

# The Place Called Hell (1)



Shalom Ministries International

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**Pray for the ministry of Kilavan & Fon Sayalat, and Missionary Nathan Oudommahavanh (Savannakhet, Laos)**

# The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-26)

- There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. 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 **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 set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

# What does the Bible Say about Hell?

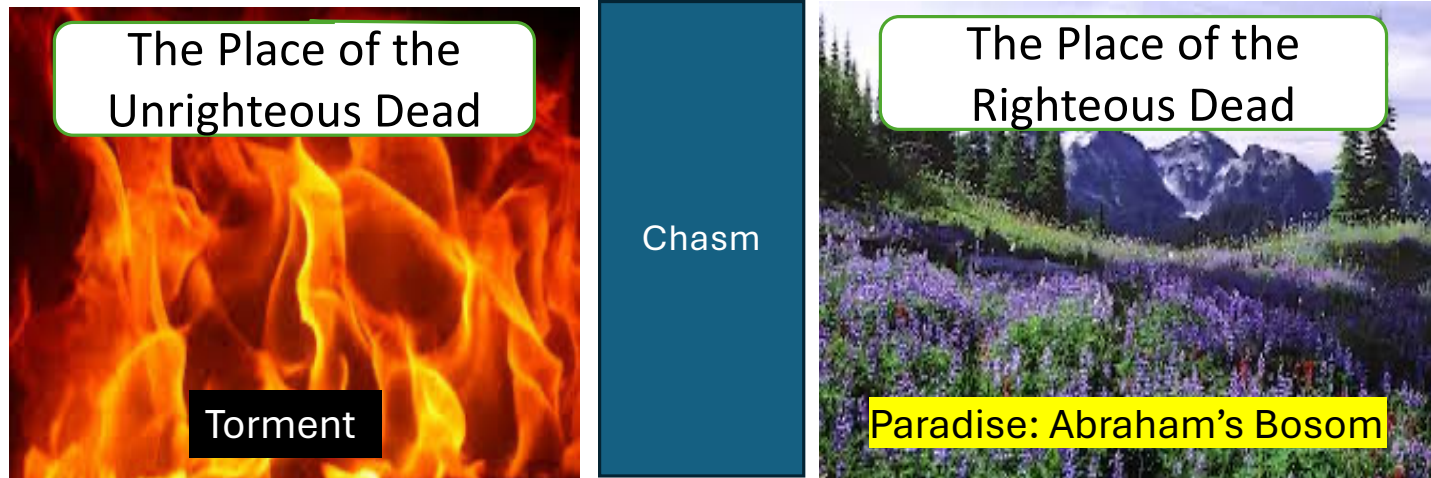
- Why we need to learn about Hell?
  - The term 'Sheol' appears in 65 times in the Old Testament, and the Bible refers to Hell over 162 times in the NT alone.
  - For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption (Psalm 16:10, NKJV).
  - Jesus said more about Hell than anyone in the Bible over 56 of which are by Jesus (24 times about Heaven).
  - Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in **hell** (Matthew 10:28).
- In the Bible, Hell is
  - A real place;
  - A place of torment;
  - A place without mercy;
  - A place of consciousness and memory;

# Hell is Real

- Hades (Sheol): A temporary abode
  - The realm of the dead, described as holding the souls of the departed until final judgment.
  - A deep, silent place to which all who die descend, including the righteous.
  - The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side (bosom). The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades... (Luke 16:22-23a).
- Two compartments
  - Hades contains both a place of torment (for the rich man) and a place of comfort, often called Abraham's bosom (or Paradise where Lazarus was), before Jesus' resurrection.
  - He looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side (Luke 16:23).
- Hades vs. Gehenna (Lake of Fire):
  - Hades is a place of waiting; not the final, eternal hell (the lake of fire or Gehenna).
  - Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death (Revelation 20:14).

# Sheol (Hades) before Jesus' Resurrection

Hades (Greek) Sheol (Hebrew)



# Jesus Relocated Paradise to the Present Heaven

- Jesus is currently in heaven, having ascended there after resurrection
  - Jesus visited the Paradise side of Hell during the 3 days of His body was in the grave and He emptied paradise when He escorted the occupants from there to Heaven.
  - Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise (Luke 23:43).
  - After his resurrection, Jesus ascended to heaven, where he now dwells, making it the final, permanent Paradise/Heaven.
  - He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits (1 Peter 3:18-19).
  - When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people. Notice that it says, “he ascended.” This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world (Ephesians 4:8-9, NLT).
  - For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (Matthew 12:40).
- Following the resurrection, the destination for believers shifted, that believers now go directly to be with Christ in heaven rather than to Sheol.

# Hell is a Place of Torment (without Mercy)

- Hell is a place of punishment and torment for the wicked after death
  - 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.' (Luke 16:24).
  - The Bible uses terms like "unquenchable fire" (Matthew 3:12), "burning sulfur" (Revelation 14:10), and "eternal punishment" (Matthew 25:46) to describe hell.
  - The torment begins immediately after death, suggesting an intermediate state of consciousness before final judgment.
  - Hell is a place of no mercy, no reprieve, and no second chance, where the smoke of their torment ascended up for ever and ever and inhabitants have no rest day nor night.
- The torment side of Hell was not originally intended for people
  - Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41).
  - He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

# Hell is a Place of Consciousness/Memory

- Awareness and memory:
  - The rich man in Hades sees Abraham and Lazarus, recognizes them, and remembers his life and brothers.
  - The rich man remains fully aware of his surroundings, feels physical anguish, experiences intense thirst, and can feel regret, highlighting a state of continued existence and suffering after death.
  - Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment (Luke 16:27-28).
- Conscious torment:
  - The Bible suggests a state of being fully awake and alert, rather than an unconscious soul sleep.
  - Those in hell are aware they are experiencing the just consequences of their actions and receiving divine judgment.

# The Importance of the Preaching

- Preaching the Gospel
  - Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' "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 16:28-31).
  - Preaching the Gospel before death is urgent because it is the only time to secure salvation, as there is no opportunity for repentance after death.
  - Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ (Romans 10:17).
- Where will you spend eternity?
  - Death may be inevitable, but the destination is a choice
  - Eternity is spent in one of two places: Heaven (eternal life with God) or Hell (separation from God).
  - Those who reject God's grace and don't believe in Jesus will face eternal separation from Him.