August 10, 2020

Greeting to all . . .

 I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirit. I would first like to apologize for not getting the letter to you sooner. I was having work done to my house BUT when the work was completed this past Thursday, the next day I was wakened up by a Big Bang. My 40 plus year old tree in the back yard fell and hit the side of my house. What I can see at the moment, most of the damage seems to be on the tile roofing.

 I thank my Lord it did not happen earlier in the week when I was working for three days in the general area where the tree fell. Now I’m just waiting for the insurance adjuster to give the ok to the tree company to start removing the tree.

Well, let’s talk about this month topic. The topic will be “**What do you know about Hell” -** Bible Scripture Letter #4. I must admit, it took me many hours to put this letter together. The last three letters sent out were easy because they were topics follow by chapters and verses. This month topic “**What do you know about Hell**”, I could not just have given you chapters and verses, it need explaining or else I couldn’t get my point across to you. I did follow my writing with scripture to back it up so you know this was not just my opinion. As stated in the first letter dated May 5th, . “*I am not* *implying these are the only verses found in the bible, there could be more and if you find some, please let me know so it can be added to the topic”*. I would like to add something else to this. If you have different opinion to this topic, please, I would like to know about it. I only know what the Lord gives me in understanding his word.

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,

**What do you know about Hell**

**Bible Scripture Letter #4**

*(Verses are taken from English Standard Version - ESV)*

Do you have any idea how many names the Bible has for the name “Hell” or how it’s used? In the Old and New Testament, there are various words translated as “Hell”. They are

 1) **Sheol**, a Greek word which means **“the Grave”**, or the **“Pit”,** 2) **Hades** from the Greek word “Hadees”, 3) **Gehenna** is derived from Hebrew “ge hinnom” or the "valley of Hinnom” and 4) **Tartarus**, a Greek word for hell. Other words that are found in the New Testament are **“Paradise”**, “**Abraham’s bosom”,** and **“Heaven”**. In the paragraphs that follows, I will explain with scripture and its usage.

First of all, let’s look at some scriptures to tell us where “hell” is located. From the Old Testament, we find verses from **Genesis, Ezekiel** and **Isaiah** to name a few.

**Genesis 37:35 –** (Jacob mourning for his son, Joseph)

* All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, “No, I shall *go down* to **Sheol** to my son, mourning.” Thus, his father wept for him.

**Ezekiel 26 : 20**

* then I will make you *go down* with those who *go down* to the **pit**, to the people of old, and I will make you to *dwell in the world below*, among ruins from of old, with those who *go down to the* ***pit*,** so that you will not be inhabited; but I will set beauty in the land of the living.

**Ezekiel 31 : 16**

* I made the nations quake at the sound of its fall, when I *cast it down to* ***Sheol*** with those who go *down to the* ***pit*.**And all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, were comforted in the world below.

**Isaiah 14:15**

* But you are *brought down to* **Sheol**, to the far reaches of the **pit**.

Take note, scripture says, *go down* to **Sheol**, *go down* to the **pit**, *dwell in the world below*,

*down to the* ***pit*,** *cast it down to* ***Sheol****, who* go *down to the* ***pit***, and *brought down to* **Sheol**.So, by these verses in the Old Testament we can conclude hell as we know it, is below the earth.

Now let’s look at other verses found in the Old Testament in regards to **Sheol**.

**Job 14:13**

* Oh that *you would hide me in***Sheol,** that you would conceal me until your wrath be past, that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me!

**Psalm 49:15**

* But God will ransom my soul from the power of **Sheol**,
    for *he will receive me*.

**Psalm 139:8**

* If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
    If I make my bed in **Sheol,** *you are there!*

**Job** knew something that the Spirit of God had reviled to him. Why would **Job** want to be hidden in **Sheol**? What did the psalmist know about **Sheol** when he said “for he will receive me”? I’ll explain when we get to the New Testament.

Let’s look at how **Hell / Sheol** is separated to understand bible verses. We will be using both the Old and New Testament. Sometimes a diagram describes one’s point better than words.

**Hell / Sheol**

 **Hades Paradise**

 **Gehenna Abraham’s bosom**

**Tartarus Heaven**

 **White Throne Judgement**

 **Lake of Fire New Heaven and a New Earth**

I want to emphasize **Hell / Sheol** are two parts separated by a chasm/Gulf.

**Luke 16 : 26** - (Lazarus in Abraham’s bosom)

* And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.

In **Luke 16 : 26**, Jesus in His own words were describing **Hades,** **Gehenna, and** **Tartarus**. It is not a parable because Jesus was identifying the people in question. Taken literally it suggests that the world of the dead is / was divided into two parts, or a better described as “regions” that was separated by a great chasm. One region was for the unbeliever, the unsaved, and the wicked - and the other region was for the saved and righteous.

