





Heaven and Hell

Brief Word & Theology Study

Heaven and Hell

Progressive Revelation

Heaven and Hell

Progressive Revelation

The concept that the sections of the Bible that were written later contain a fuller revelation of God compared to the earlier sections.

Heaven and Hell

Old Testament

Heaven and Hell

שְׁאֵל הַ

Sheol

Heaven and Hell

שְׁאֵלָה

Sheol

*The wicked will go down to the grave (sheol).
This is the fate of all the nations who ignore God.
[Psalm 9:17 NLT]*

Heaven and Hell

Don't let me be disgraced, O Lord, for I call out to you for help. Let the wicked be disgraced; let them lie silent in the grave (sheol). [Psalm 31:17 NLT]

Like sheep, they are led to the grave (sheol), where death (maveth) will be their shepherd. In the morning the godly will rule over them. Their bodies will rot in the grave (sheol), far from their grand estates. [Psalm 49:14 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

Then Jacob tore his clothes and dressed himself in burlap. He mourned deeply for his son for a long time. His family all tried to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. “I will go to my grave (sheol) mourning for my son,” he would say, and then he would weep. [Genesis 37:34-35 NLT]

“I wish you would hide me in the grave (sheol) and forget me there until your anger has passed. But mark your calendar to think of me again! [Job 14:13 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

לקבר

qeber (grave)

Heaven and Hell

לקבר

qeber (grave)

“Why, then, did you deliver me from my mother’s womb? Why didn’t you let me die at birth? It would be as though I had never existed, going directly from the womb to the grave (qeber). [Job 10:18-19 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

Sheol \neq Qeber

place of dead human
spirits

place of dead human
bodies (grave, tomb...)

Heaven and Hell

Sheol \neq Qeber

place of dead human
spirits

place of dead human
bodies (grave, tomb...)

Problem: English Bible translations
limited to single word 'Grave'

Heaven and Hell

“In the place of the dead (sheol) there is excitement over your arrival. The spirits of world leaders and mighty kings long dead stand up to see you. With one voice they all cry out, ‘Now you are as weak as we are!’ [Isaiah 14:9-10 NLT]

Down in the grave (sheol) mighty leaders will mockingly welcome Egypt and its allies, saying, ‘They have come down; they lie among the outcasts, hordes slaughtered by the sword.’ [Ezekiel 32:21 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

“The dead tremble — those who live beneath the waters. The underworld (sheol) is naked in God’s presence. The place of destruction (abaddon) is uncovered. [Job 26:5-6 NLT]

Even Death (sheol) and Destruction (abaddon) hold no secrets from the Lord. How much more does he know the human heart! [Proverbs 15:11 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

גיא בן-היננום

Gai Ben Hinnom (Valley of the Son of Hinnom)

Heaven and Hell

גיא בן-היננום

Gai Ben Hinnom (Valley of the Son of Hinnom)

They have built pagan shrines at Topheth, the garbage dump in the valley of Ben-Hinnom, and there they burn their sons and daughters in the fire. I have never commanded such a horrible deed; it never even crossed my mind to command such a thing! [Jeremiah 7:31 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

הַשָּׁמַיִם

Shamayim (Heavens)

Heaven and Hell

הַשָּׁמַיִם

Shamayim (Heavens)

In the beginning God created the heavens (shamayim) and the earth. [Genesis 1:1 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

Then Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel climbed up the mountain. There they saw the God of Israel. Under his feet there seemed to be a surface of brilliant blue lapis lazuli, as clear as the sky itself. And though these nobles of Israel gazed upon God, he did not destroy them. In fact, they ate a covenant meal, eating and drinking in his presence! [Exodus 24:9-11 NLT]

Above this surface was something that looked like a throne made of blue lapis lazuli. And on this throne high above was a figure whose appearance resembled a man...In my vision I saw what appeared to be a throne of blue lapis lazuli above the crystal surface over the heads of the cherubim. [Ezekiel 1:26; 10:1 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

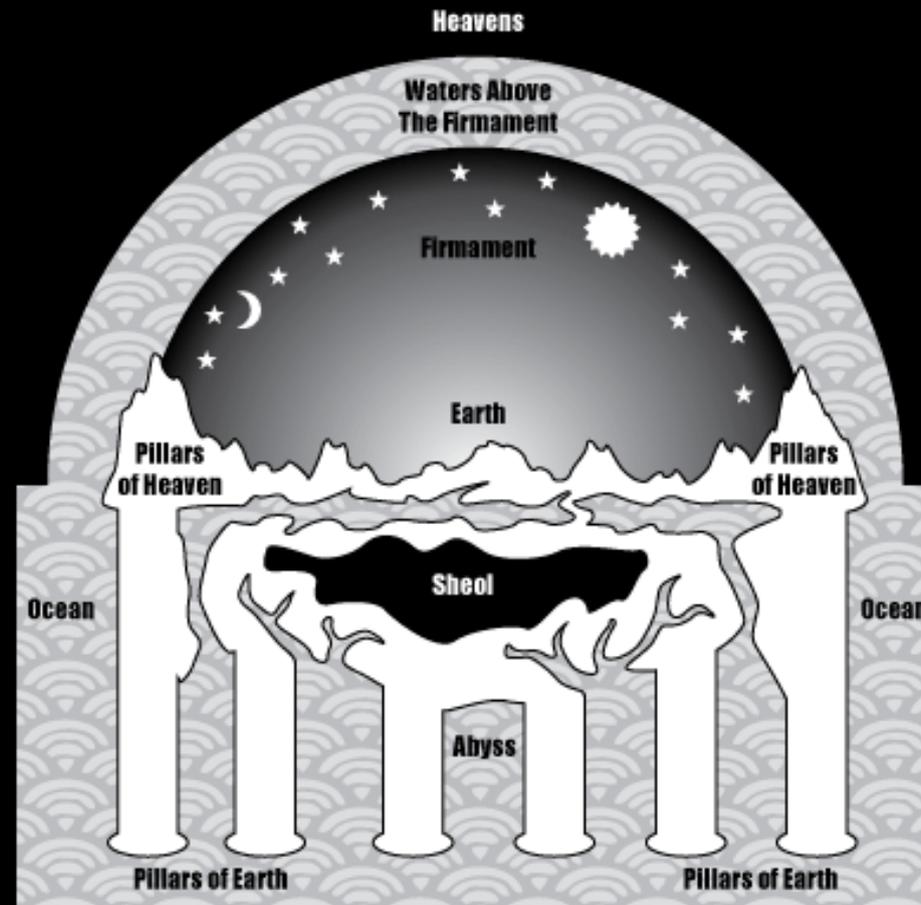
And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God! I will see him for myself. Yes, I will see him with my own eyes. I am overwhelmed at the thought! [Job 19:26-27 NLT]

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever. [Psalm 23:6 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever. [Daniel 12:2-3 NLT]

Heaven and Hell



Hebrew Universe

Heaven and Hell

New Testament

Heaven and Hell

ᾍδης

Hades

Heaven and Hell

ᾍδης

Hades

“Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and his soul went to the place of the dead (hades). There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side. [Luke 16:22-23 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

For you will not leave my soul among the dead (hades) or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave. [Acts 2:27 NLT]

I looked up and saw a horse whose color was pale green. Its rider was named Death, and his companion was the Grave (Hades). [Rev 6:8 NLT]

Then death and the grave (hades) were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. [Rev 12:14 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

μνημεῖον

Mnemeion (Grave)

Heaven and Hell

μνημεῖον

Mnemeion (Grave)

Don't be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves (mnemeion) will hear the voice of God's Son, and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment. [John 5:28-29 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

Hades \neq Mnemeion

temporary place of dead
human spirits

place of dead human
bodies

Heaven and Hell

Hades \neq Mnemeion

temporary place of dead
human spirits

place of dead human
bodies

Problem: English Bible translations
limited to single word 'Hell' or 'Grave'

Heaven and Hell

Old vs New Testament

Heaven and Hell

Sheol \approx Hades

place of dead human
spirits

temporary place of dead
human spirits

Qeber = Mnemeion

place of dead human
bodies

place of dead human
bodies

Maveth = Thanatos

death

death

Heaven and Hell

Γέεννα

Geenna (Gehenna)

Heaven and Hell

Γέεννα

Geenna (Gehenna)

גיא בן-היננום

Gai Ben Hinnom (Valley of the Son of Hinnom)

Heaven and Hell

Γέεννα

Geenna (Gehenna)

But I'll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell (Gehenna). Yes, he's the one to fear. [Luke 12:5 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

