

# Hell: Fact or Fiction?

“Nowhere in the Tenach is the abode of the dead regarded as a place of punishment or **The concept of an infernal ‘hell’ developed in Israel only during the Hellenistic period” (beginning in the fourth century (C.E.)).** Greek religious and philosophical ideas, including those of Aristotle and Plato, became influential throughout the region during that time. *Merriam-Webster’s Encyclopedia of World Religions* points out that “many formal aspects of Hellenistic religion . . . persist in the Jewish and Christian traditions today.”

**“The Apostolic writers do not describe the torment of Gehenna or portray Satan as the lord of Gehenna. These are later literary accoutrements.”**

TIMES THE WORD "HELL" APPEARS IN THE BIBLE	OT	NT	Total
"Authorized" King James Version (KJV), based on corrupted texts	31	23	54
New King James Version (NKJV), still wrong about Sheol	19	13	32
<b>New International Version (NIV) the best-selling English Bible</b>	0	13	13
American Standard Version (ASV)	0	13	13
New American Standard Bible (NASB)	0	13	13
<b>Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) Southern Baptist</b>	0	11	11
Revised Standard Version (RSV)	0	12	12
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)	0	12	12
Revised English Bible (REB)	0	13	13
New Living Translation (NLT)	0	13	13
Amplified Bible (AMP)	0	13	13
Darby	0	12	12
New Century Version (NCV)	0	12	12
<b>New American Bible Revised Edition (NABRE) Roman Catholic</b>	0	0	0
Wesley's New Testament (1755)	0	0	0
Scarlett's N.T. (1798)	0	0	0
The New Testament in Greek and English (Kneeland, 1823)	0	0	0
Young's Literal Translation (1891)	0	0	0
Twentieth Century New Testament (1900)	0	0	0
Rotherham's Emphasized Bible (reprinted, 1902)	0	0	0
Fenton's Holy Bible in Modern English (1903)	0	0	0
Weymouth's New Testament in Modern Speech (1903)	0	0	0

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Fenton's Holy Bible in Modern English (1903)	0	0	0
Weymouth's New Testament in Modern Speech (1903)	0	0	0
<b>Jewish Publication Society Bible Old Testament (1917)</b>	0	0	0
Panin's Numeric English New Testament (1914)	0	0	0
The People's New Covenant (Overbury, 1925)	0	0	0
Hanson's New Covenant (1884)	0	0	0
Western N.T. (1926)	0	0	0
NT of our Lord and Savior Anointed (Tomanek, 1958)	0	0	0
Concordant Literal NT (1983)	0	0	0
The N.T., A Translation (Clementson, 1938)	0	0	0
Emphatic Diaglott, Greek/English Interlinear (Wilson, 1942)	0	0	0
New American Bible (1970)	0	0	0
Restoration of Original Sacred Name Bible (1976)	0	0	0
Tanakh, The Holy Scriptures, Old Testament (1985)	0	0	0
The New Testament, A New Translation (Greber, 1980)	0	0	0
Christian Bible (1991)	0	0	0
World English Bible (in progress)	0	0	0
Orthodox Jewish Brit Chadasha [NT Only]	0	0	0
Original Bible Project (Dr. James Tabor, still in translation)	0	0	0
Zondervan Parallel N.T. in Greek and English (1975)**	0	0	0
Int. NASB-NIV Parallel N.T. in Greek and English (1993)**	0	0	0
A Critical Paraphrase of the N.T. by Vincent T. Roth (1960)	0	0	0

שאול

SHEOL

Sheol isn't hell

## The righteous expected to go down to Sheol

<sup>48</sup> What man can live and not see death? Can he deliver **his soul** from the power of Sheol? *Selah*.  
**Psalm 89:48**

Then all his (Jacob) sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. And he said, “Surely I will go down to Sheol in mourning for my son.” So his father wept for him. **Genesis 37:35**

<sup>38</sup> But Jacob said, “My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he alone is left. If harm should befall him on the journey you are taking, then you will bring my gray hair down to Sheol in sorrow.” **Genesis 42:38**

