

Introduction

- ➔ Last week we began a study of the afterlife, looking at Heaven & Hell: the ultimate destinies of every single human being.
- ➔ A discussion of this topic, however, assumes and implies **the existence of the spirit**.
 - ZECH. 12:1—“...Jehovah...stretches out the heavens and founds the earth and **forms the spirit of man within him...**”
- ➔ The spirit is what distinguishes us from the animal world—and it doesn’t take a very long real-life study of the difference between the two to perceive this distinction.
 - The Greek word for “spirit” is πνεῦμα, and it can refer to:
 - ▶ (1) Wind or air; (2) **That which gives life to the body**; (3) **Disincarnate souls**; (4) Human personality or ego—the center of emotion, intellect, and will; (5) A state of mind or disposition; (6) An independent, immaterial being such as God or angels; (7) As God—as in the Holy Spirit of God, the spirit of Christ, etc.¹
- ➔ Several passages of Scripture show clearly the connection between the spirit’s being in the body and the body’s life:
 - GEN. 35:18—“And it came to pass, as **her soul was departing** (for she **died**)...”
 - 1 KGS. 17:21,22—“...**let this child’s soul come into him again.**’ ...**the soul...came into him again**, and he **revived.**”
 - JAS. 2:26—“For as **the body apart from the spirit is dead...**”
- ➔ When the body dies, the spirit will go on to live in another world.
 - **Eventually**, our spirits will go to live eternally in one of the two places we discussed last week—but **not immediately...**

Discussion

- ➔ The Lord and others spoke of an “other worldly” place called **Hades**.
 - ᾗδης (“Hades”)—“**the nether world, Hades, as place of the dead**”²; “**the place (state) of departed souls**”³
 - ▶ Equivalent of Heb. “*Sheol*” [PSA. 86:13—“...thou hast *delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol...*”].
- I. **HADES IS WHERE EVERYONE GOES WHEN THEIR BODIES DIE.**
- A. LUKE 16:19-31—*The Parable of the Rich Man & Lazarus* [NOTE: “*Parabolic*” ≠ *Untrue*]
 1. Jesus never used a parable to teach anything that was not true (in *some* sense).
 2. Nevertheless, we must be *careful not to press every minute detail* to have some *parallel in reality*.
 - B. The poor man **died** (22a).
 1. The poor man was in **Hades** (22b; cp. 23b).
 - C. The rich man **died** (22c).
 1. The rich man was in **Hades** (23a).
 - a) NOT “*hell*” (KJV)—unfortunately, ᾗδης is never trans. *Hades* in KJV, which has caused much confusion.
 - D. Thus, both men went to **the same general place at death**.
 - E. Abraham refers to the rich man’s *former* existence as “**your lifetime**” (25a).
 - F. **Back on earth**, rich man’s brothers **still operating in “father’s house”** (27,28).
 - G. **Law of Moses still in effect** back on earth (29a).
 - H. Rich man said that in order for Lazarus **to go to his family**, he would have to **return from the dead** (30).
- II. **HADES CONTAINS TWO DISTINCT “AREAS.”**
- A. The poor man was taken to a “place” in Hades where he **was “comforted”** (25a).

¹ Arndt, William F. & F.W. Gingrich. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 2nd Ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1957. pp. 680-685. Print. Emp. added.

² Danker, Frederick W. *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. 3rd Ed. (BDAG). Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000. p. 19. Print. Emp. added.

³ Strong, James. *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Whole Bible*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2007. p. . Print. Emp. added.

- B. The rich man found himself in a “place” in Hades where he was:
1. In **torments** (23b).
 2. In **anguish** (24c,25c)
 3. In **flame** (24d)

III. **THE GOOD SIDE OF HADES IS CALLED “ABRAHAM’S BOSOM” AND “PARADISE.”**

- A. When Lazarus died, he was escorted by angels to a place in Hades called “**Abraham’s bosom**.”
1. A Jewish concept likened to being in a *seat of honor at Abraham’s table* (cp. Jn. 13:23).
- B. LUKE 23:43—“Verily I say unto thee, *Today* you will be *with Me in Paradise*.”
- C. Where is this “**Paradise**” to which Jesus said He was going that very day?
1. According to Peter, Jesus’ spirit/soul went to **ἄδης** when He died (Acts 2:27; cf. Psa. 16:10).
 2. But Jesus said He would be in **παράδεισος** when He died (Lk. 23:43).
 3. Therefore, ἄδης and παράδεισος must be—to some degree or another—the **same place**.
- D. MATT. 16:18—“...upon this rock *I will build My church*, and **the gates of HADES shall not prevail against it**.”
1. “Though I will spend three days in *Hades*, I will come forth from *Hades*, and **will** build My church.”

IV. **THE BAD SIDE OF HADES IS CALLED “TARTARUS.”**

- A. 2 PET. 2:4—“...God did not spare the angels who sinned, but held [them] captive in **Tartarus**... [until] judgment...”
1. Greek τάρταρος (τάρταρω)—“the name of **the subterranean region**, doleful and dark, *regarded by the ancient Greeks as the abode of the wicked dead*, where they suffer punishment for their evil deeds...”⁴

V. **ONCE ONE ARRIVES IN HADES, ONE’S ETERNAL DESTINY IS FIXED.**

- A. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to him to give his tongue a drop of water from the tip of his finger (24b).
- B. But Abraham informed him of two things:
1. His time of luxury, comfort, and ease was **over**—for he chose to have “heaven” “*in your lifetime*” (25);
 2. There is “**a great chasm fixed**” between the two “sides” (26a).
 - a) Thus, no one from the blessed side can go over to the torment side (26b).;
 - b) And no one from the torment side can escape to the blessed side (26c).
- C. In other words, just like the rich man, the second my spirit leaves my body, I will **know** where I will spend eternity.
1. HEB. 9:27—“And inasmuch as *it is appointed unto men once to die*, and **after this, judgment**...”
- D. When the Lord returns, ALL will be before the throne of YHWH, each consigned to the eternal place they chose in life.
1. Then, Hades, itself, will be done away with, having fulfilled its purpose (Rev. 20:13,14).

Conclusion

- ➔ The time to choose where we will live in eternity is **NOW**—“*in your lifetime*” (Lk. 16:25).
- Don’t be like the rich man, who closed his eyes to *peace* and *ease*, and opened them to *torment* and *flame*!
- ➔ Thanks to Jesus, we have another choice—for He has “*the keys of death and of Hades*” (Rev. 1:18).
- But in order for Him to unlock our cells, we must **gives ourselves to Him** (Lk. 9:23; 2 Cor. 5:14,15; Rev. 2:10).

“**Look carefully then how you walk**, not as *unwise* but as *wise*, **making the best use of the time**, because the days are evil. Therefore *do not be foolish*, but **understand what the will of the Lord is**.”

EPHESIANS 5:15-17

⁴ Thayer, Joseph H. *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 2009. p. 615. Print. Emp. and ital. added.