

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Luke 16:19-31**.
- B. From 97090-939; The Three Worlds of Eternity.
- C. Some important questions:
 - 1. What happens at death?
 - 2. Where does the soul go after the body dies?
 - 3. Is there such a place as Purgatory?
 - 4. How does one reconcile the Judgment Day and Hades?
- D. Please notice the chart on the overhead.

I. LIFE AND DEATH.

- A. Physical life began for human beings in the garden of Eden. When God breathed into Adam's newly formed body, the breath of life, man became a living soul (Gen. 2:7).
- B. Life as we know it, is what I call the **First World of Eternity** (see chart).
 - 1. We share this life w/the plan and animal kingdoms.
 - 2. We live in one of two spiritual kingdoms--the kingdom of God or the devil (Eph. 2:2; Col. 1:13-14).
(**Eph 2:2**) in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.
(**Col 1:13-14**) For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- C. Physical death is the reverse of life. When the soul leaves the body, it is dead (Jas. 2:26).
(**Jas 2:26**) For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.
- D. Physical death end our existence in the **First World of Eternity**. It makes no difference to God as to how the body returns to the dust from which it came. Whether it lies in a tomb (or casket), is cremated, buried at sea, or even devoured by wild animals; God can raise it on the final day.
- E. The next question is, "Where does the soul go at death?"

II. WHERE DOES THE SOUL GO AT DEATH?

- A. First, the soul does not go into the grave with the body.
The Bible does teach that the body sleeps in the grave, but the soul does not (Lk. 16:22-23).
"Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom."
- B. Second, the soul does NOT go to a place called Purgatory.
As I understand the doctrine of Purgatory, it is a place where unfaithful souls go to suffer for sins done in the flesh to be purified. After this time of purification, these souls go on to Heaven. The Bible does not teach of any such place (Lk. 16:26-28).
And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.' 27 And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house-- 28 for I have five brothers--in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'
(No one can cross from the place of torment to Abraham's bosom.)
- C. Third, the soul does not go directly to Heaven or Hell.
The departed soul (departed from the physical body) goes to what I call The Second World of Eternity (see chart). This is the intermediate place of the dead. Intermediate between our existence in the flesh on the earth and our placement in the eternal Heaven or eternal Hell (Jn. 3:13).
And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man.
- D. Fourth, Jesus speaks of the soul going to Paradise, not Heaven:
 - 1. Jesus (Lk. 23:43) told the penitent thief on the cross, "you shall be with Me in Paradise."

2. Peter, on Pentecost, said that when Jesus' body was buried that His soul went to Hades, not Heaven (Ac. 2:27).
BECAUSE THOU WILT NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW THY HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.
 3. Furthermore, when the resurrected X met Mary, He told her that He had not yet returned to His Father, in Heaven (Jn. 20:17).
Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"
 4. The apostle Paul made two spiritual trips, one to Heaven, and one to a different place called Paradise (2Cor. 12:1-4).
Boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago-- whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows-- such a man was caught up to the third heaven. And I know how such a man-- whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows--was caught up into Paradise, and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.
- E. So, the next question is, "What is Hades?"

III. WHAT IS HADES?

- A. See **Luke 16:19-31**.
- B. This place called Hades is what I call, **The Second World of Eternity**.
- C. First, I do NOT believe that this section of Scripture is a parable.
- D. Second, the KJV says *hell* in 16:23.
The Greek word is *ades* which is found in the modern translations as *hades*. The Greek word for *hell* is *gehenna*. However, in defense of the AV, to hellify something in the 17th century was to hide it. This word literally means "a hidden, or unseen place." It is like the OT word *sheol*.
- E. Third, Hades is a temporary place.
Hades will only last until the great and final judgment day when Jesus returns in His glory. Notice how the rich man knows that the earth is still in existence, knowing that he has brother living on earth. The final judgment has not taken place in this story (Rev. 20:14).
And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.
- F. Fourth, the Hadean world has three parts:
 1. **Abraham's bosom (or Paradise).**
This is the place for all the departed, faithful saints. To sit "in the bosom" is to sit in the place of highest approval. It is at table on the master's immediate right hand. Souls there are conscious, only the body sleeps, as the rich man carries on a conversation with God (father Abraham is the God-like figure of the OT). See Rev. 2:7; 6:9-11.
(Rev. 2:7) 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.'
(Rev. 6:9-11) And when He broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, should be completed also.
 2. **The Great Gulf (of separation).**
This gulf makes travel from Paradise to tartarus or from tartarus to Paradise impossible. Hades cannot be Purgatory for it is impossible to be redeemed from tartarus to Paradise.
 3. **Tartarus (or torment).**
This is the place for all the departed unfaithful souls. The angels who were disobedient to God are in this place (2Pet. 2:4,9). This place is not Hell, but rather a place of great pain and torment. Compare the agony of the rich man in 16:24 and the same Greek word used in Rev. 9:5,6; 18:9,10.

IV. HEAVEN AND HELL.

A. Heaven and Hell make up what I call, *The Third World of Eternity*.

B. **Heaven.**

Once the final day of judgment comes (X's return), all the souls that are in Paradise will come forth at the resurrection to a resurrection of life (Jo. 5:29). These souls will pass from the Hadean realm into the eternal Heaven to be w/God forever. Once a soul is placed in Paradise there is no chance of that soul going to Hell.

C. **Hell.**

When the day of judgment comes those souls that are in torment in tartarus will be resurrected to a resurrection of death (Jn. 5:29). These souls will pass from the Hadean realm into the eternal Hell to be separated from God forever. Once a soul is placed in tartarus there is no opportunity for that soul to be saved in Heaven.

V. HADES AND THE JUDGMENT DAY (SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED).

A. After discussing the above material some will ask, "If this be true about the Hadean existence after death, then there must be a judgment before the Judgment Day?"

B. Answer 1: See **Heb. 9:27**.

The word *judgment* is not referring to the judgment day, but rather is speaking of the decision made at death by God as to the faithfulness of each person. At death, God has all the evidence He needs to make such a decision. The verse could be translated, "...and then comes the decision."

C. Answer 2: See **Mt. 25:31-33; Jn. 5:25-29**.

Notice that in two different passages it would seem that when Jesus returns, He is coming to separate sheep from goats, righteous from unrighteous, because they have already been judged that way.

D. Answer 3: See **2Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10-12; Rev. 20:12-15**.

The day of judgment...

1. ...for those already dead is only a day of sentencing, the decision has already been made.

There is no changing of the decision already made on the day of judgment for those who have died before X's return. This is not strange because in our own legal system many are judged guilty on one occasion and then sentenced at a later date.

2. ...for those alive at X's coming is a day of decision and sentencing. Those still alive when X returns will not go to the Hadean world. They will be immediately taken after judgment to Heaven or to Hell.

3. It is only after "earth time" is over that the proper sentence can be given by God. Because of possible degrees of reward in Heaven and degrees of punishment in Hell (Lk. 12:47,48), God must wait until all those affected have ceased their works to properly sentence those who contributed to those works. (Ex.: the ripple effect goes on long after the stone hits the water.)

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

A. On the chart, one must realize that infants who die in that state are safe. Their souls will go to Paradise. Those who are mentally retarded and cannot reason as adults are treated like infants; they are not saved, but safe.

B. Life must be traveled on one of two roads:

1. One can live in the kingdom of X, go to Paradise, and then the eternal Heaven.

2. One can live in the kingdom of Satan, go to tartarus, and then the eternal Hell.

C. The most important world of the three is the first! Make the right decisions there and the rest is taken care of! Choose to live for X in His kingdom, faithful unto death.

D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.