

HELL (HADES, GEHENNA)
Biblical Words
Banska Bystrica, 25th October 2020

εἰ δὲ ὁ ὀφθαλμὸς σου ὁ δεξιὸς σκανδαλίζει σε, ἔξελε αὐτὸν καὶ βάλε ἀπὸ σοῦ· συμφέρει γάρ σοι ἵνα ἀπόληται ἐν τῶν μελῶν σου καὶ μὴ ὅλον τὸ σῶμά σου βληθῆ εἰς γέενναν.³⁰ καὶ εἰ ἡ δεξιὰ σου χεὶρ σκανδαλίζει σε, ἔκκοψον αὐτήν καὶ βάλε ἀπὸ σοῦ· συμφέρει γάρ σοι ἵνα ἀπόληται ἐν τῶν μελῶν σου καὶ μὴ ὅλον τὸ σῶμά σου εἰς γέενναν ἀπέλθῃ

Mt 5:29-30 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

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0. INTRODUCTION

- past topics: ▶ Scripture; ▶ Law; ▶ Gospel; ▶ Sin; ▶ Repentance; ▶ Faith; ▶ Hope; ▶ Love;
 - ▶ Kingdom of God; ▶ Church; ▶ Covenant; "The LORD" Yahweh;

0.1. A PAINFUL TOPIC

- → denials: (1) psychological, (2) philosophical, (3) theological

[RUSSELL *Why I Am not a Christian*] There is one very serious defect to my mind in Christ's moral character, and that is that He believed in hell. I do not myself feel that any person who is really

profoundly humane can believe in everlasting punishment.

- (1) annihilation? (2) metaphorical? (3) conditional?
- God in the dock → judging the Judge...

0.2. MODERN ATTITUDES

- popular music; swearing; advertising (“power”)

1. THE REASON FOR HELL

- → consider the cross of Christ!

1.1. GOD’S WRATH

- **2 Peter 2:4** For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell (*ἀλλὰ σειραῖς ζόφου ταρταρώσας παρέδωκεν*) and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment

[VINE] The verb *tartaroo*, translated “cast down to hell” in 2 Pet. 2:4, signifies to consign to Tartarus, which is neither Sheol nor hades nor hell, but the place where those angels whose special sin is referred to in that passage are confined “to be reserved unto judgment”; the region is described as “pits of darkness.”

- **Jude 1:6** And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day (*δεσμοῖς αἰδίοις ὑπὸ ζόφου τετήρηκεν*)-

1.2. PREPARED FOR ANGELS

- **Mt 25:41** Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels

2. THE WORDS

2.1. UNDERWORLD

2.1.1. SHEOL

- SHEOL → sixty-five times in the Old Testament
- [BOTTERWECK&RINGGREN] The root [שָׂדֵה] has several distinct meanings, including (1) be desolate; (2) roar, rage; (3) regard. Köhler adduces only the first meaning, which is consonant with the desolation of the underworld.
- DEATH → **Pr 5:5** Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol
- **Pr 27:20** Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the eyes of man
- **[DARKNESS]** → **Job 10:21-22** before I go- and I shall not return- to the land of darkness and deep shadow, ²² the land of gloom like thick darkness, like deep shadow without any order, where light is as thick darkness.
- **Nu 16:30** But if the LORD creates something new, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol (וַיֵּרְדוּ חַיִּים שְׂאֵלָה), then you shall know that these men have despised the LORD.
- **[FIRE]** → **Dt 32:22** For a fire is kindled by my anger, and it burns to the depths of Sheol (וַתִּיֶקֶר עַד-שְׂאֵל תַּחַתֶּיהָ), devours the earth and its increase, and sets on fire the foundations of the mountains
- **[NO KNOWLEDGE]** → **Job 14:21** His sons come to honor, and he does not know it; they are brought low, and he perceives it not
Isa 63:16 For you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us (כִּי אֲבִרְהָם לֹא יָדָעֵנוּ),
- **[NOT UNCONSCIOUS]** **Isa 14:9-10** Sheol beneath is stirred up to meet you when you come; it rouses the shades to greet you, all who were leaders of the earth; it raises from their thrones all who were kings of the nations. ¹⁰ All of them will answer and say to you: 'You too have become as weak as we! You have become like us!'

2.1.2. HADES

- **Mt 11:23** And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades.

[VINE] *hades*, “the region of departed spirits of the lost” (but including the blessed dead in periods preceding the ascension of Christ). It has been thought by some that the word etymologically meant “the unseen” (from *a*, negative, and *eido*, “to see”), but this derivation is questionable; a more probable derivation is from *hado*, signifying “all-receiving.” It corresponds to “Sheol” in the OT. In the KJV of the OT and NT; it has been unhappily rendered “hell,” e.g., Ps. 16:10; or “the grave,” e.g., Gen. 37:35; or “the pit,” Num. 16:30, 33; in the NT the revisers have always used the rendering “hades”; in the OT, they have not been uniform in the translation, e.g. in Isa. 14:15 “hell” (marg., “Sheol”); usually they have “Sheol” in the text and “the grave” in the margin. It never denotes the grave, nor is it the permanent region of the lost; in point of time it is, for such, intermediate between decease and the doom of Gehenna. For the condition, see Luke 16:23-31.

