spirit](http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/spirit.html) descended into **Hades**, proclaiming victory to the evil spirits incarcerated there, then returned with the souls of those who had died in faith… The unsaved dead will be delivered up from **Hades** for judgment at the great white throne ([Revelation 20:13](http://christiananswers.net/bible/rev20.html#13))” (Dr. Henry M. Morris, The Defenders Study Bible).

***What is the difference between Hades and Hell?***

[www.minuteswith](http://www.minuteswith)messiah.com/question/hades.html

The word "**hades**" does not appear in the King James Version of the Bible. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word most commonly translated "**hell**" is ***sheol***, the grave. Thus, many people say that the Old Testament had no conception of an afterlife. In the New Testament, there are two Greek words that the King James Version often translated as "**hell**"—***hades*** and ***gehenna***. **Hades** is used eleven times, and **gehenna** twelve times.

The term "**hades**" comes from Greek mythology. It was the world of the dead and **Hades** was the God of the underworld (Pluto was the Roman equivalent). Most of the times the word is used in the New Testament it can be translated as "the grave." (Matt 11:23; Lk 10:15; Acts 2:27, 31 where it is a translation of an Old Testament passage using "**sheol**") In 1 Cor 15:55 the KJV actually translates it as "grave": "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" If this is the common meaning, then that may give a different slant on Matt 16:18, "upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of **hell** shall not prevail against it." That would make it read, "the gates of the grave will not prevail." Carrying through with that idea are the four times in Revelation where the word is used (1:18, 6:8, 20:13, 14), where it is always used with the word "death." **Hades** is cast, with death, into the lake of fire (Rev 20:14), so is not equivalent to the final punishment. There is one other instance of the word that I will cover later.

The term "**hell**" in the New Testament is generally from the word "**gehenna**", which is a variation on the Valley of the Sons of Hinnom. This was a valley outside the walls of Jerusalem where, in the years shortly before the Babylonian captivity, some people burned their children to "Molech", the King of the Gods. It later became a city dump, and fires were constantly breaking out there. In the New Testament, it is often associated with fire. (Matt 5:22; Matt 18:9; Mk 9: 43, 45, 47; Jas 3:6) It is spoken of as a place of destruction of the body and soul (Matt 5: 29, 30; Matt 10:28; Matt 18:9; Matt 23:15, 33; Mk 9:43, 45, 47; Lk 12:5). Although the word is not specifically used in Revelation, it may be that it could be equated with the lake that burns with fire.

The other instance of the word "**hades**" is Luke 16:23, in the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Here it is a place of torment, and the only time it is mentioned in connection with fire. It is contrasted with "Abraham's bosom," where Lazarus was taken. It is clearly distinct from the pleasant place of the dead. It is pictured as a place of the dead while there are still others on Earth—therefore before the final judgement. Because of this and the passage in Rev 20:14 it has been theorized (only a theory, mind you) that when a man dies he goes either to **hades** (in anticipation of eternal punishment) or to "Abraham's bosom" (the equivalent of the Muslim idea of Paradise). *Then when Christ comes again for the final judgement those who are in "Abraham's bosom" will be judged and taken to heaven, while those in* ***hades*** *will be sentenced to eternal punishment in the lake of fire, which they then call* ***hell****.* It's a good theory and I accept it, but I would hesitate to be dogmatic about it.

*At this point, I disagree with this theory on the above statement. When Christ descended into* ***Hades****, those souls that were with Abraham (Paradise) were taken up to heaven. Paradise is now in heaven and there’s where our spirit go when we die. “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” 2 Cor 5:8. There is no Paradise in* ***Hades*** *anymore. All that’s lefts in* ***Hades*** *are those who are waiting for judgment at the end of the Millennium known as “The White Throne Judgement”.*

So, the essential difference between **hades** and **hell** is that **hades** are generally associated with death and the grave while **hell** is generally associated with burning and punishment. For all practical purposes in our lives here on Earth there is possibly no real major distinction between the two. They are both characterized as places we don't want to go.