

## WHERE ARE THE DEAD?

In Genesis 37:35 we have the first passage in the Bible telling us where a person went after death. When Jacob was shown the coat of his son Joseph and deceived into thinking a wild beast had devoured his son, he said, "I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning."

These words in the K.J. version seem to indicate that Jacob talked of meeting his son in the grave. But did he think his son was really in a grave? Of course not! He thought his son's body had been devoured by wild beasts. Thus it is easy to see that he did not have the grave in mind, but must have meant that he would go down into the place where his son's spirit had gone.

This is made very clear when we look up the word translated grave, for it is really Sheol and has been translated in that way in the American revised version.

SHEOL IS THE OLD TESTAMENT WORD WHICH IS ALWAYS USED FOR THE PLACE TO WHICH BOTH THE RIGHTEOUS AND WICKED PEOPLE WENT AFTER DEATH. In the King James version this word has been wrongly translated. It appears 65 times in the Old Testament. It is translated "grave" 31 times; "hell" 31 times; and "pit" 3 times.

THE NEW TESTAMENT GREEK WORD WHICH MEANS THE SAME THING IS THE WORD "HADES." For example, in the 16th chapter of Luke, we have the verse "in hell he lifted up his eyes being in torment." This word translated "hell" is really "hades."

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT SHEOL HAD TWO DIVISIONS. One for the righteous and one for the wicked. Between the two was a great impassible gulf. See Luke 16:19-31. The compartment inhabited by the righteous was known as "Abraham's bosom," or "paradise"; while that inhabited by the wicked was spoken of as a place of torment.

SHEOL WAS IN THE HEART OF THE EARTH. Thirty passages in the O.T. refer to Sheol being down. See Genesis 37:35 and Numbers 16:32,33.

WHEN JESUS DIED HE? TOO? WENT INTO SHEOL. How do we know this? When Jesus was on the Cross, he said to the penitent thief, "Today thou shalt be with me in Paradise" Luke 23:43. See also Matt. 12:40. Here Jesus predicted that "as Jonah was three days and three nights in the heart of the earth whales belly; so shall the Son of Man be three days and nights in the heart of the earth. Again, in Eph. 4:8, we read, "when he ascended up on high he led captivity captive and gave gifts to men. Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?"

WHILE IN SHEOL CHRIST VISITED THE COMPARTMENT IN WHICH THE WICKED WERE KEPT. What for? To give them a chance to repent, as some try to tell us? Never! To announce to them His victory; to vindicate His righteousness; in other words, simply to say, "I told you so!" See 1 Peter 3:18,19- "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: by which he also went and preached unto the spirits in prison."

CHRIST ALSO TRANSFERRED THE RIGHTEOUS DEAD FROM THEIR COMPARTMENT



IN SHEOL TO A NEW ABODE? ASCENDING INTO HEAVEN WITH THEM. See Acts 2:27-31 - "Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell (hades) neither wilt thou suffer thy holy one to see corruption." See also Eph. 4:8-10.

Since the resurrection of Christ, the one side of Sheol has been empty; there is never again any mention of righteous souls being there.

THE ABODE OF THE RIGHTEOUS IS NOW LOCATED ABOVE. See 2 Cor. 12:2, 4: "I knew a man in Christ about fourteen years ago...such an one caught up into Paradise... to the third heaven." See also 2 Cor. 5:8 - "We are willing rather to be absent from the body and present with the Lord." We know that the Lord is now in heaven so to be present with him must be to be in heaven. From such Scriptures as Isa. 14:12-14; Psa. 75: 6,7; and etc., some scholars conclude that heaven is far north.

There are certain religious groups today which teach that the death fall into a condition of soul sleep, that there is no literal hell. One of the statements which they make is that the words "Sheol" and "Hades" simply mean the "grave." Any one can easily see how ridiculous this is by simply comparing Scriptures.

