

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HADES AND HELL

(END TIME SERIES # 1)

PASTOR G. RICHARDSON

Unfortunately, the Authorized Versions of the Bible translated two words which have entirely different meaning – **Hades** and **Gehenna** – by one word, “**Hell.**” Taking advantage of the mistake, a modern cult has added the popular misunderstanding of the subject by perverting the meaning of both Hades and Gehenna.

1. **HADES**: Means (the unseen world) is the Greek equivalent of the Old Testament “**Sheol.**” **Hades**, or **Sheol**, is revealed in the Bible as a place where the spirits of the dead, saved and lost went, up to the time of the resurrection of Christ. Hades was originally in three parts: (1) “**Paradise**”; (2) **Torment**; (3) “**a Great Gulf Fixed**” between the two (Luke 16:19-31). The souls of the saved persons, when they died, during Old Testament times, went to “**paradise**” section of Hades. The souls of the lost persons, when they died, went down to the “**torment**” section. At the resurrection of Christ, He took the “**paradise**” section with Him to heaven.

2Co 12:1 It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

2Co 12:2 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.

2Co 12:3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)

2Co 12:4 How that he was **caught up into paradise**, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Eph 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Eph 4:9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?)

Eph 4:10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

2. **Sheol and Hades are not the Grave**: This can be clearly seen by an unbiased reading of Luke 16:9-31. There we read that both the rich man and Lazarus were conscious in Hades, the one in torment, the other in paradise, “Abraham’s bosom.”
3. **HELL (GEHENNA)**: Got its name from a valley west of Jerusalem which formerly was the city dump. The refuse was consumed by a perpetual fires, and the carcasses of dead animals were eaten by maggots; hence, fire and works were always present in this place, the Valley of Hinnom. Our Saviour made this public dump a picture of real hell (Gehenna). Were the “fire is not quenched” and where “the worm dieth not” (Mark 9:43-48).

Mar 9:44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

4. **HADES: (IN WHICH NOW THE ONLY PLACE WHERE THE LOST GO)**. Death and Hades will eventually be cast into the “Lake of Fire” (Rev. 20:14) Since the Saviour spoke of Gehenna as the place where the bodies of the lost would be cast (Matt 5:29, 30). It will be synonymous with the lake of fire, for after the resurrection of the wicked they will be cast there (Rev. 20-11-15). Many sincere questions may be raised about the nature of Gehenna that are not fully answered in the Bible. But enough is revealed so that every sane, right-thinking person wants to keep out of that place.
 - a. Since there is a hell, and God wants no one to go there (2 Peter 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:4; John 3:16,17). Every Christian should do his utmost to win as many as he can to Jesus Christ. “Pulling them out of the fire” of eternal destruction (Jude 23). The matter of soul-winning is one of the desperate urgency. The eternal destiny of people depends upon us to be an effective witness.

2Co 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;