*But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell (**Gehenna**). [Matthew 5:22 NLT]*

*“Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire * prepared for the devil and his demons (**aggelos**). [Matthew 25:41 NLT]*

Heaven and Hell

ἄβυσσος

Abyssos (Abyss)

Heaven and Hell

ἄβυσσος

Abyssos (Abyss)

*The demons kept begging Jesus not to send them into the bottomless pit (**abyssos**). [Luke 8:31 NLT]*

Heaven and Hell

But faith's way of getting right with God says, "Don't say in your heart, 'Who will go up to heaven (ouranos)?' (to bring Christ down to earth). And don't say, 'Who will go down to the place of the dead (abyssos)?' (to bring Christ back to life again)."
[Romans 10:6-7 NLT]

The angel threw him into the bottomless pit (abyssos), which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished. Afterward he must be released for a little while. [Rev 20:3 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

ταρταρόω

Tartarus

Heaven and Hell

ταρταρόω

Tartarus

*For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell (*tartarus*), in gloomy pits of darkness (*siros zophos*), where they are being held until the day of judgment. [2 Peter 2:4 NLT]*

Heaven and Hell

*And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness (*desmos zophos*), waiting for the great day of judgment. [Jude 6 NLT]*

So he went and preached to the spirits in prison—those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. [1 Peter 3:19-20 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

Apostle's Creed: Traditional English Version

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN.

Heaven and Hell

Abyss / Tartarus \neq Gehenna

Temporary prison for:

- Sons of God / angels who sinned
- Expelled demons
- Satan (1000 years)

Eternal punishment place for:

- Sons of God / angels who sinned
- Expelled demons
- Satan (1000 years)
- Unsaved humans

Heaven and Hell

Abyss / Tartarus \neq Gehenna

Temporary prison for:

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Problem: English Bible translations limited to single word 'Hell' or 'Grave'

Heaven and Hell

οὐρανός

Ouranos (Heaven)

Heaven and Hell

οὐρανός

Ouranos (Heaven)

Now Christ has gone to heaven (ouranos). He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority. [1 Peter 3:22 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

Look at the birds [of heaven] (ouranos). They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? [Matthew 6:26 NLT]

But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens (ouranos) will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. [2 Peter 3:10 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

Sky

Ouranos = Universe

God's Home

Heaven and Hell

Sky

Ouranos = Universe

God's Home

Problem: Greek language limited to
single word 'Heaven'

Heaven and Hell

παράδεισος

Paradeisos (Paradise)

Heaven and Hell

ΠΑΡΆΔΕΙΣΟΣ

Paradeisos (Paradise)

And Jesus replied, “I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise (paradeisos).” [Luke 23:43 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

*Yes, only God knows whether I was in my body or outside my body. But I do know that I was caught up to paradise (*paradeisos*) and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell. [2 Corinthians 12:3-4 NLT]*

*“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life in the paradise (*paradeisos*) of God. [Rev 12:7 NLT]*

Heaven and Hell

That is why the Scriptures say,

“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 (the lower parts of the earth). And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself. [Ephesians 4:8-10 NLT]

Heaven and Hell

*So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. For we live by believing and not by seeing. Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please him.
[2 Corinthians 5:6-9 NLT]*

Heaven and Hell

Old Testament

Sheol

Righteous & Wicked Human Spirits

Heaven and Hell

Inter-Testament

Sheol

Paradise

Righteous
Human Spirits

Torment

Wicked
Human Spirits

Heaven and Hell

New Testament: Before Crucifixion

Sheol / Hades

Paradise

Righteous
Human Spirits

Torment

Wicked
Human Spirits

Tartarus / Abyss

Angels that sinned
& expelled Demons

Gehenna
(reserved)

Heaven and Hell

New Testament: During Resurrection

Sheol / Hades

Paradise

(empty: now in Heaven)

Torment

Wicked
Human Spirits

Tartarus / Abyss

Angels that sinned
& expelled Demons

Gehenna
(reserved)

Heaven and Hell

Future: Tribulation

Sheol / Hades

Paradise

(empty: now in Heaven)

Torment

Wicked
Human Spirits

Tartarus / Abyss
Unlocked: Tribulation

Gehenna
(reserved)

Heaven and Hell

Future: Millenium

Sheol / Hades

Paradise

(empty: now in Heaven)

Torment

Wicked
Human Spirits

Tartarus / Abyss

Locked: 1000 Years
Satan & Company

Gehenna
(reserved)

Heaven and Hell

*Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever...The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave (*hades*) gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire. [Rev 20:10,13-15 NLT]*

Heaven and Hell

Eternity: After Final Judgement

Gehenna

Unsaved humans

Fallen Angels

Demons

Satan

Heaven and Hell

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven (ouranos) and the old earth (ge) had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." [Revelation 21:1-4 NLT]

Heaven and Hell



Heaven and Hell

Heaven and Hell

Heaven and Hell

Extra Slides

Heaven and Hell

Abyss / Tartarus

Temporary prison for:

- Sons of God / angels who sinned
- Expelled demons
- Satan (1000 years)

Gehenna

Eternal punishment place for:

- Sons of God / angels who sinned
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- Satan (1000 years)
- Unsaved humans

Problem: English Bible translations limited to single word 'Hell' or 'Grave'

Heaven and Hell

*For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell (*tartarus*), in gloomy pits of darkness (*siros zophos*), where they are being held until the day of judgment. [2 Peter 2:4 NLT]*

Heaven and Hell

*But I'll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell (*Gehenna*). Yes, he's the one to fear. [Luke 12:5 NLT]*

Heaven and Hell

*The demons kept begging Jesus not to send them into the bottomless pit (**abyssos**). [Luke 8:31 NLT]*

*The angel threw him into the bottomless pit (**abyssos**), which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished. Afterward he must be released for a little while. [Rev 20:3 NLT]*

Heaven and Hell

Intertestament

Sheol

Paradise

Righteous
Human Spirits

Torment

Wicked
Human Spirits

Heaven and Hell

New Testament: Before Crucifixion

Sheol

Paradise

Righteous
Human Spirits

Torment

Wicked
Human Spirits

Tartarus
Angels that sinned

Abyss
Expelled Demons

Heaven and Hell

New Testament: After Ascension

Sheol

Paradise

Empty

Torment

Wicked
Human Spirits

Tartarus

Angels that sinned

Abyss

Expelled Demons

Heaven and Hell

Gehenna \neq **Abyss** \neq **Tartarus**

eternal place of
punishment for
unsaved
humans, Satan,
fallen angels,
and demons

temporary
prison for
demons, and
Satan (1000
years)

temporary
prison for
“angels that
sinned”

Heaven and Hell

Gehenna \neq **Abyss** \neq **Tartarus**

eternal place of
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Problem: English Bible translations
limited to single word 'Hell'

Heaven and Hell

Sheol \approx Hades

place of dead human
spirits

temporary place of dead
human spirits

Qeber = Mnemeion

place of dead human
bodies

place of dead human
bodies

Heaven and Hell

*But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell (**Gehenna**). [Matthew 5:22 NLT]*

*“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you cross land and sea to make one convert, and then you turn that person into twice the child of hell (**Gehenna**) you yourselves are! [Matthew 23:15 NLT]*



- welcome back!
- this is the last in my strange 3-week series



- today's topic is this:

[read]

- it is a basic 'meat & potatoes' class

- for a good thorough study of 'heaven', you will have to wait for some future class at some indefinite point in the future

- today is more of a word study, similar to what we did 2 weeks ago with our 'Enemy' class



- before we get rolling, we need to understand this concept:
[read]
- anybody know what this means in the context of studying Biblical doctrine?



[read]

- many years ago, this was one of the obstacles that I had while doing a multi-week bible study with a pair of Jehovah's witnesses
- we have to remember that the Bible does not tell us everything we want to know, starting right at Genesis 1, with the clarity that we expect today
- this is NOT how God revealed truth in scripture



- OK, let's start off our word study in the OT



[read]

- anybody heard this Hebrew word before?
- I should point out that I have attempted to color-code some of this stuff – in this case 'gray' is intended to be 'neutral'

שאלה

*The wicked will go down to the grave (sheol).
This is the fate of all the nations who ignore God.
[Psalm 9:17 NLT]*

- could we take turns reading again?
- just say 'pass' if you want to be skipped
[reader]
- if you knew nothing more about 'sheol' than this one verse, what would you say that it means?
- you might guess that this is the OT equivalent of 'hell', since that is where wicked people go, right?
- unfortunately many or even most Bible translations mess up this word and we end up with 'grave' instead
- this REALLY messed up my discussions with Jws!