#### I. SHEOL NEVER MEANS GRAVE.

- a. It is never in the plural.
- b. body never goes there.
- c. never located on the face of the earth.
- d. individual's "sheol" never spoken of.
- e. man never puts any one into it.
- f. man never digs or makes a "sheol."
- g. man never touches it.

For examples, see -- Isa. 14:4-20; Ezek. 32:21; Psa. 30:3; 49:15; 16:10; 86:13; Isa. 5:14; Gen. 37:35; 42:38; Num. 16:30,33.

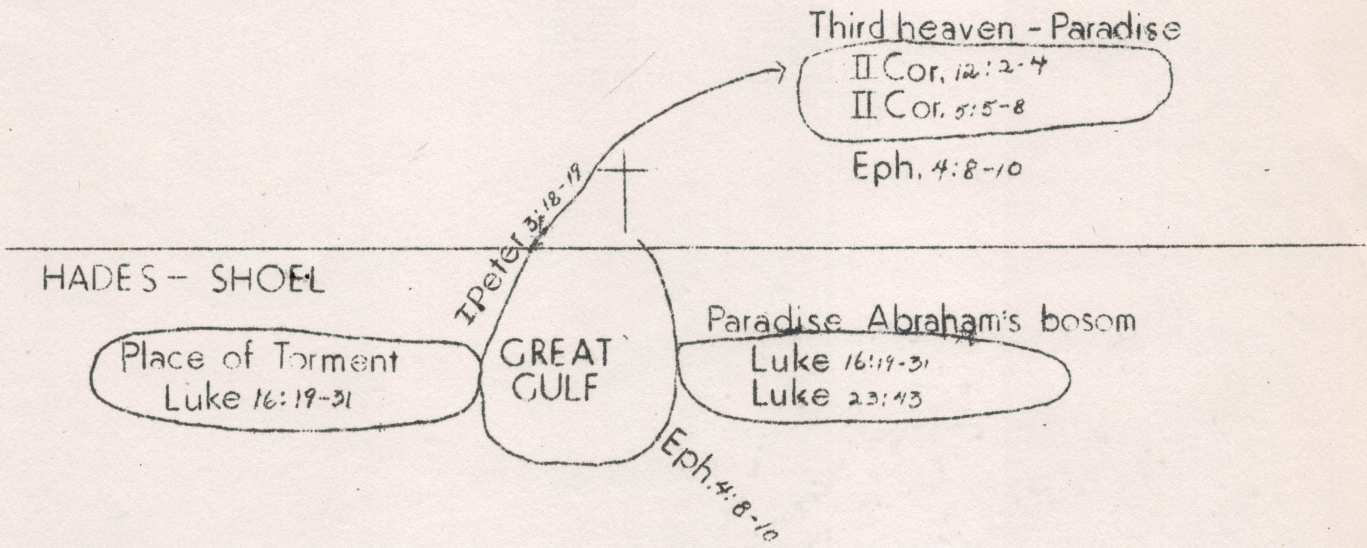
#### II. THE WORD "QUEBER" ALWAYS MEANS GRAVE.

- a. it is in the plural - 29 times.
- b. body goes there -- 37 times.
- c. located on the earth -- 32 times.
- d. individual's "queber" mentioned 44 times.
- e. put there by man -- 33 times.
- f. man digs or makes it -- 6 times.
- g. man touches it - 5 times.

For example, see --- Exod. 14:11; 2 Sam. 3:22; 2 Chron. 16:14; 1 Kings 13:30; 2 Sam. 21:14; Gen. 50:5; Isa. 53:9; Isa. 14:11, 19.

By comparing these groups of references, or for more thorough investigation, by looking up the words, "grave" and "hell" in Strong's concordance and comparing the references, one will quickly and clearly perceive the ignorance and shallowness of the claims made by certain religious groups who teach "soul sleep."





# DOMAIN OF THE DEAD

*I Peter 2:4 preserved for judgement  
 Rev. 20:14 and hell + death cast into lake of fire*