I will show you a few scriptures in the Old / New Testament describing who will be in **Hell / Sheol**. Let’s start with **Hades,** **Gehenna,** **Tartarus**. *Who is it for? . .* ALL Unbelievers / Unsaved

**Proverbs 24:20**

* for the evil man has no future; the lamp of the *wicked will be put out*.

**Proverbs 13 : 20**

* Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools *will suffer harm*.

**Jeremiah 6 : 16**

* Thus, says the Lord: “Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.
But they said, *“We will not walk in it”.*

**1 Corinthians 6 : 9-10**

* **9** Or do you not know that the *unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?* Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,
* **10** nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers *will inherit the kingdom of God.*

**2 Corinthians 4 : 4**

* In their case the god of this world has *blinded the minds of the unbelievers*, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**Romans 6:23**

* For the *wages of sin is death*, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**John 3:3**

* Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, *unless one is born again[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+3%3A3&version=ESV#fen-ESV-26113a)*] he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*

**Revelation 20 : 13 - 15**

* 13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, *Death and Hades gave up the dead* who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.
* 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the *lake of fire*.
* 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the *lake of fire*.

The Bible has more scripture on this topic, but I think you know by these verses who will not inherit the “Kingdom of God”. So, what happens to these souls that did not / will not except Jesus as their Lord and Savior? These souls are / will go into the region of **Hell / Sheol** called **Hades / Gehenna /** **Tartarus,** where they be in torment.

**Luke 16 : 22 – 24 (Abraham’s bosom)**

* **22** The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried,
* **23** and in Hades, *being in torment*, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.
* **24** And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in *anguish in this flame*.’

In the future, after the millennium, the souls in the region of **Hades / Gehenna /** **Tartarus** will stand before the **Great White Throne Judgement** and iftheir names were not found in the “Book of Life” they were thrown into the **Lake of Fire (Rev. 20 : 15)**. Every soul from the beginning of timewill face judgement. Next let me say, **Hell / Sheol** is a temporary place. What!! Has Tony gone nuts? Read **Revelation 20 : 13 – 15** once more. Verse **14** says: “Then Death and Hades *were thrown* into the lake of fire”. **Hades / Gehenna /** **Tartarus** will not exist anymore. They are all in the **Lake of Fire** now. This is why I said **Hell / Sheol** is a temporary place. Look at the diagram. Now you understand the sequence of the souls in **Hades / Gehenna /** **Tartarus** that willend up in the **Lake of Fire** after the **Great White Throne Judgement (Rev. 20 : 11)**.

**New Testament**

The other region in **Hell / Sheol** is called **Paradise, Abraham’s bosom,** and **Heaven.** All three are one in the same.Thisis where the righteous souls have gone from the beginning of time.Let me explain. In **Job 14:13** heknew through the Holy Spirit when he said “Oh that *you would hide me in***Sheol”. .** . **Job** knew there was a region in **Hell / Sheol**  where the righteous dwelled.

In **Luke** **23 : 43,** Jesus said to the thief on the cross - And he said to him, *“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in****Paradise***.” At the time Jesus said this, the only place a soul could go to was **Paradise.** This tells us that **Paradise** was located in a region of **Hell / Sheol.** The thief could not have gone to **Paradise** in **Heaven,** because Christ had not ascended to **Heaven** yet. The apostle Paul in **2 Corinthians 2 : 2 - 3** says:

* **2** I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was *caught up* to the *third heaven*—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows.
* **3**  And I know that this man was *caught up* into ***paradise***—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows.

After Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension, believers who had been confined in **Paradise, Abraham’s bosom,** and **Heaven** were now *taken up* to **Paradise / Heaven** to wait in God’s presence until the time of their resurrection.

**Summary**

The common word for **Hell** in the Old Testament is **Sheol**, meaning “the grave”. Other names are “**Hades**”, “the **Pit**”,” **Gehenna**” and **Tartarus.** This regionwas / is the place where all unbelievers go at death. In the future, after the **“White Throne Judgment”**, all unbelievers will join the devil, the false prophet, the beast and the angelic in the **Lake of Fire** for eternity and *“will be tormented day and night forever and ever”* (**Revelation 20 : 10)**. Also, those who take the mark of the beast will be tormented as well in the **Lake of Fire**. **Revelation 14 : 9 -10** says :

* **9**  And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,
* **10** he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur *in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb*.

Even when these souls are in the **Lake of Fire**, they will be *in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb*.

The region of the righteous souls at death, would go directly into the part of **Sheol** called “**Paradise**”, **“Abraham’s bosom,” and Heaven**”. After Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension to the **Heaven** above, all souls who are in Christ when they die, they *now will go directly* to **Heaven** above as stated in **2 Corinthians 5 : 8 - KJV** *“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord”.* You as a believer will immediately be in God’s presence in **Heaven** when you die. To this day, there is NO

“**Paradise**”, **“Abraham’s bosom” and Heaven**” in **Sheol** anymore. Jesus’ death secured a place for us in Heaven with God. . . AMEN