Don't let me be disgraced, O Lord, for I call out to you for help. Let the wicked be disgraced; let them lie silent in the grave (sheol). [Psalm 31:17 NLT]

Like sheep, they are led to the grave (sheol), where death (maveth) will be their shepherd. In the morning the godly will rule over them. Their bodies will rot in the grave (sheol), far from their grand estates. [Psalm 49:14 NLT]

[readers]

- OK, we can maybe see SOME reasons why the translators used 'grave' since the wicked are described as 'laying' in sheol, and also 'rotting' there

Then Jacob tore his clothes and dressed himself in burlap. He mourned deeply for his son for a long time. His family all tried to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. "I will go to my grave (sheol) mourning for my son," he would say, and then he would weep. [Genesis 37:34-35 NLT]

"I wish you would hide me in the grave (sheol) and forget me there until your anger has passed. But mark your calendar to think of me again! [Job 14:13 NLT]

[readers]

- interesting, Jacob was expecting to go to the same place, and Job looked forward to it in his circumstances



[read]

- ok now it starts to get more confusing
- Hebrew has a SEPARATE word for 'grave', which was typically ABOVE the ground or in a cave

לקבר

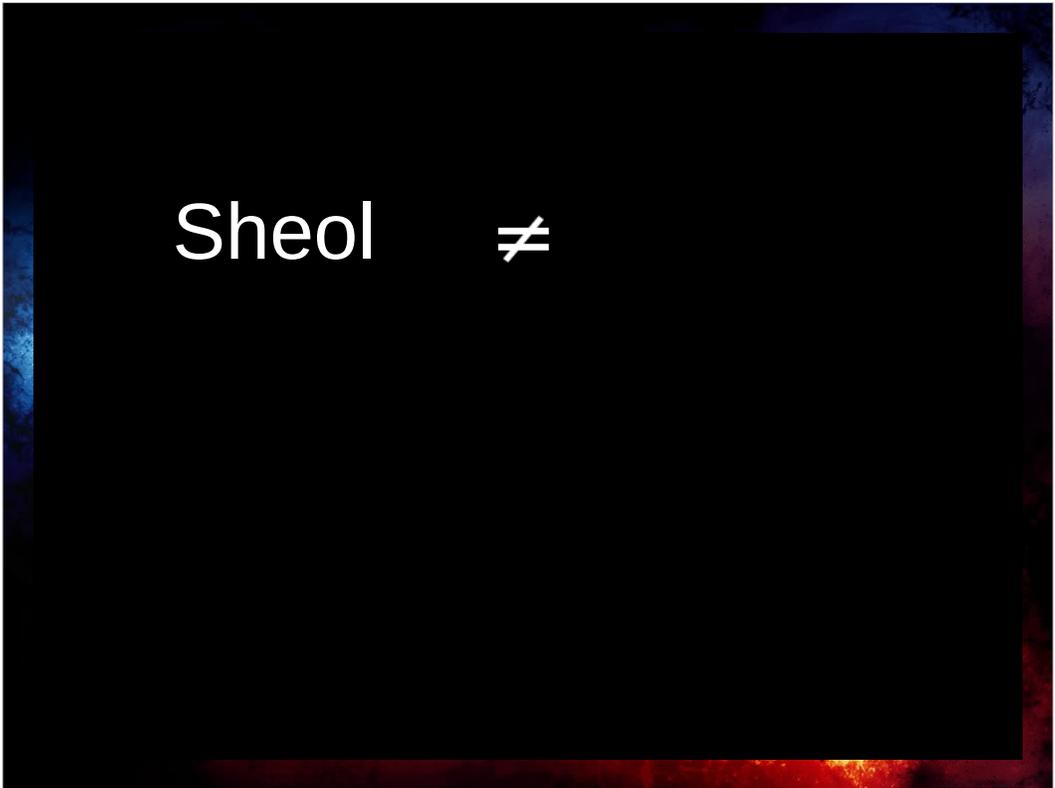
“Why, then, did you deliver me from my mother’s womb? Why didn’t you let me die at birth? It would be as though I had never existed, going directly from the womb to the grave (qeber). [Job 10:18-19 NLT]

[reader]



Sheol ≠

- here is our assertion
- sheol is not the same as keber
[explain]



Sheol ≠

- here is our frustration
- translators do NOT distinguish between these terms and end up using the word 'grave' for both
- this muddies the waters a lot

“In the place of the dead (sheol) there is excitement over your arrival. The spirits of world leaders and mighty kings long dead stand up to see you. With one voice they all cry out, ‘Now you are as weak as we are!’ [Isaiah 14:9-10 NLT]

Down in the grave (sheol) mighty leaders will mockingly welcome Egypt and its allies, saying, ‘They have come down; they lie among the outcasts, hordes slaughtered by the sword.’ [Ezekiel 32:21 NLT]

[readers]

- you want some evidence that people are 'alive' and conscious in sheol?
- notice that NLT Isaiah finally says 'place of the dead', which is much better than 'grave'

“The dead tremble — those who live beneath the waters. The underworld (sheol) is naked in God’s presence. The place of destruction (abaddon) is uncovered. [Job 26:506 NLT]

Even Death (sheol) and Destruction (abaddon) hold no secrets from the Lord. How much more does he know the human heart! [Proverbs 15:11 NLT]

[readers]

- notice NLT translation of Job reference i.e. underworld!
- just wish translators were consistent!
- notice NLT translation in Proverbs i.e. Death
- but this is not so great, since 'maveth' is the word for 'death' in Hebrew
- maybe 'death and destruction' rolls off the tongue a bit easier?



- OK, now things get a bit darker
[read]
- anybody heard of this before?
- I didn't know much about this till lately myself

גיא בן-היננום

They have built pagan shrines at Topheth, the garbage dump in the valley of Ben-Hinnom, and there they burn their sons and daughters in the fire. I have never commanded such a horrible deed; it never even crossed my mind to command such a thing! [Jeremiah 7:31 NLT]

[readers]

- so what do we see here?
- the israelites had used the valley of ben-Hinnom, south of Jerusalem, as a place to sacrifice their children to pagan gods
- it was now used as a burning garbage dump
- keep this in mind as we move forward



- Ah! Finally some good news!

הַשָּׁמַיִם

*In the beginning God created the heavens
(shamayim) and the earth. [Genesis 1:1 NLT]*

[readers]

- not a lot is said about Heaven in the OT
- anyone recall any descriptions of Heaven there?
- did any OT characters get to actually see Heaven?

Then Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel climbed up the mountain. There they saw the God of Israel. Under his feet there seemed to be a surface of brilliant blue lapis lazuli, as clear as the sky itself. And though these nobles of Israel gazed upon God, he did not destroy them. In fact, they ate a covenant meal, eating and drinking in his presence! [Exodus 24:9-11 NLT]

Above this surface was something that looked like a throne made of blue lapis lazuli. And on this throne high above was a figure whose appearance resembled a man...In my vision I saw what appeared to be a throne of blue lapis lazuli above the crystal surface over the heads of the cherubim. [Ezekiel 1:26; 10:1 NLT]

[readers]

