

Where Do The Lost Go When Their Material Body Dies?

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We find the following observation in the book, "Hodge's Systematic Theology".

"The dead in the Old Testament are always spoken of as going to their fathers, as descending into "Sheol," *i.e.*, into the invisible state, which the Greeks called Hades. Sheol is represented as the general receptacle or abode of departed spirits, who were there in a state of consciousness; some in a state of misery, others in a state of happiness. In all these points the pagan idea of Hades corresponds to the Scriptural idea of Sheol. All souls went into Hades, some dwelling in Tartarus, others in Elysium. That the Hebrews regarded the souls of the dead as retaining their consciousness and activity is obvious from the practice of necromancy, and is confirmed by the fact of the appearance of Samuel to Saul, as recorded in 1 Samuel 28. The representation given in Isaiah 14 of the descent of the King of Babylon, when all the dead rose to meet and to reproach him, takes for granted and authenticates the popular belief in the continued conscious existence of departed spirits."

We shared in the previous article (03-Future Things-The Catching Up-Where Are The Saved) that we are in great danger when we repeat error that someone we highly respect shared with us because someone they highly respected shared it with them because someone they highly respected shared it with them because someone they highly respected shared it with them because someone they highly respected shared it with them.

One of the outstanding errors that is being propagated today is that Sheol (Hebrew) or Hades (Greek) is the Lake of Fire. One of the best proofs that Sheol is not the Lake of Fire is the fact that Job wanted the Lord to hide him in Sheol until the Lord's wrath was passed.

"⁷ For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, And that the tender branch thereof will not cease. ⁸ Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, And the stock thereof die in the ground; ⁹ Yet through the scent of water it will bud, And put forth boughs like a plant. ¹⁰ But man dieth, and is laid low: Yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? ¹¹ As the waters fail from the sea, And the river wasteth and drieth up; ¹² So man lieth down and riseth not: Till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, Nor be roused out of their sleep. ¹³ Oh that thou wouldst hide me in Sheol, That thou wouldst keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, That thou wouldst appoint me a set time, and remember me! ¹⁴ If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my warfare would I wait, Till my release should come. ¹⁵ Thou wouldst call, and I would answer thee: Thou wouldst have a desire to the work of thy hands." Job 14:7-15 (American Standard Version)

Another proof that Sheol (Hebrew) or Hades (Greek) is not the Lake of Fire is the Greek word that Peter used in Peter 2:4-9 to describe the compartment where the fallen angels and the lost are reserved awaiting the White Throne Judgment.

"⁴ For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but condemned them to the chains of Tartarus and handed them over to be kept for judgment; ⁵ and if he did not spare the ancient world, even though he preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, together with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the godless world; ⁶ and if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (to destruction), reducing them to ashes, making them an example for the godless (people) of what is coming; ⁷ and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man oppressed by the licentious conduct of unprincipled people ⁸ (for day after day that righteous man living among them was tormented in his righteous soul at the lawless deeds that he saw and heard), ⁹ then the Lord knows how to rescue the devout from trial and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, ¹⁰ and especially those who follow the flesh with its depraved desire and show contempt for lordship." 2nd Peter 2:4-10 (The New American Bible)

"⁶ And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; ⁷ as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these,

having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. Jude 1:6-7 (The New King James Version)

"⁴¹ Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:..." Matthew 25:41a (The King James Version)

First, may I call your attention to the fact that Peter shared in 2nd Peter 2:4-10 (printed above) that the fallen angels are being kept in a compartment called Tartarus where they are being reserved for judgment (The White Throne Judgment). You can easily check this out if you consult a good concordance such as Strong's Exhaustive Concordance Of The Bible or Young's Analytical Concordance To The Bible. Either of these will allow you to find the Hebrew or Greek words that were translated into the different languages to compose the book that we call "the Bible". First, you will find that the Greek word in 2nd Peter 2:4, *ταρταρώω*, was erroneously translated "hell" in most translations. Second, you will find in Matthew 5:30 and Mark 9:43-47 Jesus Christ used the Greek word *γέεννα* when He referred to the final location of eternal punishment, the Lake of Fire. Yet, when He told about the rich man who was in torments (Luke 16:19-31 printed below), He said the rich man was in *ἄδης*, an entirely different place from *γέεννα*, the Lake of Fire.

