

Understanding the Spiritual World
Part 1

The Underworld

Overview: The spiritual world is even more real than the physical world in which we live because the physical came from the spiritual. It is filled with beings and places much as is our physical world. To understand spiritual warfare and the strategies necessary for success, we must understand the beings and their organizations; the places and their structures. This teaching focuses on one place, the Underworld.

A. The Underworld

- 1) Sheol in the Hebrew – Means the underworld, the unseen state (65 times).
 - a) 31 times – grave, 3 times – pit, 31 times – hell.
- 2) Hades in the Greek – Means the underworld, the unseen state (11 times).
 - a) 10 times – hell, 1 time – grave.
- 3) The Underworld (Hades) consists of the following:
 - a) Paradise – also known as Abraham’s bosom.
 - place for the departed righteous before Jesus’ Resurrection.
 - b) Gehenna – a synonym for hell, which is a temporary place of fire.
 - holding place of torment for rebellious man.
 - c) Tartarus – deepest abyss of Hades, also translated as hell.
 - holding place for angels who have sinned.
 - d) Bottomless Pit/Abyss – holding place of evil and demons.
- 4) Lake of Fire – Final destination for all beings and places from the underworld.

B. Paradise/Abraham’s Bosom

- 1) The rich man and Lazarus. Luke 16:19-31
 - a) Great Gulf between Paradise and Hell (Hell – a specific place of torment in Hades). Luke 16:26
 - b) Whereas beings may communicate across the Gulf, it cannot be crossed
 - c) Beings in the underworld do still have sight, hearing and conversations.
- 2) Place of comfort. Luke 16:25
- 3) Jesus went to the Underworld for 3 days: Matt 12:40
 - Jesus said, “Today you will be with me in Paradise.” Luke 23:43
 - To Sheol (Ps 16:10), and to Hades. Acts 2:27
- 4) Jesus took the keys to Hades and set the captives free – righteous dead set free. Eph 4:8-10; Rev 1:18 Matt 27:52-53
- 5) Paradise is now in the third heaven. Rev 2:7 2 Cor 12:2-4; 2 Cor 5:8

C. Tartarus

- 1) The deepest abyss of Hades – place of eternal torment. Strong G5020
- 2) A section of Hades reserved for the punishment of the worst offenders. Webster
- 3) Holding place for angels that sinned – bound in chains until the judgment. 2 Pet 2:4

D. Hell – Gehenna

- 1) Hades and Gehenna (Hell) are not the same place, though often confused.
Gehenna is part of Hades but Hades includes more than just Hell.
- 2) Holding place of torment for rebellious man without the Messiah (Jesus) Luke 16:24-25
- 3) One cannot cross the gulf out of hell. Luke 16:26
- 4) Includes unquenchable fire. Mark 9:43
- 5) Place of weeping and gnashing of teeth. Luke 13:27-28

E. Bottomless Pit/ Abyss/ Deep

- 1) Place where demons do not want to go. A Place we can cast them. Luke 8:31
- 2) Place from which locusts are released to torment men in the earth. Rev 9:1-11
- 3) Place where satan will be bound for 1000 years. Rev 20:1-3

F. Lake of Fire

- 1) Place of everlasting torment – day and night they are tormented forever. Rev 20:10
- 2) The beast and the false prophet were first cast into the lake of fire. Rev 19:20
- 3) Next the devil goes into the lake of fire. Rev 20:10
- 4) Followed by death and hell (Hades). Rev 20:10
- 5) Whoever was not found in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Rev 20:15