If you take this one also from me, and harm befalls him, you will bring my gray hair down to Sheol in sorrow.’ **Genesis 44:29**

“Oh that You would hide me in Sheol, That You would conceal me until Your wrath returns *to You*, That You would set a limit for me and remember me! **Job 14:13**

<sup>10</sup> For You will not **abandon my soul** to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.  
**Psalm 16:10**

and he said, “I called out of my distress to YHVH, And He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice. **Jonah 2:2**

## The unrighteous also expected to go down to Sheol

New But if YHVH brings about an entirely new thing and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that is theirs, and they descend alive into Sheol, then you will understand that these men have spurned YHVH.” **Numbers 16:30**

So they and all that belonged to them went down alive to Sheol; and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly. **Numbers 16:33**

“Drought and heat consume the snow waters, *So does Sheol those who have sinned.* **Job 24:19**

The wicked will return to Sheol, *Even all the nations who forget God.* **Psalms 9:17**

The strong among the mighty ones shall speak of him *and his helpers from the midst of Sheol,* ‘They have gone down, they lie still, the uncircumcised, slain by the sword.’ **Ezekiel 32:21**

For a fire is kindled in My anger, and burns to **the lowest part of Sheol**,  
And consumes the earth with its yield, And sets on fire the foundations of  
the mountain **Deuteronomy 32:22**

For Your lovingkindness toward me is great, And You have delivered my soul  
from the <sup>[a]</sup>depths of <sup>[b]</sup>Sheol. **Psalm 86:13**

**Footnotes:**

[Psalm 86:13](#) Lit *lowest Sheol*

[Psalm 86:13](#) I.e. the nether world

## Sheol was a place of spiritual consciousness

“Sheol from beneath is excited over you to meet you when you come; It arouses for you the spirits of the dead, all the leaders of the earth; It raises all the kings of the nations from their thrones. **Isaiah 14:9**

and he said, “I called out of my distress to YHVH, And He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice.  
**Jonah 2:2**



Hades is a Greek word translated “hell in the King James Version. Both Sheol and Hades refer to the same place.

IF SHEOL IS NOT HELL THAN HADES IS NOT HELL

## Hades is mentioned in ten passages.

- Matthew 11:23: *you shall go down unto Hades.*
- Matthew 16:18: *the gates of Hades.*
- Luke 10:15: *you shall be brought down unto Hades.*
- Luke 16:23: *in Hades he lifted up his eyes.*
- **Acts 2:27 quotes Psalms 16:10: *you will not leave my soul unto Hades.***
- Acts 2:31: *neither was he left unto Hades.*
- In Revelation 1:18, the Messiah is said to *have the keys of death and Hades.*
- Revelation 6:8: *his name was Death; and Hades.*
- Revelation 20:13: *death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them.*
- And Revelation 20:14: *death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire*

<sup>22</sup> Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and \*saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. Luke 16:22-23

**Because You will not abandon my soul to Hades, Nor allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. 'You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of gladness with Your presence.'** “Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat *one* of his descendants on his throne, he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of Messiah, **that He was neither abandoned to Hades**, nor did His flesh suffer decay. Acts 2:27-31

# Abbadon

This is a Hebrew word that means “destruction.” Being a Hebrew term, all but one verse is found in the Tenach. It is used a total of seven times in Scripture.

- Job 26:6: *Abbadon has no covering.*
- Job 28:22: *Abbadon and death say.*
- Job 31:12: *a fire that consumes unto Abbadon.*
- Psalms 88:11: *Shall your loving kindness be declared in the grave? Or your faithfulness in Abbadon?*
- Proverbs 15:11: *Sheol and Abbadon are before Jehovah.*
- Proverbs 27:20: *Sheol and Abbadon are never satisfied.*
- And Revelation 9:11 calls *the angel of the abyss* by his Hebrew name, *Abbadon*, and also gives his Greek name, *Apollyon*.
- The **Greek word means the same as the Hebrew word: Destruction.**

**Isaiah 14:15** "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.  
**Job 33:18** He keeps back his soul from the pit, And his life from passing over into Sheol.

