

Individual Eschatology

A Study in What Happens to Believers and Unbelievers after Death

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The Death Rate: At Least One Per Person!

Genesis 2:16 The LORD God commanded the man saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat it you will surely die.

Genesis 3:19 By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Genesis 5:5 So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years, and he died.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death...

Hebrews 9:27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after that comes judgment...

The Division of Body and Soul At Death

The Intermediate State:

Genesis 35:18 It came about as her soul (Rachel's) was departing (for she died)...

Ecclesiastes 12:7 ...then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

Luke 23:43 "Truly I say to you; today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

Luke 23:46 And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit My spirit."

2 Cor 5:8 ...I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

The Abode of The Dead In The O.T.

- 1. **Qabar** = "the grave" (cf. Gen 23:4)
- 2. **Bor** = "the pit" (often used in parallel with Sheol) (cf. Ps. 30:3; Prov. 1:12)
- 3. **Shachath** = "the trap" (cf. Ezek. 19:4, 8) (pit dug for game)
- 4. **Erets** = "the earth, netherworld" (cf. Isa. 26:19; Ps. 22:30)
- 5. **Sheol** = "grave, place of punishment for wicked, place of the dead, death" (cf. Job 17:3; 21:13; Ps. 9:17)
- 6. **Mot/mawet** = "death, place of death" (cf. Ps. 9:13)
- 7. **Abaddon** = "perdition, place of destruction" (cf. Job 26:6; Ps. 88:11; Rev 9:11)

The Afterlife for Believers and Unbelievers

- The alleged lack of clear delineation in how Sheol and the other terms for the after life were used in the O.T. has caused some to claim that the O.T. sees no distinction between the abode of the righteous and unrighteous.
- By examining Sheol, we can determine that there were 3 distinctions that the O.T. made regarding death, and the place of the righteous and unrighteous.

O.T. Afterlife for Believers and Unbelievers

- 1. Sheol often focuses on the act of death, not the location of the afterlife.
- 2. Sheol sometimes refers to the area of punishment of the unbeliever.
- 3. Sheol sometimes refers to the grave in general, where all human bodies go after death.

1. Sheol: As The Act of Death:

1 Sam 2:6 Yahweh kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up.

Psalm 89:48 What man can live and not see death? Can he deliver his soul from the power of Sheol?

Hosea 13:14 Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from death? O Death, where are your thorns? O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion will be hidden from My sight. (NASB)

Hosea 13:14 From the power of Sheol I shall redeem them, From death I shall ransom them. Where are your barbs, death? Where is your destructive power, Sheol?

(Garret, Duane A.: *Hosea, Joel*, NAC, 264)

1. No examples of a command beginning with where!
2. Deut 32:37; Judg 9:38; 2 Kgs 18:34; 19:13; Pss 42:3, 10; 79:10; 115:2; Isa 19:12; 36:19; 37:13; Jer 17:15; Joel 2:17; Mic 7:10 provide examples of "from" or "where" introducing taunts.

1 Cor 15:55 O Death, where is your victory? O Death, where is your sting?

O.T. Afterlife for Believers and Unbelievers

2. Sheol as the place of torment for the unbeliever

Psalm 9:17 The wicked will return to Sheol, even all the nations who forget God.

Psalm 49:13-14 This is the way of those who are foolish...As sheep they are appointed for Sheol; Death shall be their shepherd...

Luke 16:23, 26 In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom...and besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and none may cross over from there to us.

O.T. Afterlife for Believers and Unbelievers

3. Sheol as a reference to the grave in general:

Genesis 42:38 But Jacob said, "My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he alone is left. If harm should befall him on the journey you are taking, then you will bring my gray hair down to Sheol in sorrow."

1 Kings 2:6 (David's charge to Solomon) So act according to your wisdom, and do not let his gray hair go down to Sheol in peace.

Psalm 6:5 For there is no mention of You in death; In Sheol who will give You thanks?

Psalm 88:3 For my life has had enough troubles, and my life has drawn near to Sheol.

The O.T. Hope For The Righteous

Numbers 23:10 Who can count the dust of Jacob, or number the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the upright, and let my end be like his!

Psalm 49:15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol, for He will receive me.

Psalm 73:24 With Your counsel You will guide me, and afterward receive me to glory.

Proverbs 14:32 The wicked is thrust down by his wrongdoing, But the righteous has a refuge when he dies.

