

## The History of Hell

### What did people in the Old Testament period know about Hell?

\*Life after death is generally assumed: but little clarity since little info.

\*All the dead go to one place: Heb. *Sheol* (65x in OT) in Gk. = *Hades*.

This underworld contained fully conscious good / wicked people; see I Sam. 28:14ff., Isa. 14:9-11, 38:17, Jon. 2:2, Ps. 9:17, 31:17, 139:8.

\*Retribution: Not real clear on differing fates of the good / wicked.

\*Descriptions: (1) Deep below the earth, (2) Dark, (3) Silent, (4) Place to avoid, (5) Personified as a fearsome enemy—Jonah compares his experience in the fish to Sheol, (6) Yet hope, Ps. 16:10, Dan.12:2.

*No excitement existed for the mysterious place of Sheol / Hades!*

### What did people in the New Testament period know about Hell?

\***Hades** (10x in NT) is further clarified as . . .

1. Deep down area contrasted with heaven above: Matt. 11:23,24.
2. City-like place with gates and a keyed entry: Matt.16:18, Rev. 1:18.
3. Two compartments: ungodly suffer / godly have bliss, Lk.16:23ff.
4. Temporary for Jesus (?): Matt. 12:40, Acts 2:27-32, I Pt. 3:18-20.
5. Temporary for the godly: now in Heaven, Eph. 4:7-10, II Cor. 5:8.
6. Temporary for the ungodly: will be cast into Hell, Rev. 20:14.

\***Hell** (12x in NT, all but two times by Jesus) is introduced as . . .

1. Hell is a new concept: Gk. *gehenna* for Aramaic Valley of Hinnom. It had a reputation of fiery evil: II Chron. 33:6, Jer. 7:31,32. In Jesus' day: ever burning trash heap—a synonym for judgment.
2. Jesus arrives, warning about Hell: Matt. 5:22,29,30, 10:28, 18:9.
3. Hell is entered with a body—thus assuming a prior resurrection.
4. Hell was originally created for fallen angelics, not us, Matt. 25:41.
5. Hell is eternal: Mtt. 25:41,46, Mk. 9:47,48, Rev. 14:11, 20:10.
6. Hell is empty till after the great tribulation, GWT judgment and the subsequent resurrection of the dead, Matt. 25:41, Rev, 20:10,14.
7. Hell (Lake of Fire) is called the 2<sup>nd</sup> death because it follows physical death and a resurrection of the dead, Rev. 20:14, 21:8.

*No excitement existed for the clearly horrific place of Hell!*

### What does this mean for me?

If one is now in Hades . . .

If you are an unbeliever . . .

If you are a believer