**Psalms 28:1** To You, O LORD, I call; My rock, do not be deaf to me, For if You are silent to me, I will become like those who go down to the pit.

**Psalms 30:3** O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You have kept me alive, that I would not go down to the pit.

**Psalms 55:23** But You, O God, will bring them down to the pit of destruction; Men of bloodshed and deceit will not live out half their days But I will trust in You.

**Psalms 69:15** May the flood of water not overflow me Nor the deep swallow me up, Nor the pit shut its mouth on me.

**Psalms 88:4** I am reckoned among those who go down to the pit; I have become like a man without strength,

**Psalms 103:4** Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;

**Psalms 143:7** Answer me quickly, O LORD, my spirit fails; Do not hide Your face from me, Or I will become like those who go down to the pit.

**Proverbs 1:12** Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, Even whole, as those who go down to the pit;

**Isaiah 14:19** "But you have been cast out of your tomb Like a rejected branch, Clothed with the slain who are pierced with a sword, Who go down to the stones of the pit Like a trampled corpse.

**Isaiah 38:17-18** "Lo, for my own welfare I had great bitterness; It is You who has kept my soul from the pit of nothingness, For You have cast all my sins behind Your back. "For Sheol cannot thank You, Death cannot praise You; Those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your faithfulness. of brimstone, sets it afire.

**Ezekiel 26:20** then I will bring you down with those who go down to the pit, to the people of old, and I will make you dwell in the lower parts of the earth, like the ancient waste places, with those who go down to the pit, so that you will not be inhabited; but I will set glory in the land of the living.

**Ezekiel 28:8** 'They will bring you down to the pit, And you will die the death of those who are slain In the heart of the seas.

**Ezekiel 31:14**

so that all the trees by the waters may not be exalted in their stature, nor set their top among the clouds, nor their well-watered mighty ones stand erect in their height. For they have all been given over to death, to the earth beneath, among the sons of men, with those who go down to the pit."

**Ezekiel 32:23-25**

whose graves are set in the remotest parts of the pit and her company is round about her grave. All of them are slain, fallen by the sword, who spread terror in the land of the living. "Elam is there and all her hordes around her grave; all of them slain, fallen by the sword, who went down uncircumcised to the lower parts of the earth, who instilled their terror in the land of the living and bore their disgrace with those who went down to the pit. "They have made a bed for her among the slain with all her hordes. Her graves are around it, they are all uncircumcised, slain by the sword (although their terror was instilled in the land of the living), and they bore their disgrace with those who go down to the pit; they were put in the midst of the slain.

**Jonah 2:6** "I descended to the roots of the mountains The earth with its bars was around me forever, But You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.

**Isaiah 30:33** For Topheth has long been ready, Indeed, it has been prepared for the king He has made it deep and large, A pyre of fire with plenty of wood; The breath of the LORD, like a torrent

# ABYSS

- Luke 8:31: *not command them to depart into the abyss.*
- Romans 10:7: *Who shall descend into the abyss?*
- Revelation 9:1: *the key of the pit of the abyss.*
- Revelation 9:2: *he opened the pit of the abyss.*
- Revelation 9:11: *the angel of the abyss.*
- Revelation 11:7: *the beast that comes up out of the abyss.*
- Revelation 17:8: *The beast is about to come up out of the abyss.*
- Revelation 20:1: *the key of the abyss.*
- Revelation 20:3: *and he cast him into the abyss.*

# TARTARUS



"TARTARUS" IS FOR FALLEN ANGELS WHO  
ARE RESERVED IN CHAINS OF DARKNESS  
THERE IS NO RELEASE UNTIL THE JUDGMENT

- *For if God spared **not** angels when they sinned, but cast them down to Tartarus, and committed them to pits of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment...*
- 2 Peter 2:4: