

NW Bible Church – Angels, Devils, and the Dead

Nov 20, 2016

LESSON –THE PLACE OF THE DEAD - SHEOL

Term Sheol is Strongs #7585, “the world of the dead” etymological root #7592, Shael – “to inquire”

1. The Abode of the Dead – Lost and Righteous until the Resurrection – Psalm 89:48 (all), Genesis 37:35 (righteous), Job 24:19, Psalm 9:17 (unrighteous)
 - a. Sheol – Used in Genesis, Numbers, Deuteronomy, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Amos, Jonah, Habakkuk.
 - b. Hades – Used in Matthew, Luke, Acts, and Revelation – Luke 16:22-23
 - c. Observation – references to Sheol can often be equated as references to death – those who sin face Sheol ≈ face death. The grammatical ambiguity is unavoidable due to the reality of Sheol, in a sense, defining death
 - d. Downward to Sheol – as the abode of God is always up and equated to the heavens, Sheol is always downward and equated to the earth. Genesis 37:35, Numbers 16:30-33, II Samuel 2:6 – also downward to Hades – Matthew 11:23
 - e. Those in Sheol are conscious –Isaiah 14:9-10, Jonah 2:2, Psalm 18:5-6, Luke 16:19-31
2. Unbeliever side of Sheol or perhaps a separate compartment for angels only?
 - a. The Abyss
 - i. Castout demons fear the abyss – Luke 8:26-33, some not yet interred? ~~temporary hold?~~
 - ii. Romans 10:6-7 – REALLY Interesting verse – Jesus spent His time with fallen Angels rather than unrighteous humans?
 - iii. Revelation 9:1-2, 11, 20:1,3
 - b. Tartarus – 2 Peter 2:4
 - i. temporary confinement until final judgment
 - ii. equated to pits of darkness
 - iii. fallen angels are there
 - iv. “gloomy dungeons” Greek mythos. lower than Hades and used for the worst criminals, monsters, defeated gods, and titans (note Hebrew sources for much of Greek mythos; Hercules, Noah)
 - v. seems equal to Abyss
3. Place of the Righteous before Christ’s resurrection
 - a. Abraham’s Bosom – Sheol/Hades for believers before the resurrection
Luke 16:19-31
Luke 23:42-43 – Jesus spent next 3 days in Sheol = descriptive term “Paradise”
4. What Jesus Did
 - a. Matthew 12:40 – Jesus predicts
 - b. 1 Peter 3:18-19 – Jesus bringing righteous from Hades, preaching to lost there
 - c. Ephesians 4:7-10 – bringing righteous dead, giving gifts
 - d. Matthew 27:52-53 – resurrected saints at the resurrection of Christ
(tangled grammar – all after resurrection, or did Christ free believers instantly – to their tombs and graves, to walk freely upon his completed work in Sheol?)

5. The Place of the Dead today – back to Luke 16:19-31
 - a. Heaven – Heavenly paradise
John 14:1-3 – A place prepared for us, Jesus will come for us
 - b. Hell – same Sheol/Hades
 - c. 2 Corinthians 5:6-21 (8), Philippians 1:21-23 – present with the Lord
6. Righteous in Revelation
 - a. 6:9-11 – Martyrs
 - b. 7:9-17 – Tribulation period