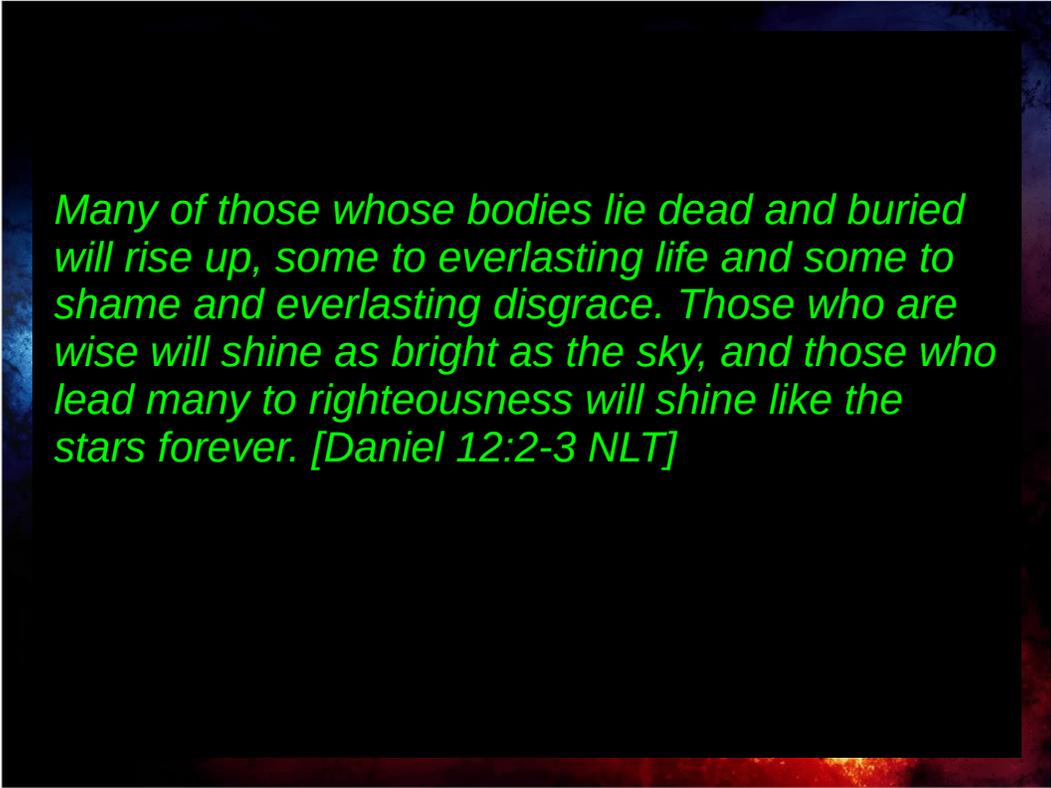
- in these verses, 'heaven' is not mentioned, but I have assumed that the place where God lives is 'heaven'
- I also find it very interesting how many humans got to see God's throne room in the OT!
- OK, so the Israelites believed in all people going to sheol when they died
- Didn't any of them have any hope for Heaven?
- Anybody know of any verses that suggest this?

And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God! I will see him for myself. Yes, I will see him with my own eyes. I am overwhelmed at the thought! [Job 19:26-27 NLT]

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever. [Psalm 23:6 NLT]

[readers]

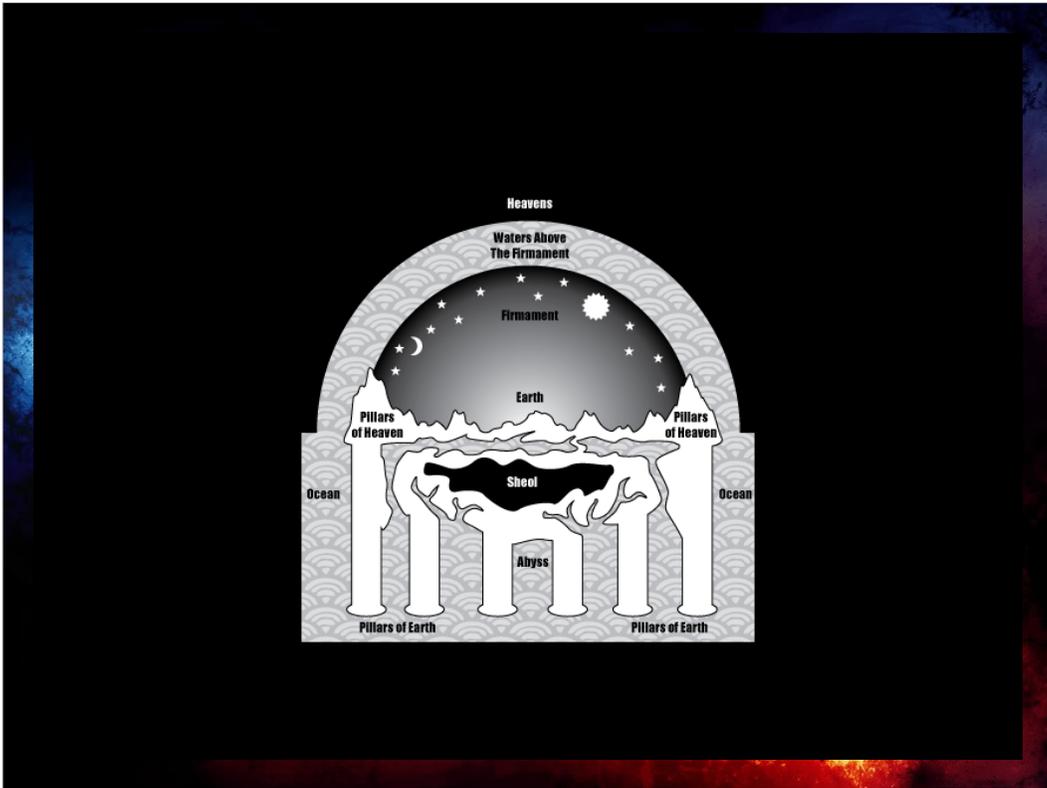
- actually there are not that many OT verses about this!



Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever. [Daniel 12:2-3 NLT]

[readers]

- here is the strongest verse that I know of in the OT
- good old Daniel! I love that guy!



- OK, Israel has a very simple view of the Universe [explain]
- notice Heavens are up and Sheol is down
- This confirms what we said at the beginning: God chose NOT to reveal everything all-at-once
- He progressively revealed truth to his people

- OK, if you were an OT Israelite, what could you look forward to when you died?
- answer: Not a lot – a shadowy place with nothing to do, with both good and bad people all in the same place, and no guarantees for anything better in the future
- It was only in the period between the OT and NT that things started to look a little better



- time to jump to the NT and greek, which is easier for us to read and understand



- who has heard this word before?

ᾠδης

“Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and his soul went to the place of the dead (hades). There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side. [Luke 16:22-23 NLT]

[readers]

- are these verses an actual 100% TRUE story?
- maybe not (this is in the style of Jewish rabbis) but it probably has true elements
- i.e. accurately depicts hades, but without the conversations in it
- ok it will become clearer a bit later, but here we see that 'hades' is the place of the dead, just like 'sheol' was in the OT
- everyone goes there, but this parable indicates that there is a clear separation in it – what is it?

*For you will not leave my soul among the dead
(hades) or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave.
[Acts 2:27 NLT]*

*I looked up and saw a horse whose color was pale
green. Its rider was named Death, and his
companion was the Grave (Hades). [Rev 6:8 NLT]*

*Then death and the grave (hades) were thrown into
the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death.
[Rev 12:14 NLT]*

[readers]

- notice the inconsistency in translating 'hades', just like happened for 'sheol'

- funny story: during the 1960s was a kid's science fiction story 'Lost in Space'. During one episode, the family found itself in 'Hades' talking to an alien who looked like the Devil. Amusing since they couldn't have gotten away with calling it Hell.

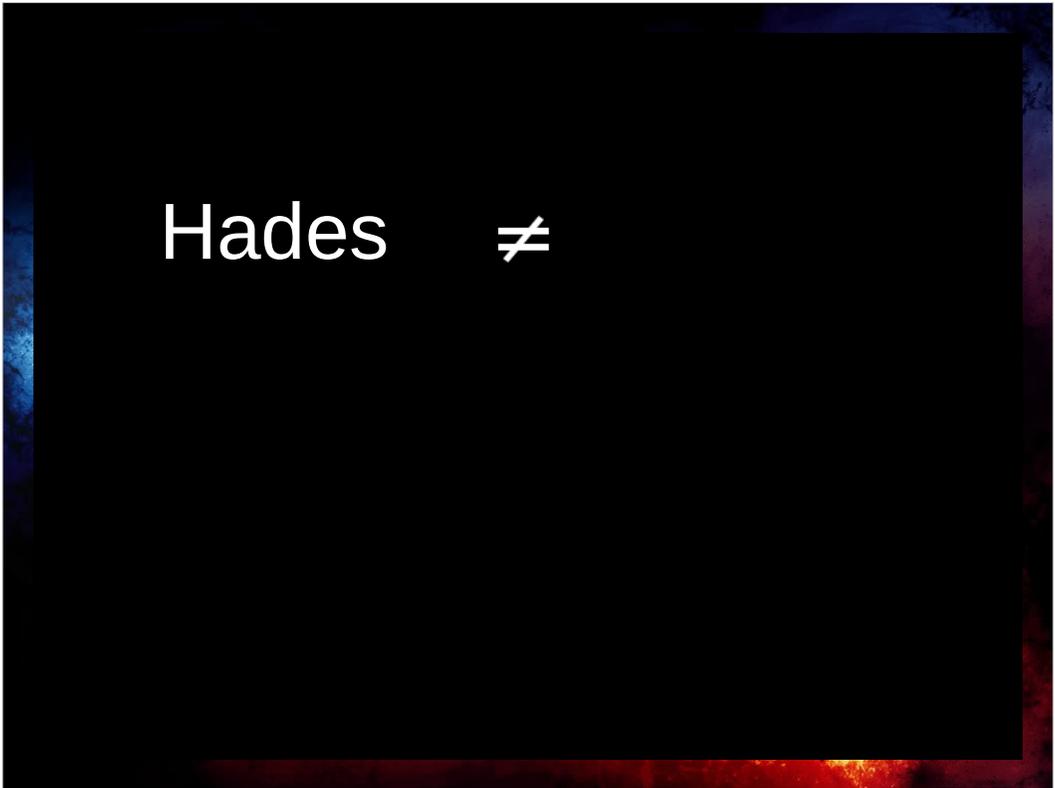


- ok, just to prove to you that there is a difference between 'hades' and 'grave' in the NT

