Jan. 1, 2025

The Lord blessing to you and your family and I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirit. The year 2024 has finally come to an end but as I mention on December **BSL**, we are now closer to the 2nd coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ than ever before. Are you ready for His return?

The topic for this month **BSL** is a common question among believers and non-believers. I found this article very informative and should have the answer to the question “*Did Jesus go to Hell between His death and Resurrection”?* Next month **BSL**, I will follow up with the different wording of hell as used in the bible so stand by.

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,

**Did Jesus go to Hell between His death and Resurrection?**

**Bible Scripture Letter #55**

There is a great deal of confusion regarding this question. The concept that Jesus went to hell after His death on the cross comes primarily from the [Apostles’ Creed](https://www.gotquestions.org/apostles-creed.html), which states, “He descended into hell.” There are also a few Scripture passages that, depending on how they are translated, describe Jesus going to “hell.” In studying this issue, it is important to first understand what the Bible teaches about the realm of the dead.

In the Hebrew Scriptures, the word used to describe the realm of the dead is [*sheol*](https://www.gotquestions.org/sheol-hades-hell.html). It simply means “the place of the dead” or “the place of departed souls/spirits.” The New Testament Greek equivalent of *sheol* is *hades*, which also refers to “the place of the dead.” The New Testament indicates that sheol/hades is a temporary place, where souls are kept as they await the final resurrection and judgment. [Revelation 20:11–15](https://www.bibleref.com/Revelation/20/Revelation-20-11.html) makes a clear distinction between hades and the lake of fire.

* ***11***  *Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.*
* ***12*** *And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.*
* ***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 lake of fire is the permanent and final place of judgment for the lost. Hades, then, is a temporary place. Many people refer to both hades and the lake of fire as “hell,” and this causes confusion. Jesus did not go to a place of torment after His death, but He did go to hades.  
  
 Sheol/hades is a realm with two divisions—a place of blessing and a place of judgment [Matthew 11:23](https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/11/Matthew-11-23.html); [16:18](https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/16/Matthew-16-18.html); [Luke 10:15](https://www.bibleref.com/Luke/10/Luke-10-15.html); [16:23](https://www.bibleref.com/Luke/16/Luke-16-23.html); [Acts 2:27–31](https://www.bibleref.com/Acts/2/Acts-2-27.html).

**Matthew 11:23**

* ***23*** *And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.*

**Matthew 16:18**

* ***18*** *And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock  I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

**Luke 10:15**

* ***15*** *And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.*

**Luke 16:23**

* ***23*** *and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.*

**Acts 2:27-31**

* ***27***  *For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption.*
* ***28*** *You have made known to me the paths of life you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’*
* ***29*** *“Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.*
* ***30*** *Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne,*
* ***31*** *he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corrupt*ion.

The abodes of the saved and the lost are both generally called “hades” in the Bible. The abode of the saved is also called “Abraham’s bosom” (KJV) or “Abraham’s side” (NIV) in [Luke 16:22](https://www.bibleref.com/Luke/16/Luke-16-22.html) and “paradise” in [Luke 23:43](https://www.bibleref.com/Luke/23/Luke-23-43.html).

**Luke 16:22**

* ***22*** *The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried,*

***Luke 23:43***

* ***43*** *And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”*

The abodes of the saved and the lost are separated by a “great chasm” - [Luke 16:26](https://www.bibleref.com/Luke/16/Luke-16-26.html).

* ***26*** *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.’*

When Jesus died, He went to the blessed side of sheol, or paradise. (Some believe, based on a particular interpretation of [Ephesians 4:8–10](https://www.bibleref.com/Ephesians/4/Ephesians-4-8.html),

* ***8*** *Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,  
      and he gave gifts to men.”*
* ***9***  *In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth ?*
* ***10*** *He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.*

that Jesus took believers with Him from sheol to another place of bliss that we now call heaven. More likely, [Ephesians 4](https://www.bibleref.com/Ephesians/4/Ephesians-chapter-4.html) refers to the [ascension of Christ](https://www.gotquestions.org/ascension-Jesus-Christ.html). All the unbelieving dead go to the cursed side of hades to await the final judgment. All the believing dead go to the blessed side of hades to await the resurrection. Did Jesus go to sheol/hades? Yes, according to Jesus’ own words, He went to the blessed region of sheol.  
  
 Some of the confusion has arisen from such passages as [Psalm 16:10–11](https://www.bibleref.com/Psalms/16/Psalm-16-10.html) as translated in the King James Version: “For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. . . . Thou wilt show me the path of life.” “Hell” is not a correct translation in this verse. A correct reading would be “the grave” or “sheol.” Jesus said to the thief beside Him, “Today you will be with me in paradise” - [Luke 23:43](https://www.bibleref.com/Luke/23/Luke-23-43.html); He did not say, “I will see you in hell.” Jesus’ body was in the tomb; His soul/spirit went to be with the blessed in sheol/hades. Unfortunately, in many versions of the Bible, translators are not consistent, or correct, in how they translate the Hebrew and Greek words for “sheol,” “hades,” and “hell.”  
  
 Some have the viewpoint that Jesus went to “hell” or the suffering side of sheol/hades in order to further be punished for our sins. This idea is completely unbiblical. It was the death of Jesus on the cross that sufficiently provided for our redemption. It was His shed blood that effected our own cleansing from sin - [1 John 1:7–9](https://www.bibleref.com/1-John/1/1-John-1-7.html).

* ***7*** *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*
* ***8*** *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*
* ***9*** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

As He hung there on the cross, He took the sin burden of the whole human race upon Himself. He became sin for us: “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” - [2 Corinthians 5:21](https://www.bibleref.com/2-Corinthians/5/2-Corinthians-5-21.html). This imputation of sin helps us understand Christ’s struggle in the Garden of Gethsemane with the cup of sin that He asked to pass from Him **Matthew 26:39.**

* ***39*** *And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”*   
    
   As Jesus neared death, He said, “[It is finished](https://www.gotquestions.org/it-is-finished.html)” - [John 19:30](https://www.bibleref.com/John/19/John-19-30.html). His suffering in our place was completed. His soul/spirit went to hades (the place of the dead). Jesus did not go to “hell” or the suffering side of hades; He went to “Abraham’s side” or the blessed side of hades. Jesus’ suffering ended the moment He died. The payment for sin was paid. He then awaited the resurrection of His body and His return to glory in His ascension. Did Jesus go to hell? No. Did Jesus go to sheol/hades? Yes.

*Source*: gotquestions.org