

The Inscrutable Question: Hades: Paradise: Importance of the 72-Hour Burial; Preparation for Ascension; Tartarus; The Abyss: Abaddon aka Apollyon

D. Hades: Paradise, Tartarus, & the Abyss.

- 1- David wrote a Psalm about the physical death of the Messiah. In it he prophesied the separation of His soul to Hades and the burial of His body in the grave:

Psalm 16:10 - You will not abandon my soul in Sheol, neither will you permit Your Holy One to undergo decay.

- 2- The word שְׁאוֹל / **Sheol** / is Hebrew and its original meaning was “the deep parts of the sea.” The Greek equivalent is the noun ᾍδης / **Haides** /. They both refer to anything that is subterranean and large. They came to refer to the place where the dead of the human race and certain fallen angels reside during certain phases of the Invisible War.
- 3- David distinguishes between the soul which is in Sheol and the body which is in the grave. Prophetically David makes reference to the fact that the soul of Messiah will go to Paradise at physical death.
- 4- David understands that although his body will undergo decay, the body of the true humanity of Messiah will be buried but will not remain in the grave long enough to decay.
- 5- This is why it was necessary that the Lord’s burial last three days and three nights. The Zeitgeist of first-century Israel regarding the status of corpses was developed by the teachings of the Rabbis. This is mentioned by:

Bullinger, E. W. *The Companion Bible*. (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1922), 1547, n. 39:

The Rabbis taught that the spirit wandered about for three days, seeking re-admission to the body, but abandoned it on the fourth day, as corruption began then.

- 6- If the body of Jesus had remained in the tomb for less than three days and three nights, critics would be able to assert that he never experienced physical death and simply revived. Such a thing occasionally occurred.
- 7- If the Lord’s body stayed in the grave longer than three days and three nights it would have decayed.
- 8- The three-day, three-night period affirms death while it fulfills the prophecy of David in Psalm 16:10, “...neither will you permit your Holy One to undergo decay.”
- 9- In the time in which the resurrection occurred, the fact that the Lord’s body was buried for a three-day, three-night period confirmed that He was physically dead.
- 10- The fact He was raised at the conclusion of the third day fulfills David’s prophecy that the body did not decay. David knows his body will enter the grave and decay. He is prophesying about the human body of Messiah.
- 11- Peter uses David’s quote as an illustration to confirm the resurrection of Jesus in:

Acts 2:24 - “God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. For David says of Him,

v. 27 - ‘You will not abandon my soul to Hades [**Paradise compartment**], nor allow Your Holy One to undergo decay [**resurrection after 3 days and 3 nights**].’”

- 12- Paul in a similar manner also quotes David during his exhortation before the officials in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch:

Acts 13:30 - “God raised Him from the dead;

v. 31 - and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people.

v. 32 - "And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers,

v. 33 - that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You."

v. 35 - "Therefore, he also says in another Psalm, 'You will not allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.'

v. 36 - "For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers, and underwent decay;

v. 37 - but He whom God raised did not undergo decay."

- 13- At physical death the soul of our Lord entered into the Paradise compartment of Hades, joining the souls of all Old Testament believers who were already there.
- 14- This number also included those who died during the Incarnation including John the Baptist, Lazarus, the thief on the cross, and Judas Iscariot.
- 15- At His physical death, the Lord's soul arrived in the presence of these believers whose souls and human spirits were waiting to be transferred from Paradise into heaven.
- 16- This transfer had been on hold awaiting the resurrection of Jesus Christ, following which they would be escorted into heaven by Him personally.
- 17- On arrival in Paradise, the Lord organized this transfer which took place at His **ascension** some forty days later.
- 18- There are quite a number of things that took place during the three days and three nights while the Lord's soul is in Hades. During that time He instructed all believers gathered in Paradise about the events that would take place over the next 40 days.
- 19- So it would be helpful if we took a look at the sequence of events that occurred and then study them in chronological order:
 - 1) The Lord informs all believers that following His resurrection they will become qualified to execute a permanent change of station from Paradise to Heaven.
 - 2) This transfer will take place at His **ascension** in exactly 40 days.
 - 3) Following His resurrection in three days, some of them will be resuscitated in order to testify to this upcoming transfer throughout the city of Jerusalem.
 - 4) He will go to the compartment of **Tartarus** to deliver a victorious proclamation to the imprisoned demons who were incarcerated there.
 - 5) These demons were court marshaled and summarily withdrawn from active participation in the Invisible War for violating certain rules of engagement in the angelic conflict, specifically their sexual assault on the line of Christ in Genesis 6.
 - 6) At the conclusion of the third day, Jesus Christ is resurrected, His soul returned to the tomb by the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit and His human spirit returned to the tomb by the omnipotence of God the Father.
 - 7) Immediately following the resurrection the souls and human spirits of a number of Old Testament saints are temporarily resuscitated and they scatter throughout Jerusalem to evangelize and inform others of the upcoming transfer from Paradise to heaven.



- 8) Forty days later at the ascension of Jesus Christ, all the souls and spirits of the entire population of Paradise are permanently transferred to heaven. From that point on, whenever a believer died, his soul and human spirit was instantly absent from the body and present with the Lord in heaven.
- 21- Those angels who are imprisoned in Tartarus will remain so until the end of the Millennium when they will be permanently transferred to the lake of fire.
- 22- The Abyss is the compartment that will restrain the army of demons commanded by an *archon* ranked officer who is called a demon king in Revelation 9:11. He is clearly identified by John who gives us his name in both the Hebrew and the Greek:
- Hebrew: אַבְדֹּן / **Avaddon** / - Destroyer
- Greek: Ἀπολλύων / **Apolluon** / - Exterminator
- 23- These names come over into the English as Abaddon and Apollyon. This general officer commands the first Demon Assault Army of Revelation 9. These demons are embodied spirits and they, like the demons in Tartarus, have been removed from the Invisible War because of violations against the ground rules of the angelic conflict. However, these demons will be allowed to reenter the fray at the midpoint of the Tribulation.
- 24- Now in order to develop this sequence of events between the physical death and the ascension of our Lord we will analyze a passage in Ephesians.