The Eternal States In The O.T.

Intermediate State

	Body	Soul
Righteous:	grave	heaven
Unrighteous:	grave	"Sheol" (Hades)

Eternal State

	Body/Soul
Righteous:	Resurrection – Kingdom
Unrighteous:	Resurrection – Hell

The Resurrection In The O.T.

Matt 22:29-33 But Jesus answered and said to them, You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God...But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: "I Am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?" He is not the God of the dead but of the living." When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.

- Egw ei ni o qeoVAbr aam.. (Gen 3:6 LXX) present, active, indicative – verb of being indicates God is currently the God of Abraham – therefore Abraham is currently alive!
- The Sadducees' god would be the god of three dead men!

The Resurrection In The O.T.

Job 19:25-27 As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God. Whom I myself shall behold, and whom my eyes will see and not another.

Psalm 16:10-11 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Psalm 17:15 As for me, I shall behold Your face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with Your likeness when I awake.

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The Resurrection In The O.T.

Isaiah 25:8 He will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth.

Isaiah 26:19 Your dead will live; their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, for your dew is as the dew of the dawn, and the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.

Isaiah 53:10c, 12 He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper His hand...Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the booty with the strong; because He poured out Himself to death...(cf. Isaiah 52:13).

Horizontal lines for writing.

The Resurrection In The O.T.

Ezekiel 37:12-14 ...Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel.

Daniel 12:2 Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

Horizontal lines for writing.

The Doctrine of Hell In The O.T.

Isaiah 66:22-24 "For just as the new heavens and the new earth which I make will endure before Me," declares the LORD, "so your offspring and your name will endure. And it shall be from new moon to new moon and from sabbath to sabbath, all mankind will come to bow down before Me, says the LORD. Then they will go forth and look on the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm will not die and their fire will not be quenched; and they will be an abhorrence to all mankind."

Mark 9:47-48 If your eye causes you to stumble, throw it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes, to be cast into **hell**, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.

The Doctrine of Hell In The O.T.

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Eternal State

Body/Soul

Righteous: Resurrection – Kingdom

Unrighteous: Resurrection – Hell

N.T. Data On Hell and Judgment

Hell = ~~geenna~~ Gehenna (Gehenna) – Derived from Hebrew phrase meaning "Valley of Hinnom."

Jeremiah 7:31-32 "They have built t he high places of Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, and it did not come into My mind. Therefore, behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when it will no longer be called Topheth, or the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of the Slaughter; for they will bury in Topheth because there is no other place. The dead bodies of this people will be food for the birds of the sky and for the beasts of the earth..."

Hell: Everlasting "Destruction"

Matthew 10:28 Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Apol I umi = to ruin, destroy, but not to annihilate!

Matthew 18:8 ...it is better to for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire.

2 Thessalonians 1:9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day...

The Two Different Judgments

- Believers = Bema judgment (Reward)
- Unbelievers = White throne judgment (Punishment)

Believer Dies

1. Body – ground/ Soul – goes to the Lord 2 Cor 5:8

2. Body/Soul together – glorified body at resurrection:

1 Cor 15:23-24 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father...

3. Judgment Seat of Christ – 2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

The Two Different Judgments

(Judgment Seat of Christ) 1 Cor 3:12-15 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire...If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but **he himself will be saved**, yet so as through fire.

4. Reign with Christ In His Kingdom:

2 Tim 2:12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him...

Rev 5:10 You have made them a kingdom and priests to our God: and they will reign upon the earth.

The Two Different Judgments

Unbeliever Dies

- 1. Body – the ground/ Soul -goes to Hades (Luke 16:23)
Rev 6:8 I looked, and behold, and ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him.
- 2 Peter 2:9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation; and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment...
- 2. Body/Soul - resurrected - for White Throne Judgment
Rev 20:14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the ~~second death~~, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Summary

- 1. The O.T. doctrine of Sheol is synonymous with the N.T. doctrine of Hades when used in reference to the holding place of unbelievers after death.
- 2. The O.T. and N.T. clearly teach that all people will be raised from the dead: The believer unto eternal bliss, the unbeliever unto eternal torment.
- 3. We, as God's people, should be extremely grateful for the salvation we have received and the promise of our eternal reward with Christ!
- 2 Peter 3:13 But according to His promise we are looking for the new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.