μνημεῖον

Don't be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves (mnemeion) will hear the voice of God's Son, and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment. [John 5:28-29 NLT]

[readers]



Hades ≠

- so, sadly, we end up with a similar muddy waters in bible translation in the NT as we did in the OT
[explain]



Hades \neq

[explain]

- you might want to check your own translations



- let's do a quick compare between the OT and NT



[explain]

- note that sheol is not EXACTLY the same as hades, since (as we will find out) hades is a temporary place, but otherwise very similar



- ah! Time to visit this word again, except this time in Greek!



- in the OT, the valley of 'ben-Hinna' was a literal very bad burning place and a metaphor for something similar to Hell
- but in the NT, 'ge-henna' actually was now know as an actual 'Hell' as we are familiar with
- some have confused this and said, Hell (gehenna) is not a real place, but just a garbage dump outside Jerusalem – nothing to worry about!
- Almost all the references to gehenna were made by Jesus!

ΓΕΕΝΝΑ

But I'll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell (Gehenna). Yes, he's the one to fear. [Luke 12:5 NLT]

[readers]

- notice that the NLT translates this as 'Hell'

*But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell (**Gehenna**). [Matthew 5:22 NLT]*

*“Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire * prepared for the devil and his demons (**aggelos**). [Matthew 25:41 NLT]*

[readers]

- notice the expression 'fire' and 'fires' by Jesus
- sheol and hades had no references to 'fire' (though in the parable the rich man was VERY thirsty!)
- in the Matthew reference, it doesn't actually say 'gehenna', but there is strong evidence that this is what Jesus was alluding to



- ok, this Greek word should be familiar to us
- anybody know what an 'abyss' is?
- deep or bottomless pit
- where in the Gospels is such a place mentioned?

ἄβυσσος

The demons kept begging Jesus not to send them into the bottomless pit (abyssos). [Luke 8:31 NLT]

[readers]

- anybody remember this story?

But faith's way of getting right with God says, "Don't say in your heart, 'Who will go up to heaven (ouranos)?' (to bring Christ down to earth). And don't say, 'Who will go down to the place of the dead (abyssos)?' (to bring Christ back to life again)."
[Romans 10:6-7 NLT]

The angel threw him into the bottomless pit (abyssos), which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished. Afterward he must be released for a little while. [Rev 20:3 NLT]

[readers]

- here are 2 other references
- that 1st one is a very strange one and not clear what it is saying, so AGAIN there are those that have re-interpreted this to remove the 'supernatural' connotations



- In Greek mythology, Tartarus is the prison for the Titans (primeval race of powerful deities, immortal giants of incredible strength)
- hmmm...did we read anything about a prison place for supernatural beings last week?

ΤΑΡΤΑΡΩ

For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell (tartarus), in gloomy pits of darkness (siros zophos), where they are being held until the day of judgment. [2 Peter 2:4 NLT]

[readers]

- this is the ONLY place in the NT this word is used
- this seems to be a special place separate from the other places we have talked about
- when I was preparing this lesson, I finally got an 'ah-ha' moment when I read this verse
- I had assumed that the Abyss and Tartarus were too different places
- what in this verse changed my mind?

*And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness (*desmos zophos*), waiting for the great day of judgment. [Jude 6 NLT]*

So he went and preached to the spirits in prison—those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. [1 Peter 3:19-20 NLT]

[readers]

- we link Jude's description with 2nd Peter and assume that he is also talking about Tartarus
- the 1st Peter reference is very interesting and has puzzled Christians since the beginning
- do you see the possible connection here?

- everybody heard of the apostle's creed?

Apostle's Creed: Traditional English Version

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

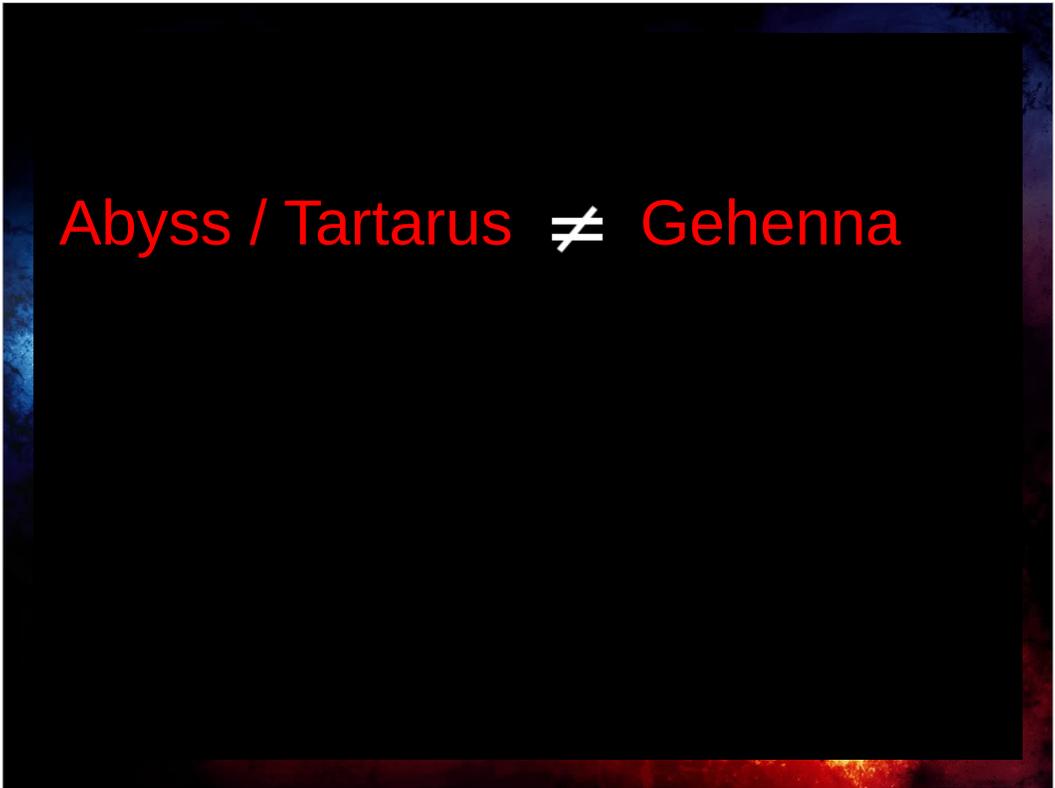
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN.

[dare read all or part]

- that one line has bothered people for centuries, and some even have removed it because it sounds so out-of-place
- another thing some have done is change this to 'he descended to the dead'
- why is this a bad way to handle this doctrine?

- ah! Actually we might want to cut them a bit of slack, as we will find out a bit later



Abyss / Tartarus \neq Gehenna

- time for a summary!
[explain]



Abyss / Tartarus \neq Gehenna

- so once again we see the translators as sometimes muddying the waters
- they sometimes use the single word 'Hell' to translate two SEPARATE Greek words



- time for the NT good news part!

οὐρανός

Now Christ has gone to heaven (ouranos). He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority. [1 Peter 3:22 NLT]

[readers]

Look at the birds [of heaven] (ouranos). They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? [Matthew 6:26 NLT]

But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens (ouranos) will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. [2 Peter 3:10 NLT]

[readers]

- this is confusing – it looks like the same Greek word is used for 3 different types of 'heaven'

Ouranos

Sky

Universe

God's Home



- now we can finally cut the Bible translations some slack
- Greek only had one word to describe Heaven-type places
- it is up to us to understand that they are all different and unique



παράδεισος

- oh! Here is another good place
- we should easily recognize this Greek word
- anybody know where this word is used in the NT?

παράδεισος

And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise (paradeisos)." [Luke 23:43 NLT]

[readers]

- who was Jesus talking to
- this verse really messes up the Jws!

*Yes, only God knows whether I was in my body or outside my body. But I do know that I was caught up to paradise (*paradeisos*) and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell. [2 Corinthians 12:3-4 NLT]*

*“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life in the paradise (*paradeisos*) of God. [Rev 12:7 NLT]*

[readers]

That is why the Scriptures say,

“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 (the lower parts of the earth). And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself. [Ephesians 4:8-10 NLT]

[readers]

- ok, here is another very mysterious NT passage
- it talks about Jesus ascending and descending
- the problem is WHERE?

- who were the 'crowd of captives' that he led while ascending?
- we'll talk about this more soon
- notice the NLT takes some liberties again

*So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. For we live by believing and not by seeing. Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please him.
[2 Corinthians 5:6-9 NLT]*

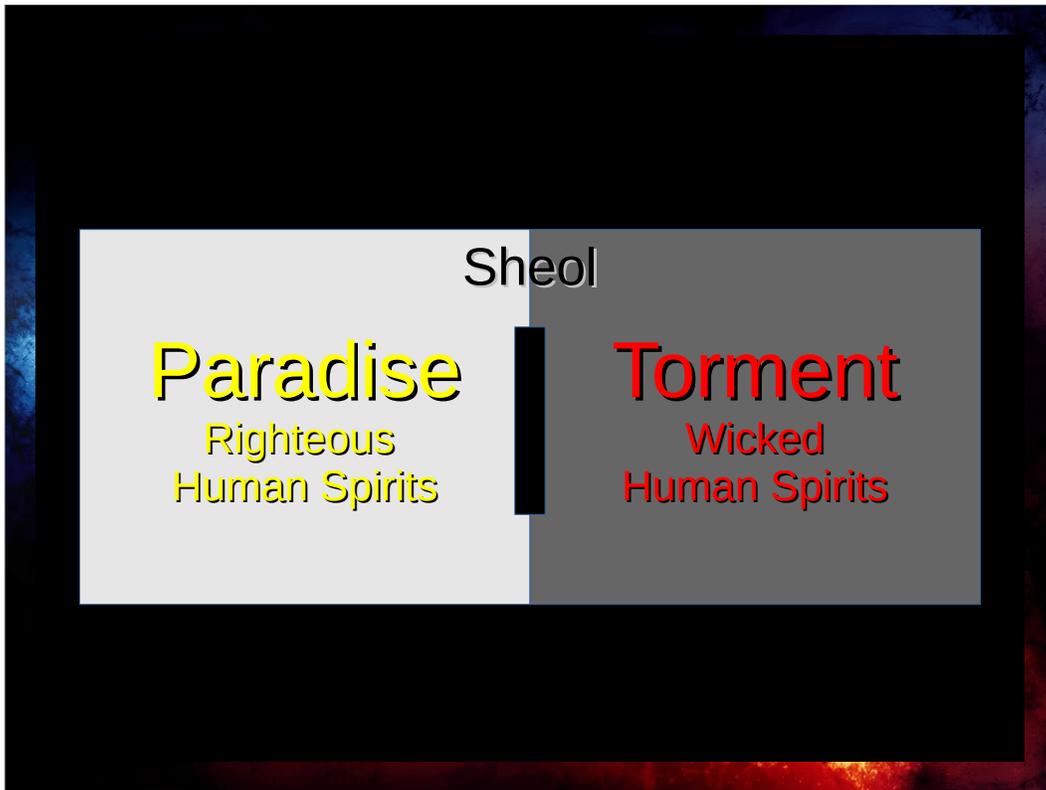
[readers]

- I love this verse, since it makes somethings very clear – what?
- when we die we go directly to be with the Lord
- there is no Hades for us now
- we don't 'sleep' when we are dead
- note: mennonites used to believe in 'soul sleep' for some reason

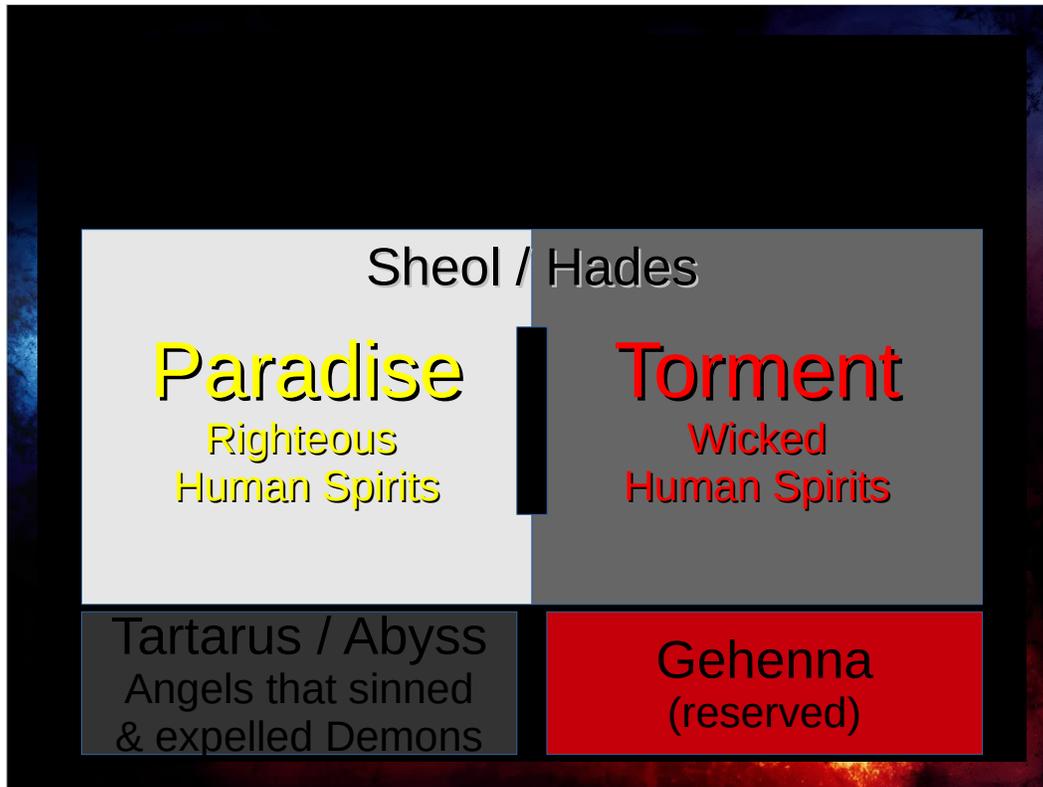
- now let's use some simple diagrams to show us how the OT and NT concepts of Heaven and Hell developed



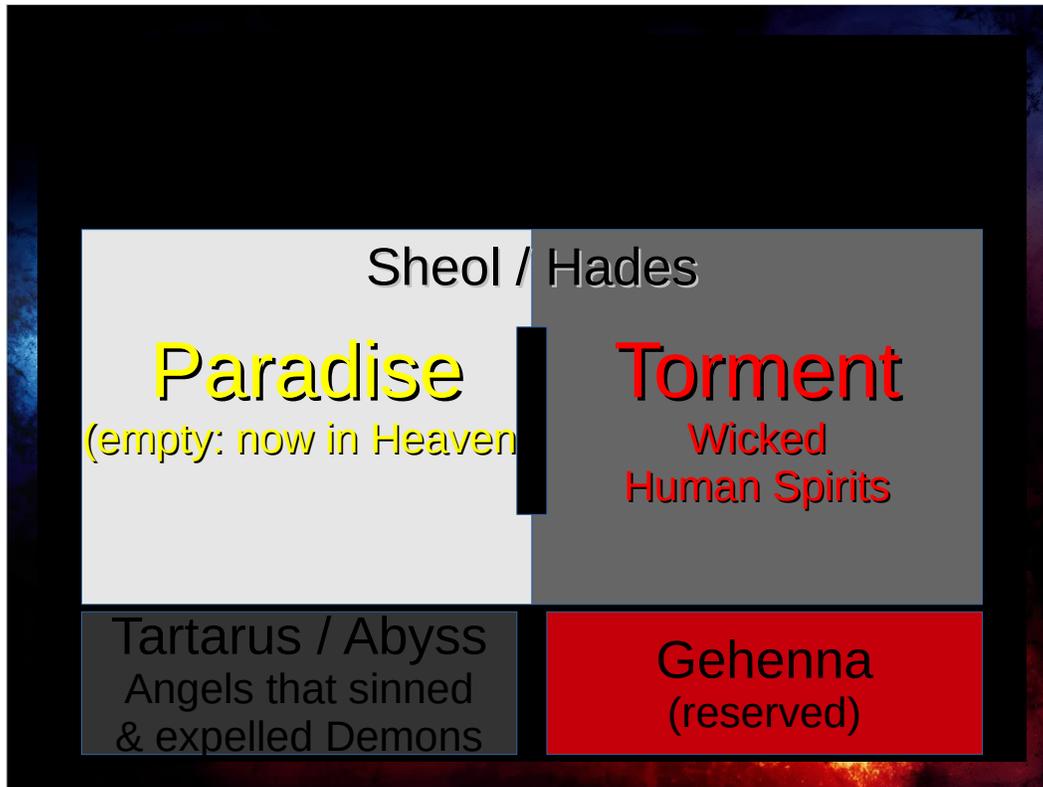
- This is the OT view of where human spirits went after death
- shadowy, everything there, good and bad
- Who were the exceptions? Enoch and Elijah