The Lake of Fire and the White Throne Judgment are described in Revelation chapter 20.

"¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:11-15 (The King James Version)

Second, another proof that Sheol (Hebrew) or Hades (Greek) is not the Lake of Fire is the fact that Peter said the unrighteous are also kept under punishment for the day of judgment

(The White Throne Judgment). Peter, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, did not say that the fallen angels and the unrighteous (the lost) have been thrown into γέεννα, the final location of eternal punishment, the Lake of Fire. Peter recorded, rather, that the fallen angels and the unrighteous (the lost) have been thrown into ταρταρόω where they are reserved for judgment.

That means when a person's material body dies before they ask Jesus Christ to pay their sin debt, their spiritual body goes to Tartaroo or Tartarus where they are kept under punishment for the day of judgment (The White Throne Judgment). For more information of the state of those who accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior before they died, please read the paper "03-Future Things-The Catching Up-Where Are The Saved."

¹⁹ *"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried.*

²³ **In Hades**, where he was in torment, **he looked up and saw** Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' ²⁵ "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

²⁷ "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹ "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' ³⁰ " 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' ³¹ "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' " Luke 16:19-31 (The New International Version)

Jesus taught us several things in this passage. First, when a person dies they go to one of two compartments that are next to one another and **both of them are in Hades**. Jesus Christ

referred to one of the compartments as the bosom of Abraham. When He spoke to the saved thief on the cross He called it Paradise. If you have not yet read the paper "03-Future Things-The Catching Up-Where Are The Saved.", I strongly recommend that you do so now. Among other things, you will see proofs that Jesus Christ did not empty Paradise when He ascended back to heaven and Paradise is still functioning today.

*"³⁹ Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."⁴⁰ But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong."⁴² Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."⁴³ And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, **today you will be with Me in Paradise.**" Luke 23:39-43 (The New King James Version)*

The second thing Jesus taught us in this passage was that people in one of the compartments were in torments. *"²² When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried,²³ and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. Luke 16:22-23 (The New American Bible)*

The third thing Jesus taught us in this passage was that those in Tartarus, the compartment of torments, can see those in Paradise. On the other hand, I do not believe Lazarus could see the rich man in torments.

The fourth thing Jesus taught us in this passage was that there was a great chasm established between the two compartments and once you were in one of them, you never go into the other one.

So, in conclusion, John's description of the White Throne Judgment in Revelation 20:11-15 answers the question of where the lost go when their material body returns to the dust.

"¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the

book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell (translated from the Greek word αἴδης or Hades-the place of the departed dead) delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:11-15 (The King James Version)

Since the compartment Paradise will be emptied at the catching up (the Rapture), there will only be one compartment left in Sheol/Hades that is still inhabited, ταρταρόω (Tartarus). That compartment is the place that Peter wrote about in 2nd Peter 2:4-10. According to the apostle Peter, Tartarus is the place of torments where the fallen angels and the lost are kept in reserve awaiting the White Throne Judgment. The grave (the abiding place of the material bodies of the lost) and Sheol/Hades (the abiding place of the spiritual bodies of the lost) will deliver up their inhabitants and after the White Throne Judgment the inhabitants of both will be thrown into the Lake of Fire (Gehenna) where they will pay their sin debt for eternity.

If this seems unfair to you, please remember the excruciating death that the only Son of God suffered. The Lord offered to pay the sin debt of everyone who will end up in Gehenna but each one chose, of their own free will, to reject Jesus Christ's offer. Every sin must be paid for, so each one who rejects Jesus Christ's offer must pay their debt themselves.

" ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:16-18 (The King James Version)

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
Hebrews 10: 31 (The New King James Version)