The word is used four times in the Gospels, and always by the Lord, Matt. 11:23; 16:18; Luke 10:15; 16:23; it is used with reference to the soul of Christ, Acts 2:27, 31; Christ declares that He has the keys of it, Rev. 1:18; in Rev. 6:8 it is personified, with the signification of the temporary destiny of the doomed; it is to give up those who are therein, 20:13, and is to be cast into the lake of fire, v. 14

2.1.3. ABRAHAM'S BOSOM

- „náručie“
- Luke 16:19-31 → **Luke 16:22-23** The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side (εις τον κόλπον Ἀβραάμ). The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side (ὁρᾷ Ἀβραάμ ἀπὸ μακρόθεν καὶ Λάζαρον ἐν τοῖς κόλποις αὐτοῦ)
ΚΟΨΙΣ, ὁ, Lat. sinus: **I.** the bosom, **II.** the womb, Eur. **II.** the fold formed by a loose garment, as it fell over the girdle, **II.**:-this fold sometimes served for a pocket, Od., Hdt.; κόλπον ἀνιμένη letting down her robe so as to form a fold, i.e. baring her breast, **II.**; κόλπω πεπλώματος under the deepfolded robe, Aesch.; ἐπὶ σφυρὰ κόλπον ἀνεῖσαι having let their folded robes fall down to their ankles, Theocr. **III.** any hollow, as **1.** of the sea, first, in a half-literal sense, Θέτις ὑπεδέξατο κόλπω received him in her bosom, **II.**; then, of the deep hollow between waves, Hom. **2.** a bay or gulf of the sea, **II.**, Aesch. **3.** a vale, κ. Ἀργείος Pind.; Ἐλευσινίας Δηροῦς ἐν κόλποις Soph.

2.1.4. PRISON

- **1 Peter 3:18-20** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison (τοῖς ἐν φυλακῇ πνεύμασιν πορευθεῖς ἐκήρυξεν), ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water

2.2. HELL

- [Four Views] The term *gehenna* is derived from the Valley of Hinnom, traditionally considered by the Jews the place of the final punishment of the ungodly. Located just south of Jerusalem, it is referred to in Joshua 15:8 and 18:16, where this valley was considered a boundary between the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. In this place human sacrifices were offered to Molech; these altars were destroyed by Josiah (2 Kings 23:10). The valley was later declared to be “the valley of slaughter” by Jeremiah (Jer. 7:30-33).
- [Four Views] The most definitive term in the New Testament is *gehenna*, uniformly translated “hell” and referring to everlasting punishment (Mt. 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15,33; Mk 9:43,45,47; Lk 12:5; Jas 3:6)
- Tartaros (?) 2Pt 2:4

[VINE] *geenna* represents the Hebrew Ge-Hinnom (the valley of Tophet) and a corresponding Aramaic word; it is found twelve times in the NT, eleven of which are in the Synoptists, in every instance as

uttered by the Lord Himself. He who says to his brother, Thou fool, will be in danger of “the hell of fire,” Matt. 5:22; it is better to pluck out (a metaphorical description of irrevocable law) an eye that causes its possessor to stumble, than that his “whole body be cast into hell,” v. 29; similarly with the hand, v. 30; in Matt. 18:8, 9, the admonitions are repeated, with an additional mention of the foot; here, too, the warning concerns the person himself (for which obviously the “body” stands in chapt. 5); in v. 8, “the eternal fire” is mentioned as the doom, the character of the region standing for the region itself, the two being combined in the phrase “the hell of fire,” v. 9. To the passage in Matt. 18, that in Mk 9:43-47, is parallel; here to the word “hell” are applied the extended descriptions “the unquenchable fire” and “where their worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched.”

- **Mt 5:22** But I say to you that everyone who is (1) angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever (2) insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever (3) says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire (ἔνοχος ἔσται εἰς τὴν γέενναν τοῦ πυρός)

2.2.1. LAKE OF FIRE

- **Rev 20:10** ...and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever (καὶ βασανισθήσονται ἡμέρας καὶ νυκτὸς εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων).
- **Rev 20:14** Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire (καὶ ὁ θάνατος καὶ ὁ ᾄδης ἐβλήθησαν εἰς τὴν λίμνην τοῦ πυρός). This is the second death, the lake of fire.

2.2.2. OUTER DARKNESS

- **Mt 8:12** while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be (1) weeping and (2) gnashing of teeth
Mt 8:12; 13:42; 13:50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Lk 13:28 (ὁ κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὁ βρυγμὸς τῶν ὀδόντων)

3. CONDITIONS IN HADES

3.1. NO RETURN

- **Job 7:9** As the cloud fades and vanishes, so he who goes down to Sheol does not come up (הַעֲנַן נִפְּזָה)
- **Ecc 9:4-6** But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. ⁵ For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. ⁶ Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and forever they have no more share in all that is done under the sun.

3.2. PLACE OF WAITING

- **Job 14:13** Oh that you would hide me in Sheol, that you would conceal me until your wrath be past, that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me!
- **Rev 20:13** And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead (ὁ θάνατος καὶ ὁ ᾄδης ἔδωκαν τοὺς νεκροὺς τοὺς ἐν αὐτοῖς) who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done

3.3. BLESSEDNESS

- **Psalms 73:24** You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. (יְהוָה יְנַחֵנִי וְיִצְרֵנִי וְיִשְׁמְרֵנִי וְיִשְׁלֵמֵנִי)
- **Luke 23:43** And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise (ἐν τῷ παραδείσῳ).

3.4. SUFFERING

- **Luke 16:22-23** The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades, being in torment (καὶ ἐν τῷ ᾄδῃ ἐπάρας τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς αὐτοῦ, ὑπάρχων ἐν βασάνοις), he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side

3.5. ABHORRENCE & CONTEMPT

- **Daniel 12:2** And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt (וְאֵלֶּה לְחַרְפוֹת לְדָרְאוֹן עוֹלָם)

4. CONDITIONS IN HELL

- **Is 66:24** And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.
- **Mk 9:47-48** And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched

5. LIBERATION

- **Rev 1:17-18** "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- RYRIE *Základy teologie*, s. 600nn.