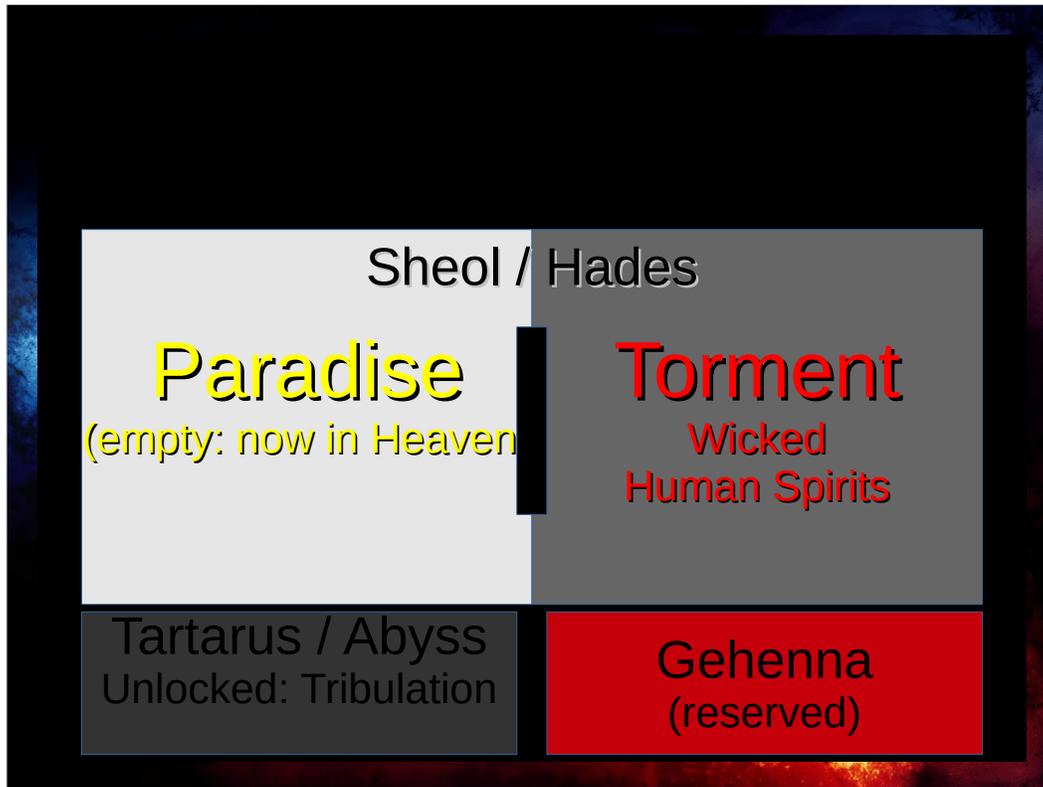
- between the OT and NT, perceptions had changed



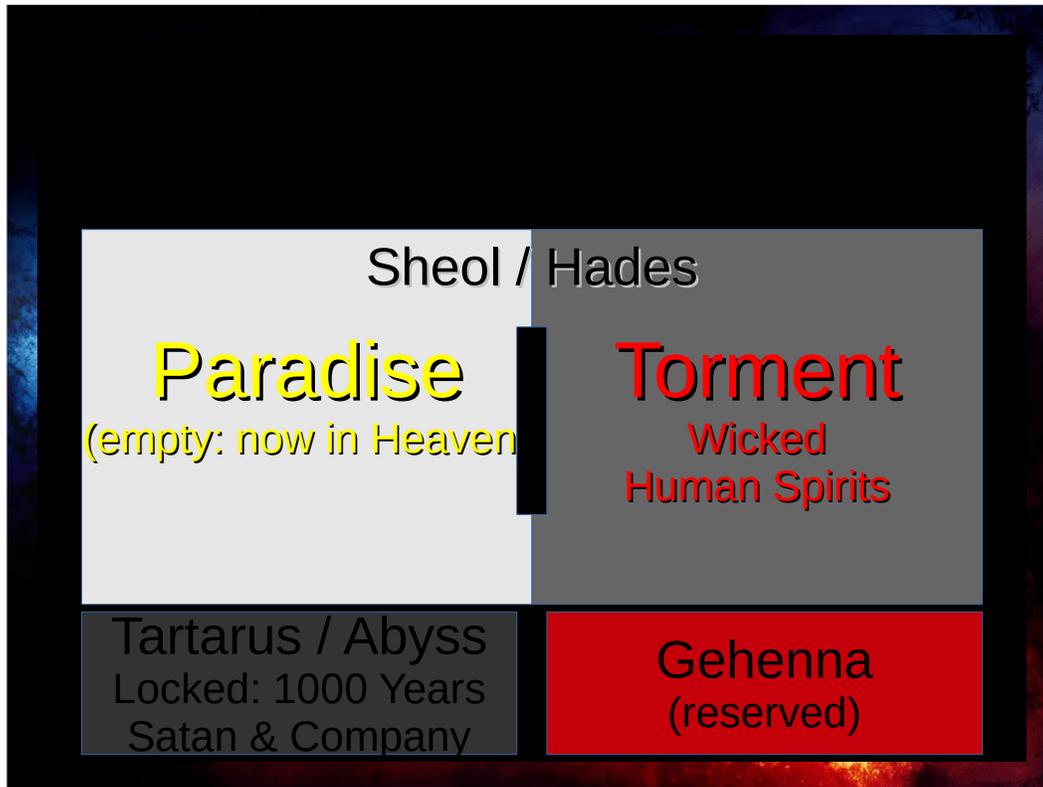
- With the extra information we get from the NT, we are able to add more boxes
- where did the thief that Jesus encouraged on the cross go to? Paradise



- a dramatic change occurred during the resurrection!
- it looks like the 'captives' that Jesus 'led' during this time were from Paradise in Hades



- oh oh! In the future, during the so-called Tribulation period, the Abyss/Tartarus is going to be opened and everything bad in it is going to be let out



- during the 1000 years (Millenium called by some) Satan and his buddies will be locked up there
- the good news is that Satan will be there

*Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever...The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave (*hades*) gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire. [Rev 20:10,13-15 NLT]*

[dare read]

- this leads to our last diagram:



- in eternity, all enemies of God end up in one place, which is not named but appears to be Genenna

