

Difficult and Hard to Understand Passages

What are the different “abodes” of the soul?
There are three separate and distinct domains or abodes:

1. The earthly vessel where our souls now abide while we are living.
2. Hades (Greek) and Sheol (Hebrew)
3. The eternal domain (Heaven and Hell) where we shall receive a new immortal body during the resurrection.

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What are the different “abodes” of the soul?
Let’s begin to examine the scriptures and see if we can find support for this. First, from the case of the death of our Lord on the cross:

Luke 23:43

⁴³ And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”

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What are the different “abodes” of the soul?
So what did Peter say about what happened to Jesus after his death on the cross during the “first gospel sermon?”

Acts 2:27, 31

27 BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES,
NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY (QUOTED FROM DAVID –
PSALMS 16:10)

31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY.

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Peter also proclaimed in this same passage
something very revealing regarding David.

Acts 2:34a

Th

³⁴ For David is not ascended into the heavens

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What are the different “abodes” of the soul?
What did Jesus say (after his resurrection and before his ascension) to Mary about where he had **NOT** been?

John 20:17

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.’”

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There is a very important logical inference
which can be deduced from these passages:

1. Jesus journeyed with the penitent thief on the cross to a place called “Paradise” after their deaths.
2. Peter, in Acts 2:27 and 31, explained that the Lord, during the period of his death, was in Hades.
3. Jesus told Mary He had not yet ascended to the Father (who is in Heaven.)
4. Thus, we can conclude that Jesus did not go to Heaven when he died (the abode of God), but rather to Paradise which is in Hades.

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What other references do we have to consider in the NT?

Luke 16:22-26

²² 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.

²³ In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.

²⁴ And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.’

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What other references do we have to consider in the NT?

Luke 16:22-26 (cont.)

²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.

²⁶ 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.’

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Based on what we know about Hades and Paradise, what is now inferred by the story of Lazarus and the rich man.

1. When they died, both went to Hades. (vs 23)
2. In Hades, there is clearly a place of torment where the rich man found himself. (vs 24)
3. There is also a place known as “Abraham’s Bosom.” This is likely what Jesus referred to as Paradise! (vs 24)
4. These two places are separated by a great “chasm.” (vs 26)

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What else do we know about the side of Hades where the condemned abide?

II Peter 2:4

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

Let's examine this scripture more indepth on the next slide.

Also note Ezekiel 28:12-19 for more information regarding the sin of holy creatures who dwelt in the domain of God. Perhaps angels or cherubs. Perhaps Satan himself.

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II Peter 2:4

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

The word rendered here as “hell” is actually ***Tartarus*** in the ancient text. This word is found nowhere else in scripture. To help give us some insight into the meaning, we can also look to pagan literature:

From the poet *Homer (who lived somewhere between the 8th & 12th century BC)*; Hades is the place of confinement of dead men, and Tartarus is the name given to a murky abyss beneath Hades, in which the sins of fallen immortals are punished.

This narrative from Homer as “a place of confinement” is consistent with the view of Hades as being described in other passages we have considered.

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What support is there in the OT regarding an abode known as Hades?

1. The Greek translation of the OT was known as the Septuagint. The original text was written in Hebrew.
2. 65 times the translators encountered the the word *Sheol*.
3. Not one time did they translate it *mnema* (grave).
4. Not one time did they translate it *gehenna* (lake of fire or Hell)
5. 61 times they translated it Hades.
6. It is thus logical to conclude that *Sheol* is Hades.

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What are the different “abodes” of the soul?

What happens during the resurrection?

Romans 8:10-11

10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

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What are the different “abodes” of the soul?

What happens during the resurrection?

I Corinthians 15:**35-38** – 42-49 – 50-54

35 But someone will say, “How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?”

36 You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies;

37 and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else.

38 But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.

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What happens during the resurrection?

I Corinthians 15:35-38 – **42-49** – 50-54

⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable *body*;

⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;

⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual *body*.

⁴⁵ So also it is written, “The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL.” The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.

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I Corinthians 15:35-38 – **42-49** – 50-54

⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.

⁴⁷ The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.

⁴⁸ As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.

⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

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What happens during the resurrection?

I Corinthians 15:35-38 – 42-49 – **50-54**

50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

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I Corinthians 15:35-38 – 42-49 – **50-54**

53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

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What are the different “abodes” of the soul?

What happens during the resurrection?

I Thessalonians 4:13-17

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

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What are the different “abodes” of the soul?

What happens during the resurrection?

I Thessalonians 4:13-17

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

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What are the different “abodes” of the soul?

What happens during the resurrection?

Philippians 3:20-21

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

²¹ who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

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What are the different “abodes” of the soul?
John’s vision of the judgement.

Revelation 20:13-15

¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds.

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What are the different “abodes” of the soul?
John’s vision of the judgement.

Revelation 20:13-15

14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

15 And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

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What are the different “abodes” of the soul?

Our conclusions:

#1. We all live originally in a mortal body. It is a shell which contains our spirit, or soul. During our time in this mortal body, based on the decisions we make, the final destination of our soul is determined!

#2. When we die, we go to Hades, which has been described as the “receptacle” of spirits (souls) the dead. Inside Hades, it is separated by a great chasm and there are clearly areas of rewards and punishments. There is Paradise (as Jesus referenced) which is also referred to as Abraham’s bosom (where Lazarus now abides.)

#3. In Hades, there is Tartarus (where evil angels await their final judgement.) And also a place where the souls of mortal men, destined for eternal punishment (like the rich man), await their final judgment.

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Our conclusions:

#4. At the resurrection, those in Hades will receive a new eternal, immortal body which will accompany them into either Heaven or Hell. They will rise first.

#5. Then, those who are still alive will be changed into an eternal, immortal body and go with those who have risen to the place of God for the final judgement.

#6. This earth and Hades (the receptacle of the dead), are no longer needed and will be destroyed.

#7. The eternal fate of all men is sealed at the final judgement. Either to hell with Satan and the unfaithful angels or to heaven with God!

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