Feb. 1, 2025

The Lord blessing to you and your family and here we are the second month of 2025.

Please continue praying for Israel and also for the innocent people of Gaza that these prisoner exchange will bring then back to their love ones. As we all know, peace in Israel will not occur till Our Lord Jesus returns

This month **BSL** is somewhat a continuation of last month **BSL** one word that comes up at most bible studies or you hear it on radio and you wish they would elaborate on the meaning of the word and that word is **“Hell”**. You might want to print out this **BSL** and insert it to your bible for future reference.

One other thing, I inserted a question (page 2) and I hope I hear from you.

So, let’s get started.

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 is the difference between Sheol, Hades, Hell, the Lake of Fire Paradise and Abraham’s bosom?**

**Bible Scripture Letter #56**

The different terms used in the Bible for heaven and hell—*sheol*, *hades*, *gehenna*, [*the lake of fire*](https://www.gotquestions.org/lake-of-fire.html), *paradise*, and [*Abraham’s bosom*](https://www.gotquestions.org/Abrahams-bosom.html)—are the subject of some debate and can be hard to keep straight.

The word *paradise* is used as a synonym for *heaven* ([2 Corinthians 12:3–4](https://www.bibleref.com/2-Corinthians/12/2-Corinthians-12-3.html); [Revelation 2:7](https://www.bibleref.com/Revelation/2/Revelation-2-7.html)). When Jesus was dying on the cross and one of the thieves being crucified with Him asked Him for mercy, Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise” ([Luke 23:43](https://www.bibleref.com/Luke/23/Luke-23-43.html)). Jesus knew that His death was imminent and that He would soon be in heaven with His Father. In His words of comfort to the penitent thief, Jesus used *paradise* as a synonym for *heaven*, and the word has come to be associated with any place of ideal loveliness and delight.   
  
 Abraham’s bosom is referred to only once in the Bible—in the story of Lazarus and the rich man ([Luke 16:19–31](https://www.bibleref.com/Luke/16/Luke-16-19.html)). *Abraham’s lap* was used in the Talmud as a synonym for *heaven* (*Seder Nashim, Kiddushin* 72b). The image in Jesus’ story is of Lazarus reclining at a table leaning on Abraham’s breast at the heavenly banquet—as John leaned on Jesus’ breast at the Last Supper. The point of the story is that wicked men will see the righteous in a happy state, while they themselves are in torment, and that a “great gulf” that can never be spanned exists between them ([Luke 16:26](https://www.bibleref.com/Luke/16/Luke-16-26.html)). Abraham’s bosom is obviously a place of peace, rest, and joy after death—paradise.  
  
 In the Hebrew Scriptures, the word used to denote the realm of the dead is *sheol*. It simply means “the place of the dead” or “the place of departed souls/spirits.” The New Testament Greek equivalent to *sheol* is *hades*, which is also a general reference to “the place of the dead.” Sheol/hades is divided into a place of blessing (where Lazarus was in [Luke 16](https://www.bibleref.com/Luke/16/Luke-chapter-16.html)) and a place of torment (where the rich man was in [Luke 16](https://www.bibleref.com/Luke/16/Luke-chapter-16.html)). Sheol also seems to be a temporary place where souls are kept as they await the final resurrection. *The souls of the righteous, at death, go directly into the presence of God—the part of sheol called “heaven,”* “paradise,” *or “Abraham’s bosom”* ([Luke 23:43](https://www.bibleref.com/Luke/23/Luke-23-43.html); [2 Corinthians 5:8](https://www.bibleref.com/2-Corinthians/5/2-Corinthians-5-8.html); [Philippians 1:23](https://www.bibleref.com/Philippians/1/Philippians-1-23.html)).

*A this point I have a challenge for you. In the paragraph above the word “paradise” is mention as being part of “sheol”. When Jesus told the thief on the cross “****And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise****." Was Jesus speaking about the “paradise” in Heaven or Sheol? If Jesus was speaking about the Heaven above, the thief must have gotten to Heaven before those who were still in the part where Abraham “Paradise” was located. So, the question is “Which Paradise was Jesus referring to”? . . .* Please let me know if you have an answer to the question or else I’ll put this question under “Secret” *Deuteronomy 29:29.*  
  
 The Greek word *gehenna* is used in the New Testament for “hell” (see [Matthew 5:29](https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/5/Matthew-5-29.html); [23:33](https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/23/Matthew-23-33.html)). The word is derived from the Hebrew word *ge-hinnom*, which designated a valley south of Jerusalem—a cursed place that had been the site of human sacrifice ([2 Chronicles 28:3](https://www.bibleref.com/2-Chronicles/28/2-Chronicles-28-3.html); [33:6](https://www.bibleref.com/2-Chronicles/33/2-Chronicles-33-6.html)). Jesus referenced Gehenna as a symbol of the place of judgment after death, alluding to prophecies in [Jeremiah 19:6](https://www.bibleref.com/Jeremiah/19/Jeremiah-19-6.html) and [Isaiah 30:33](https://www.bibleref.com/Isaiah/30/Isaiah-30-33.html).

The lake of fire, mentioned only in [Revelation 19:20](https://www.bibleref.com/Revelation/19/Revelation-19-20.html) and [20:10](https://www.bibleref.com/Revelation/20/Revelation-20-10.html), [14-15](https://www.bibleref.com/Revelation/20/Revelation-20-14.html), is the final hell, the place of eternal punishment for all unrepentant rebels, both angelic and human ([Matthew 25:41](https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/25/Matthew-25-41.html)). It is described as a place of burning sulfur, and those in it experience eternal, unspeakable agony of an unrelenting nature ([Luke 16:24](https://www.bibleref.com/Luke/16/Luke-16-24.html); [Mark 9:45-46](https://www.bibleref.com/Mark/9/Mark-9-45.html)). Those in hades/sheol who have rejected Christ will have the lake of fire as their final destination.  
  
 But those whose names are written in the [Lamb’s book of life](https://www.gotquestions.org/book-of-life.html) should have no fear of this terrible fate. By faith in Christ and His blood shed on the cross for our sins, we are destined to live eternally in the blessed presence of God.

*Source*: gotquestions.org