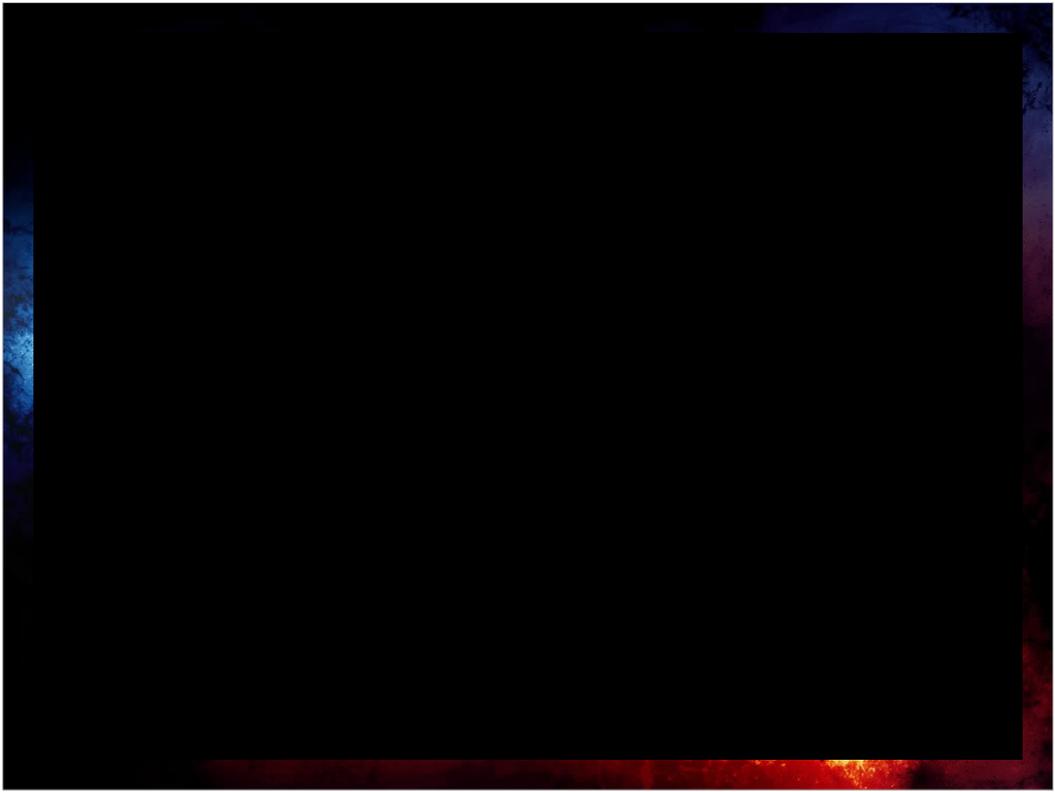
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven (ouranos) and the old earth (ge) had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

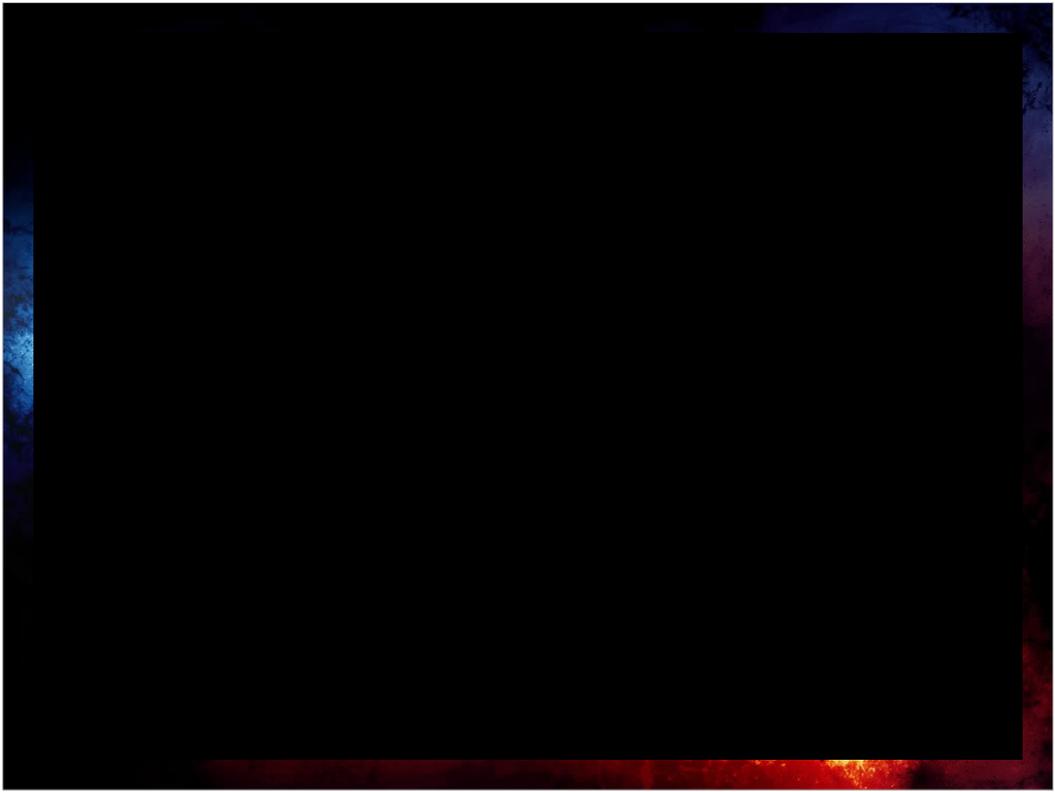
I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." [Revelation 21:1-4 NLT]

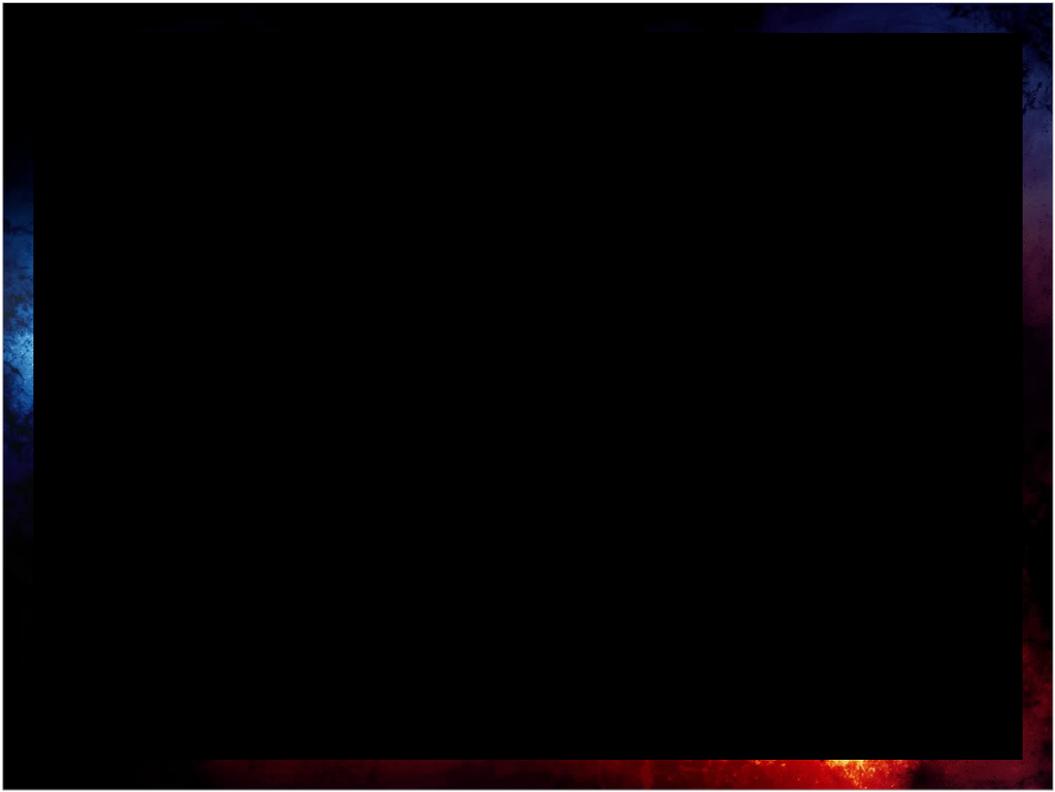
- just to end on a much more beautiful note
[readers]



- that's all folks!
- thanks for helping me walk through these last few weeks, even though these were NOT the most pleasant topics
- I think that everyone should know at least some of this stuff, and it was an opportunity to show you how easy it is to do your own original-languages word studies, instead of relying on just a single English bible translation
- I think I am scheduled for more classes in April for BIBLE studies, and I'll need suggestions!







Abyss / Tartarus

Gehenna

For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell (tartarus), in gloomy pits of darkness (siros zophos), where they are being held until the day of judgment. [2 Peter 2:4 NLT]

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Sheol

Paradise

Righteous
Human Spirits

Torment

Wicked
Human Spirits

Sheol

Paradise

Righteous
Human Spirits

Torment

Wicked
Human Spirits

Tartarus
Angels that sinned

Abyss
Expelled Demons

Sheol

Paradise

Empty

Torment

Wicked
Human Spirits

Tartarus
Angels that sinned

Abyss
Expelled Demons

Gehenna \neq Abyss \neq Tartarus

Gehenna \neq Abyss \neq Tartarus

Sheol \approx

\equiv

But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell (Gehenna). [Matthew 5:22 NLT]

“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you cross land and sea to make one convert, and then you turn that person into twice the child of hell (Gehenna) you yourselves are! [Matthew 23:15 NLT]

[readers]

- notice that the NLT translates this as 'Hell'
- notice the expression 'fires' by Jesus
- sheol and hades had no references