

The Place for the Dead of the Old and New Testaments



The time frame of the story of the rich man and Lazarus found in Luke 16: 19-31, was from the time before the death and resurrection and ascension of YAHSHUA. In other words it covers the dead from the time of Adam to the ascension of YAHSHUA. Four things we must consider concerning this subject: **(1)** everyone-righteous or unrighteous who died in that time frame went to Sheol or Hades. **(2)** The righteous went to Abraham's bosom (side of Abraham), where paradise was located at that time. The unrighteous went to Hades Proper, known as Abaddon or the Pit. The Old Testament saints did not go to heaven after their death because the blood of animals did not have the power to take them there. It only covered their sins. That had to wait until the death, resurrection and

Ascension of our Lord, YAHSHUA. **(3)** Only the blood of YAHSHUA had the power to forgive and carry them to heaven. **(4)** There was an impassible gulf between the two places; although it was possible to see across and converse with each other as we find in Luke 16: 19-31: “And he cried out and said, Father Abraham, have pity and mercy on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame. But Abraham said, Child, remember that you in your lifetime, fully received comfort and delights, and Lazarus in like manner the discomforts and distresses; but now he is comforted here and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who want to pass from this to you may not be able, and no one may pass from there to us” (Luke 16:25-26).

After His resurrection YAHSHUA descended into the righteous part of Sheol or Hades. Peter says: “In which He (YAHSHUA) went and preached to the spirits in prison- (the souls of those) who long before in the days of Noah had been disobedient, when God’s patience waited during the building of the ark in which a few [people,] actually eight in number, were saved through water” (I Peter 3:19-20). The word “preached” should be translated He made a proclamation. The proclamation was that His death guaranteed the judgment of the unrighteous. Paul says in Ephesians 4: 8-10 that “when He ascended on high, He led captivity captive and He bestowed gifts on men. Now what can this, He ascended, mean but that He had preciously descended from the lower parts of the earth? He Who descended is the same as He Who ascended high above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.”

When Messiah ascended to heaven He took the spirits of the Old Testament saints with Him. “He led captivity captive” that is, those who were confined in Abraham’s bosom. Therefore the righteous side- the Abraham’s bosom was eliminated. Paradise was transferred to the third heaven (II Cor. 12:1-4) Paul writes of his experience when caught up to the third heaven. He says: “And I know that this man whether in the body or away from the body I do not know was caught up into paradise, and he heard utterances beyond the power of man to put into words, which man is not permitted to utter.” Today, after a believer dies, he goes directly to heaven according to the word of God through Paul in II Cor. 5: 6,8: “So then, we are always full of good and hopeful and confident courage; we know that while we are at home in the body, we are abroad from the home with the Lord; we have confident and hopeful courage and are pleased

rather to be away from home out of the body and be at home with the Lord”; and Philippians 1: 21-23: “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If, however, it is to be life in the flesh and I am to live on here, that means fruitful service for me; so I can say nothing as to my personal preference. But I am hard pressed between the two. My yearning desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far, far better. To die it is to be our Lord and Savior, YAHSHUA, Who is seated at the right hand of the Father” (Ephesians 2: 6). However, the soul of the unbeliever still goes to Hades Proper or hell.

Revelation 20: 4-6 registers the eternal future place for the believers after their judgement for the purpose to determine their position in the millennium kingdom. The tribulation saints will be resurrected after YAHSHUA’S Second Coming, when He comes for the Jewish nation (Matt. 24: 29-31). They will co-reign with Christ for a thousand years. The Old Testament saints will also be resurrected at YAHSHUA’S Second Coming. Isaiah 26:19 says: “Your dead shall live, the bodies of our dead shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew [O Lord] is a dew of light and the earth shall cast forth the dead [to life again; for on the land of the shades of the dead You will let Your dew.” From Daniel 12: 2 we read “and many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt and abhorrence.”

The second phase of the believer’s eternal order will take place when the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven to the new earth created after the millennium (Rev. 21: 1-22: 5). “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and there no longer existed any sea. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, all arrayed like a bride beautified and adorned for her husband” (Rev. 21:1-2). The new Jerusalem will be the home YAHSHUA went to prepare for His bride- the believers in Him. Unfortunately for the unbelievers their place will remain in Sheol or Hades, during the millennium kingdom of a thousand years. At the end of the millennium they will be resurrected. This is the second resurrection mentioned in Revelation 20:11-15. It says: “Then I saw a great white throne and the One Who was seated upon it, from Whose presence and from the sight of Whose face earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. I also saw the dead, great and small; they stood before the throne, and books were opened, which is [the Book] of life. And the dead were

judged by what they had done in accordance with what was recorded in the books... Then death and Hades were thrown in to the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found recorded in the Book of Life, he was hurled into the lake of fire."

The unbeliever will be removed from hell and be resurrected to stand before the white throne judgment. This judgment is to determine the degree of punishment he will suffer. After that his final destiny will be in Gehena- the lake of fire. These are serious words I am putting before you. They are consequential words carrying a heavy weight of punishment for those who reject the Son of God- YAHSHUA.

You may have heard that God is a merciful God; He will never send men to hell. I call you to reconsider your spiritual position. For if He, for a moment, forsook His Son when all our sins fell upon Him, how will He not forsake you, if you reject His offer of salvation? YAHSHUA suffered the pain of hell for you, so you don't have to go there, conditionally upon you accepting His sacrifice on the cross. What, do you think it was happening when He cried, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me"? Because He suffered the separation from His Father and that was hell. Hell is man's eternal separation from God. In the absence of God, there will be no peace, no joy, no hope; only eternal torment. Hear YAHSHUA'S cry and accept Him while you have breath. This is the opportune time for your salvation.

(Reference: The Footsteps of the Messiah by Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum)