

Fellowship Bible Church: The Study of Heaven and the Afterlife

Outline:

I. Intermediate state: “what happens when someone dies?”

- What is death?:
 - Spiritual death:
 - The penalty stated in advance. (Gen. 2:17)
 - The penalty actualized. (Gen. 3:7-11)
 - #1: Nakedness before God
 - #2: Fear of God (not positive but expectation of judgment)
 - #3: Hiding from God (cf. truth suppression in Rom. 1)
 - #4: Covering ourselves up. (Man’s attempt to remedy their situation.)
 - Physical death:
 - A part of the curse on mankind (Gen. 3:17)
 - Eternal death:
 - The first to experience eternal death (Rev. 20:10)
 - The second to experience eternal death (Rev. 20:14)
 - The third to experience eternal death (Rev. 20:15)
- Who is the first person to die?
 - It depends on context.
- Where do people go when they physically die?

Location #1: Sheol

Observations:

- Genesis 37:35
- Deuteronomy 32:22
- 2 Samuel 22:6
- Isaiah 5:14-15
- Isaiah 14:9-11
- Job 14:13
- Psalm 139:8
- Jonah 2:1-10

Summary:

- Sheol is downward, and deep
- Sheol is dark
- Sheol is the destination of the soul after physical death
- Sheol is a place of grief, trouble, and sorrow.
- Sheol is associated with death and destruction personified
- Both righteous and unrighteous dead exist in Sheol
- Sheol is never satisfied (there is always more room)

- Sheol is escapable by redemption

Location #2: Gehenna

Observations:

- Jeremiah 7:28-8:3
- Jeremiah 19:2-9
- Mark 9:42-48
- Matthew 5:22, 29, 30
- Matthew 10:28
- Matthew 23:15
- Matthew 25:41
- 2 Thessalonians 1:9
- Jude 13
- Revelation 14:11
- Revelation 20:14
- Revelation 21:8

Summary:

- A literal valley SSW of Jerusalem
- Infamous place of idol worship
- The terrible practice of child sacrifice to demons
- Used by Christ to describe the place of eternal punishment

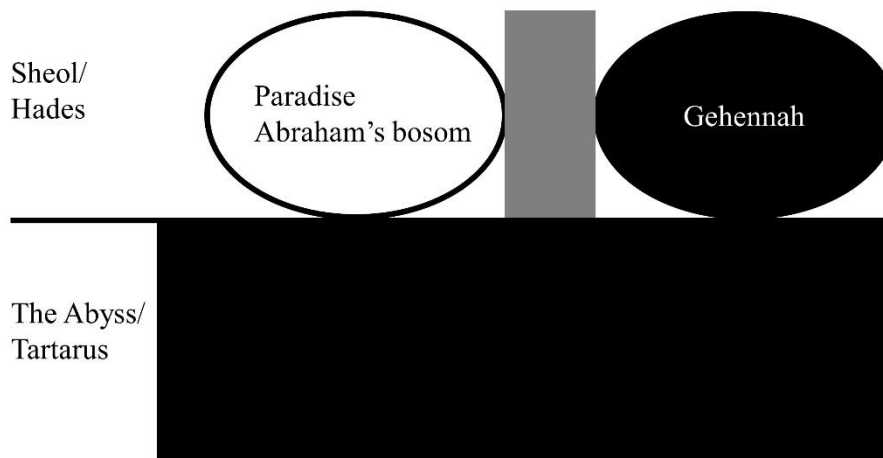
Location #3: The Abyss/Tartarus

Observations:

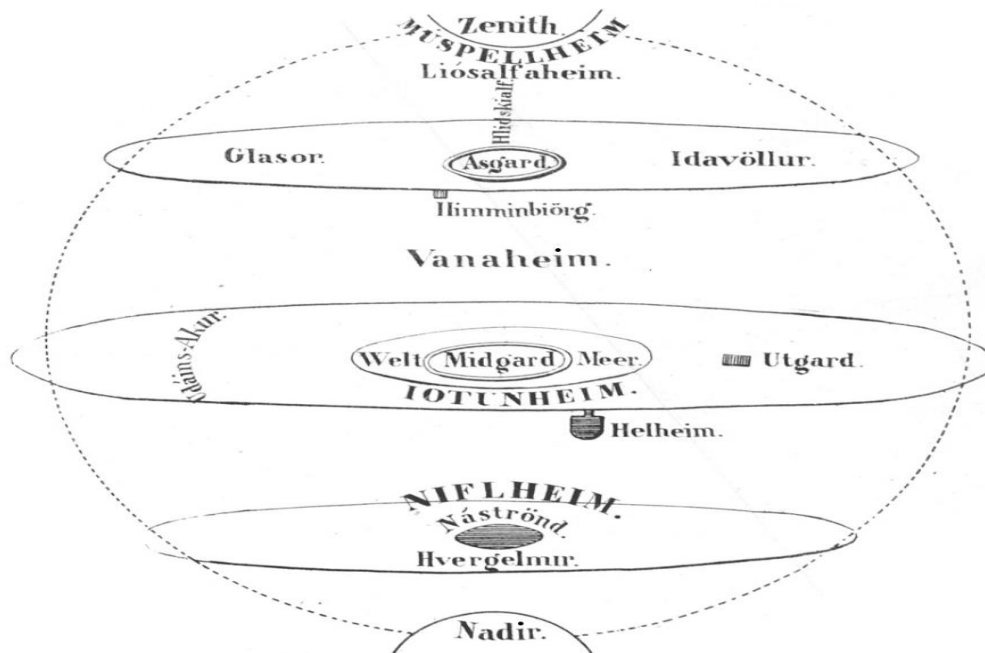
- 2 Peter 2:4
- Jude 6-7

Summary:

- “Abussos” is literally “depthless” or as we say, “bottomless”
- It (Tartarus) was, by universal reckoning, the place where the Titans, the half-human, half-divine race, had been incarcerated by the might of Zeus, Hades, and Poseidon, the full gods (Hesiod).
- In particular, Tartarus was a deep place in the earth underneath Hades itself, a smaller compartment of an apparently vast underworld complex. And by the earliest accounts, it was the abode of rebel gods and god-men alone.
- The Greeks were not that far off the mark, after all. Both Peter and Jude add remarkably similar details of underworld gloom. One final note: the Abyss and Tartarus are very likely one in the same.



- What about Hell?



- Summary:
 - Believers in the OT: Sheol (renamed “Abraham’s bosom”)
 - “gathered to his people”
 - “At this point, he was gathered to his people, again indicating faith in the afterlife. This cannot be speaking of his physical interment because he was not put together physically with his people. Physically, these people were in Mesopotamia, and the family burial plot was in Haran; but he was buried in the Land. Therefore, this is speaking of the immaterial part of Abraham, not the material part. This phrase “gathered to his people” is used ten times, and only in the Pentateuch: Genesis 25:8, of Abraham; 25:17, of Ishmael; 35:29, of Isaac; 49:29, of Jacob; 49:33, of Jacob; Numbers 20:24, of Aaron; 20:26, of Aaron; 27:13, of Moses; 31:2, of Moses; and Deuteronomy 32:50, of Aaron and Moses. A parallel phrase is gathered to his fathers in Genesis 15:15 and 47:30.” – Arnold Fruchtenbaum

- Unbelievers in the OT: (Sheol/ “place of torment”)
 - Luke 16:19-31 (Context: vv. 14-17)
 - Revelation 20:11-15
- Unbelievers in the NT: (Sheol/Hades)
 - Luke 16:19-31
 - Revelation 20:11-15
- Believers in the NT:
 - Christ’s accomplishment Rev. 1:18
 - Christ’s substitution Heb. 2:9
 - The believer’s share Rom. 6:3-11
 - The believer’s hope.
 - 1- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 - 2- 1 Corinthians 15:12-26, 50-57
 - The “sleeping” believer’s location.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:1-8