

Grace Chapel



FOUNDATION BIBLE COURSE - WEEK 9

Did Jesus go to hell?

Wednesday 29nd November 2006

Genesis 37:34-35 Jacob mourns the apparent death of Joseph

Psalms 139:8

Isaiah 14:9

Matthew 11:23

Acts 2:26-27

Acts 2:31

All these references relate to the Hebrew word Sheol or the Greek word Hades, both of which are translated into English as hell, grave, depths or death.

"**The grave [Sheol] below** is all astir to meet you at your coming; it rouses the **spirits of the departed to greet you--** all those who were leaders in the world; it makes them rise from their thrones-- all those who were kings over the nations. They will all respond, they will say to you, "You also have become weak, as we are; you have become like us." All your pomp has been brought down to the grave [Sheol], along with the noise of your harps; maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you." (Isaiah 14:9-11)

There is yet another word used in the bible for a place after death, sometimes translated as hell. This word is Gehanna

Revelation 19:20, 20:10, 21:18

This is a place of burning sulphur. A more familiar picture of what we often refer to as hell.

Revelation 20:14-15

Death and Hades (hell) is thrown into Gehanna (hell). The two cannot therefore be the same place

Sheol/Hades

"Hades is technically the unseen world, **the Hebrew Sheol, the land of the departed**, that is death."

"A grave is one particular cavity purposely digged for the interment of a dead person; "sheol" is a collective name for all the graves. He that is in the grave is in "sheol;" but he that is in "sheol" may not be in a grave, but in any pit, or in the sea. **In short, it is the region of the dead**; which is figuratively considered as a city or large habitation with gates and bars in which there are many chambers Pro_7:27.' "Sheol" is never full, but is always asking or craving more Pro_27:20; Heb_2:5. Here it means, not a place of punishment, but the region of the dead, **where the ghosts of the departed are considered as residing together.**"

Gehanna

"Hell, the place or state of the lost and condemned ... **In the NT Gehenna is presented always as the final place of punishment into which the wicked are cast after the last judgment. It is a place of torment both for body and soul**"

Where then is paradise?

Luke 23:39-43

Luke 16:22-26

"In later Jewish usage and in the NT, *paradeisos* is used for **the abode of the blessed after death**. Paradise, before Christ's resurrection, has been thought to be **the region of the blessed in Hades** although it was not specifically called by that name (Luke 16:23)."

"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. **In hell [Hades], where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.** 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.' 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. **And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.**'" (Luke 16:22-26)

So then, did Jesus go to Hades?

- Luke 23:39-43
- Acts 2:31

The answer would have to be yes he did. However he changed the type of place it was from being a place for everyone to one for only unbelievers. The paradise part of Hades is now in heaven.

"I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to **the third heaven**. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows. And I know that this man--whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows--was caught up to **paradise**. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell." (2 Corinthians 12:2-4)

"If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to **depart and be with Christ**, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body." (Philippians 1:22-24)

- **"No one has ever gone into heaven** except the one who came from heaven--the Son of Man." (John 3:13)
- **"No one has ever seen God**, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known." (John 1:18)
- **"No one has seen the Father** except the one who is from God; **only he has seen the Father**." (John 6:46)


