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JESUS' 3 DAYS IN HADES

Jesus told his disciples prior to the crucifixion that he would be in the grave three days and three nights. While his physical body lay in a tomb, His spirit descended to Hades, translated “hell” in the Bible. Why was He in hell for three days?

In a Messianic prophetic Psalm, it is first spoken of Messiah (God) that **“Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive. Thou hast received gifts for men; year, for the rebellious also, that the Lord might dwell among them.”**
(Psalm 68:18.)

Ephesians 4: 7-10 also says Christ led captivity captive, first descending into the lower parts of the earth (Hades), then ascending up to heaven with the “captives” of hell.

1 Peter 3:18-19 also affirms it. **“...quickened by the (Holy) Spirit, by which also he went (down) and preached unto the (human) spirits in prison (hades).”**

Prior to His resurrection, people’s sins were “covered” from God’s eyes (those who believed), but not pardoned. The pardon (forgiveness) could only be through Jesus’ sinless blood. Therefore, He presented Himself to souls in Hades and preached to them so that they would believe and follow Him out of there and ascend to heaven with Him.

Prior to the resurrection, Hades had two separate regions separated by a huge “gulf.” We see this from Luke 16:19-26 in the story of the beggar Lazarus and the rich man. Lazarus was in paradise, also known as “Abraham’s bosom,” while the rich man was in flames of torment, in the other side of Hades.

Once Jesus led those who believed on Him out of Hades, ascending to Heaven with Him, Hades was left with only the torment portion. When we think of Hades, or Hell, today, we think of it only as a place of torment, which it became after Jesus’ resurrection. Believers who die today no longer go to “Paradise” in Hades; their spirit ascends directly to Heaven where according to Revelation Paradise now exists. (Rev. 2:7)

The Old Testament Hebrew word for hell was “Sheol,” the “abode of the dead.” Sheol held “captive” the human spirits of both the righteous and unrighteous, divided into two areas, “paradise” and “torment.” It held all of the dead, not just some. The New Testament Greek did not have a comparable word to Sheol, so “hades” was used to speak of Sheol in the “pre-crucifixion” time period. Hades is the same thing as Sheol, had two sections. Once Jesus spent His 3 days and 3 nights in Hell, (Hades, Sheol), the paradise section was forever vacated. Now only the torment section remains. The Demon King “Abaddon” (Hebrew trans.) or “Apollyon” (Greek trans.) rules over it. (Rev. 9:11)

We praise God that Jesus descended to Hell (Sheol, Hades) for three days so that we could all now immediately ascend to heaven when we pass on. When He left Hell, it was at the same time His body left the earthly tomb. The New Covenant was sealed with His blood and life in Christ became ours by faith.

He arose at sundown Saturday in our calendar, which was Sunday morning on the Jewish calendar. It is Resurrection day, so let's celebrate it as such.