

## The Place of the Dead and the Unseen World – Arnold Fruchtenbaum, **The Footsteps of the Messiah**

1. Sheol - Hebrew word – only used in OT
  - a. a place both the righteous and unrighteous expected to go upon death (Job 14:13)
  - b. far more dreadful for unbelievers than for believers (Job 24:19)
  - c. different levels / compartments – ‘lowest sheol’ (Ps 86:13)
  - d. direction always downward (Job 7:9)
  - e. place of consciousness (Isa 14:9-10)
  - f. not removed from God’s jurisdiction (Job 26:6)
2. Hades – Greek word – only used in NT
  - a. Hades same as Sheol, so all that is true of Sheol is true of Hades. (Acts 2:27, 31 Psalm 16:10)
  - b. Place for both righteous and unrighteous (Luke 16:19-31)
  - c. 2 main compartments – Hades and Abraham’s Bosom (Luke 16:19-31)
  - d. Especially severe for unbelievers (Matt 11:23, Lk 10:15)
  - e. Direction always downward
  - f. Place of consciousness
  - g. Temporary state, not eternal (Rev 20:11-15)
3. Abaddon – Hebrew word – means destruction (Job 26:6; 28:22; 31:12; Ps 88:11; Rev 9:11)
  - a. 3 out of 7 verses – is parallel with Sheol
  - b. Used only negatively
  - c. Hebrew name for unbeliever’s side of Sheol/Hades
4. The Pit – Old Testament name for the unseen world (Job 17:14; 33:18, 22, 24, 28, 30)
  - a. Always used negatively
  - b. Direction is always downward
  - c. Descriptive term for unrighteous’ compartment of Sheol/Hades

(summary: same place: Abaddon – formal name, The Pit – descriptive name)
5. The Abyss – Greek word only found in NT, concept is “the netherworld” or “bottomless” (Luke 8:31, Rev 9:1, Rev 9:11, 7)
  - a. Direction always downward
  - b. Never associated with human beings; always with fallen angels with the exception of the Antichrist but he is connected with Satan and fallen angels
  - c. Section of Sheol/Hades which is temporary place of confinement for fallen angels (Rev 20:3)
6. Tartarus – Greek word used once in NT
  - 2 Peter 2:4: “committed them to pits of darkness to be reserved for judgment”
  - a. Negative description
  - b. Place for fallen angels
  - c. Connected with fallen angels somehow related to the time of Noah
  - d. Same fallen angels mentioned in Jude 6-7 “sons of God” of Gen 6
  - e. Permanent place of confinement for fallen angels of Gen 6, until go to Lake of Fire
7. Hell – English word, no special Hebrew or Greek term; what people call Hell is what the OT calls Abaddon or the Pit: the unrighteous side of Sheol/Hades
  - a. Based on details of Sheol and Abaddon, Hell contains unsaved humans only, existing as “shades” (Job 26:5 – *rephaim* – departed spirits no physical body)
  - b. Total absence of righteousness, separated from relationship with God; place of judgment

8. Gehenna – Greek term, based on 2 Hebrew words, means Valley of Hinnom (Matt 5:22, 10:28, 23:33). Real place outside Jerusalem where wicked kings of Israel practiced human sacrifice, burning humans (2 Kg.23:10; 2 Chr.28:3, 33:6; Is. 30:33; Jer 7:31-32; 10:1-15). OT concept of burning humans physically moves into the NT concept with the word Gehenna, describing the unseen world and eternal burning of humans.
  - a. Eternal abode of lost, both angels and men
  - b. Punishment includes both soul and body
  - c. Eternal torment
  - d. Associated with fire
9. The Lake of Fire – 4 passages in Revelation (Rev. 10:20, 20:10, 20:14, 21:8)
  - a. Eternal abode of all lost ones both angels and men
  - b. Punishment includes both soul and body
  - c. Same as Gehenna (the proper name for the Lake of Fire)
  - d. Associated with fire and brimstone as source of torment
10. Abraham's Bosom – very common term in rabbinic writings, but only found in Luke 16:22-23
  - a. For the righteous only
  - b. Adjacent to Hell
  - c. Separated from Hell by impassable gulf
  - d. Portion of Sheol/Hades for the righteous
  - e. Figure of speech describing a guest at a feast, reclining on the breast of his neighbor
  - f. Symbolizes blessedness after death
11. Paradise – Greek word found in NT only; Hebrew equivalent means 'royal park' or 'garden'
  - a. Describes abode of the righteous. In Luke 23:43 it is the same as Abraham's Bosom
  - b. According to 2 Cor 12:4, Paradise today is in Heaven
  - c. Rev 2:7 speaks of the future when Paradise will be in the New Jerusalem
12. Heaven – Bible speaks of 3 heavens: 1 – atmosphere, 2 – space,  
3 – Third Heaven (Highest Heaven) – the abode of God (Job 22:12, 2 Cor 12:1-4).
  - a. Existence of Third heaven testified to by: Jesus (John 6), Paul (2 Cor 12:104), John (Rev 4:1)
  - b. Abode of God, where He lives
  - c. Abode of good, holy, unfallen angels
  - d. Real place
  - e. Always upward, above the earth, above the sky, above space
  - f. The place from where God rules
  - g. Place where God receives worship
  - h. Now the home of departed saints
13. The New Jerusalem – mentioned 3 times in NT (Gal 4:26, Heb 12:22-24, Rev 21:1-22:5)
  - a. Now above the earth
  - b. Abode of whole Triune God
  - c. Abode of angels (unfallen)
  - d. Abode of redeemed saints
  - e. Synonymous with heaven
  - f. In the future, will come down upon New Earth