

WHERE COULD I GO ?

In this study, we will look at 2 destinations Heaven or Hell.

Job 11:8 It is as **high as heaven**; what canst thou do?
deeper than hell; what canst thou know?

Heaven is located up high Hell is located down low -- below:

Amos 9:2 Though they **dig into hell**, thence shall mine hand take them;
though they climb **up to heaven**, thence will I bring them down:

Jesus taught about both heaven and hell, too:

Luke 10:15 And thou, Capernaum, which art **exalted to heaven**,
shalt be thrust **down to hell**.

HEAVEN

We may say heaven is somewhere way up in the sky over the rainbow.

The **1st heaven** is the atmosphere that surrounds the earth. God's heaven is way past that. The **2nd heaven** is the universe in outer space. God's throne is beyond those galaxies. The **3rd heaven** is the place of paradise:

2 Cor 12:2-4 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago,
(whether in the body, I cannot tell;
or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)
such an one **caught up to the third heaven**.

3 And I knew such a man,
(whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)

4 How that he was **caught up into paradise**,
and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

God's abode is heaven humans were designed for earthly life:

Psa 115:16 **The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S:**
but the earth hath he given to the children of men.

Deut 10:14 Behold, **the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God**, the earth also, with all that therein is.

God's kingdom is presently in Heaven:

Psa 11:4 The LORD is in his holy temple,
the LORD'S throne is in heaven:
his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

Sometime in the future God's heavenly kingdom will come to earth:

Deut 11:21 That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD swore unto your fathers to give them, **as the days of heaven upon the earth.**

Luke 11:2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. **Thy kingdom come.** Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

Jesus Christ, God's Son, came down from Heaven (John 3:13, 6:33-58)

John 6:38 For **I came down from heaven**, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

dwelt among men (John 1:14) died on the cross (Matt 27:35)

resurrected from the dead (Matt 28:6, Rom 8:34)

and returned back up to Heaven --- from where He will come the 2nd time:

Acts 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? **this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**

Heaven has **REWARDS** stored in it for the judgment of the righteous

who were persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ:

Matt 5:10-12 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for **great is your reward in heaven:** for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Jesus encouraged His followers to make heaven their treasure chest:

Matt 6:19-21 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:
 20 But **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:
 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Paul also showed that's where the blessings are for the saints:

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us **with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places** in Christ:

The writer to the Hebrews gave assurance of better things in heaven:

Heb 10:34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that **ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance**.

Peter described the heavenly deposit system-in even more detail than Paul:

1 Pet 1:4 **To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,**

HELL

There are 4 words in the scriptures that are translated 'hell.'

In the Old Testament books Genesis through Malachi, the word for hell is **Sheol**, which is used 65 times, and translated

- grave - 31 x
- hell - 31 x
- pit - 3 x.

It was the designation for **all** the dead, whether they were righteous or not.

In the books of Matthew through Revelation, the word for hell is **Hades**, which is used 11 times, and translated

- hell - 10 x
- grave - 1 x.

The one time it was translated 'grave' was in Paul's epistle to Corinth:

1 Cor 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? **O grave**, where is thy victory?

It was **initially** the designation for **all** the dead, whether they were righteous or not as in the case of the rich man and the begger, Lazarus (Luke 16:19 - 31) which were separated by a great fixed canyon with one side comfort and the other side torment in flames:

Luke 16:22-24 And it came to pass, that **the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom:**

the rich man also died, and was buried;

23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for **I am tormented in this flame.**

25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things:

but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Jesus went to this place of the dead hell, called Hades:

Acts 2:27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. (Psa 16:10)

At His death, Jesus told the repentant thief on the cross that they would be with each other in **paradise** (**Abraham's bosom**, a place of comfort):

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, **To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.**

Apparently Jesus moved paradise up to heaven when He ascended because when Paul had his paradise experience, the direction of it was 'up':

Eph 4:8-10 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Psa 68:18)

9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Thus, since paradise is now located in the 3rd heaven (2 Cor 12:2-4), the only occupants of hell are the wicked.

Another word for hell is **Gehenna**, which is used 12 times, and translated • hell - 9 x • hell fire - 3 x.

It was originally the valley of Hinnom, south of Jerusalem, where the filth and dead animals of the city were cast out and burned being a fit symbol of the wicked and their future destruction.

Matt 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to **destroy both soul and body in hell.**

Another word for hell is **Tartaroo**, which is used only 1 time, for the dark, subterranean region (below the earth). For the ancient Greeks, it was like Gehenna of the Jews where the wicked dead suffer punishment for their evil deeds:

2 Pet 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but **cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;**

The PORT of ENTRY is DEATH

Death is **separation**. The soul is separated from the body. The soul goes to heaven or hell. The body is buried with a tombstone erected there:

Gen 35:18-20 And it came to pass, as **her soul was in departing, (for she died)** that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.

19 And Rachel **died, and was buried** in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem.

20 And Jacob **set a pillar upon her grave:** that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day.

Death is the hallway into heaven or hell:

Psa 55:15 Let **death seize** upon them, and let them **go down quick into hell:** for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.

Prov 14:32 The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but **the righteous hath hope in his death.**

The wicked have no hope but we know that our deceased loved ones will be resurrected when Christ comes back. What a comfort:

1 Thess 4:13-14 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye **sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.**

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.**

1Th 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto **the coming of the Lord** shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For **the Lord himself shall descend from heaven** with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and **the dead in Christ shall rise first:**

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**

18 Wherefore **comfort** one another with these words.

The hope of the righteous is everlasting life:

Titus 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to **the hope of eternal life.**

For many years being a **wrongly**-dividing mid-Acts'er I completely disregarded the 23rd Psalm. Now that I understand **right** division, I can see where 'all scripture' is profitable, especially if facing great tribulation:

Psa 23:4 Yea, **though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort** me.

God has prepared a place for us. Where He is we will be:

John 14:2-6 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

When believers die, our soul goes to be with God and our body will be buried until the 1st resurrection (Rev 20:4-6, 1 Cor 15:51-57) where it will be raised, changed, and glorified then we will be judged:

2 Cor 5:1-2 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, **we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.**

2 For **in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:**

2 Cor 5:8-10 We are confident, I say, and willing rather **to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**

9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

10 For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ;** that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Jesus Christ is the One Who died for sin and He is the Rightful Judge:

John 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

John 5:27-29 And hath **given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.**

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming,

in the which **all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,**

29 **And shall come forth;**

they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

As it is said, "The death rate is still one a piece." The grim-reaper will come for each of us, sooner or later unless we are in the generation (Matt 24:34) that endures to the end (Matt 24:13, Mark 13:13) to see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory (Matt 24:30). So let us be prepared for death and judgment:

Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die,
but after this the judgment:

Now I am thankful for verses that give me strength and courage:

Psa 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his saints.

What peace and joy these scriptures now bring to my heart:

Psa 48:14 For this God is our God for ever and ever:
he will be our guide even unto death.

How grateful I am for salvation, and to know the Prince of Life (Acts 3:15):

Psa 68:19-20 Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits,
even the God of our salvation. Selah.

20 He that is our God is the God of salvation;
and unto GOD the Lord belong the issues from death.

Which will it be for you Heaven or Hell?

Prov 15:24 The way of life is above to the wise,
that he may depart from hell beneath.

To get to heaven believe the gospel that Jesus Christ died as payment for your sins, He was buried, and He rose again the 3rd day (1 Cor 15:1-4).

This is David Dowell, saying, "Think about it!"
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