

SHEOL & GEHENNA

(Word Study)

*"For thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol,
Neither wilt thou suffer thy man of lovingkindness [hesed], to see corruption"
(Ps. 16:10, Acts 2:27).*

The first occurrence of Sheol is in Genesis 37:35, when Jacob, learning of Joseph's death, states, "And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to console him, but he refused to be consoled, and said—Surely I will go down unto my son [Joseph], mourning, to Sheol! And his father [Jacob] wept for him." Sheol (Strong's #07585) occurs sixty-five times in the Hebrew Old Covenant and eleven times in the Greek New Covenant, translated as Hades (Strong's #86).

(Note: People have translated, 'Sheol,' as, 'Grave,' but grave is the Hebrew word, qeber (Strong's #06913). Ge 35:20 And Jacob set up a pillar, over her grave [qeburâ 06900],—the same, is—The Pillar of the Grave [qebura 06900] of Rachel, until this day.")

E. W. Bullinger stated in his Critical Lexicon, under Hell (Hades), "If we enquire of it in the list of the occurrences, it will teach: 1.) That as to direction it is down. 2.) That as to place it is in the earth. 3.) that as to nature it is put for the state of death. Not the act of dying, for which we have no English word, but the state or duration of death. Sheol therefore means the state of death; or the state of the dead, of which the grave is tangible evidence. It has to do only with the dead. It may sometimes be personified and represented as speaking, as other inanimate things are. It may be represented by a coined word, Grave-dom, as meaning the dominion of power of the grave. 3.) As to relation it stands in contrast with the state of the living (Deu. 30:15,19; 1 Sam. 2:6-8). 4.) As to association, it is used in connection with mourning (Gen. 37:34-35), sorrow (Gen. 42:38, 2 Sam. 22:6, Ps. 18:5, 116:3), fright and terror (Num. 16:27, 34), weeping (Is. 38:3, 10, 15, 20), silence (Ps. 31:17, 6:5, Ecc. 9:10), no knowledge (Ecc. 9:5, 6, 10), punishment (Num. 16:27, 34, 1 Kg. 2:6, 9, Job 24:19, Ps. 9:17) and finally as to duration, the dominion of Sheol will continue until and end only with resurrection, which is the only exist from it (Hos. 13:14 and compare Ps. 16:10 with Acts 2:27, 31; 13:35)."

Sheol's sixty-five usages are: Gen. 37:35, Gen. 42:38, Gen. 44:29, 31, Num. 16:30, 33, Deut. 32:22, 1 Sam. 2:6, 2 Sam. 22:6, 1 Ki. 2:6, 9, Job 7:9, Job 11:8, Job 14:13, Job 17:13, 16, Job 21:13, Job 24:19, Job 26:6, Ps. 6:5, Ps. 9:17, Ps. 16:10, Ps. 18:5, Ps. 30:3, Ps. 31:17, Ps. 49:14f, Ps. 55:15, Ps. 86:13, Ps. 88:3, Ps. 89:48, Ps. 116:3, Ps. 139:8, Ps. 141:7, Prov. 1:12, Prov. 5:5, Prov. 7:27 Prov. 9:18, Prov. 15:11, 24, Prov. 23:14, Prov. 27:20, Prov. 30:16, Eccl. 9:10, Cant. 8:6, Isa. 5:14, Isa. 14:9, 11, 15, Isa. 28:15, 18, Isa. 38:10, 18, Isa. 57:9, Ezek. 31:15ff, Ezek. 32:21, 27, Hos. 13:14, Amos 9:2, Jon. 2:2, Hab. 2:5

The err of people being alive after dying, those who were evil being tortured (Hell), was inserted into Yahweh's Word by the Greeks. The Greek Septuagint, approximately written 250 BC, is the Greek translation of the Hebrew text. These translators use the Greek word, Hades, for the Hebrew word, Sheol, they having no other word, in their language, to represent Sheol. Sheol, being a place where all the dead go until their resurrection, became Hades, a place where people are alive being tortured. Hades also known as Pluto is a Greek god who is the god of the lower regions. " Hades was a son of the Titans, Cronus and Rhea, and brother of the deities Zeus, Poseidon, Demeter, Heres and Hestia. After Cronus was overthrown by his sons, his kingdom was divided among them, and the underworld fell by lot to Hades. There he ruled with his queen, Persephone, over the infernal powers and over the dead in what was often called "the house of Hades," or simply Hades. He was aided by the dog Cerberus. Though Hades

supervised the trial and punishment of the wicked after death, he was not normally one of the judges in the underworld, nor did he personally torture the guilty, a task assigned to the Furies (Erinyes). Hades was depicted as stern and pitiless, unmoved by prayer or sacrifice (like death itself). Forbidding and aloof, he never quite emerges as a distinct personality from the shadowy darkness of his realm, not even in the myth of his abduction of Persephone."¹ Hades usages, in the New Covenant, are Matt. 11:23, Matt. 16:18, Lk. 10:15, Lk. 16:23, Acts 2:27, 31, 1 Co. 15:55, Rev. 1:18, Rev. 6:8, Rev. 20:13f.

The KJV, of 1611, translated, Sheol: Hell, thirty-one times, Grave, thirty-one times and Pit, three times. The NKJV of 1982, translated Sheol as Hell, nineteen times instead of thirty-one times. Robert Young's Bible, written in the 1880's, translated, Sheol, as Sheol, sixty-five times. Rotherham's Emphasized Bible translated, Sheol, as Hades, in the Old Covenant and the New Covenant, thereby showing the reader, Sheol's usages in the Old and New Covenant. The ASV of 1901 translated Sheol, as Sheol as does the NASV. The word, Hell, is not in Young's or Rotherham's Bible.

There are many Bibles (NIV, ESV etc.) today that do not translate Sheol as Hell, meaning there is no Hell in the Old Covenant!

Ge-henna (Strong's #1067), used twelve times. Ge is Greek for valley and henna is the name for hinnom. It is the Valley of Ben-hinnom, which is a valley (deep and narrow ravine) with steep, rocky sides located southwest of Jerusalem, separating Mount Zion to the north from the 'hill of evil counsel' and the sloping rocky plateau of the 'plain of Rephaim' to the south. Hinnom mean is, "lamentation." Yahweh in Jeremiah 7:31-32, declares, "And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, To burn up their sons and their daughters, in the fire,—Which I commanded not, Neither came it up on my heart. Therefore, lo! days are coming, Declareth Yahweh, When it shall not be called any more—The Topheth, nor, The valley of Ben-hinnom, but, The valley of Slaughter,—And they shall bury in Topheth, for want of place." Usages are in Jos. 15:8, Jos. 18:16, 2 Ki. 23:10, 2 Chr. 28:3, 2 Chr. 33:6, Neh. 11:30, Jer. 7:31f, Jer. 19:2, 6, Jer. 32:35. Gehenna, in the New Covenant, is being used figuratively as the Lake of Fire in the book of Revelation, where all those who are not written in the Book of Life are cast into, including death and Sheol.

(Note of interest: The word used in the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, is not Gehenna but rather Hades.)

'Does Hell exist in the Word of Yahweh,' can be read at
http://www.teleiosministries.com/pdfs/Hell_the_adversary_and_Death/does_hell_exist.pdf

'The Rich man and Lazarus or the Intermediate State,' can be read at
http://www.teleiosministries.com/pdfs/E_W_Bullinger_Writings/rich_man_and_lazarus.pdf

¹ Britannica Hades (Greek Mythology)