

27. These groups are systematically categorized over the course of world history by this doctrine:

## The Doctrine of **שְׁאוֹל** (*Shé'ol*): **Shé'ol** or **Ἅδης** (*Hádēs*): *Hádēs*

### Introduction: Definition and Etymology

1. The Hebrew word *Shé'ol* originally meant in post-Biblical Hebrew the deep parts of the sea. But both *Shé'ol* and the Greek word *Hádēs* are used to refer to anything that is subterranean and large. Therefore, they are used for the vast subterranean place of the departed dead of the human race and the abode of certain fallen angels.
2. Both *Shé'ol* and *Hádēs* are mistranslated “hell” which adds to the confusion.
3. *Hádēs* is used from classical times and before for the underworld and the realm of the dead.
4. *Shé'ol* is sometimes used for the grave, as in Genesis 37:35, 42:38, 1 Samuel 2:6, and other passages.
5. The dying are said to go to *Shé'ol*, which is not the grave, but to the under part of the earth. This is a reference to the soul in Numbers 16:30; Ezekiel 31:15, 17.
6. Prior to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, all human dead went to *Shé'ol* or *Hádēs* where two compartments were designed to receive them. Old Testament believers went to Paradise or Abraham’s Bosom. Unbelievers went to Torments.
7. Those who are believers in the Old Testament are said to be delivered into the power of *Shé'ol*: Hosea 13:14; Psalm 49:16.
8. However, since the resurrection of Christ, Old Testament believers have all been transferred to the third heaven as a part of the triumphal procession.

### Summaries of the Compartments of *Shé'ol* or *Hádēs*:

- A. **Παράδεισος** (*Parádeisos*): **Paradise**: The place where Old-Testament believers’ souls and interim bodies resided prior to the resurrection of Christ.

At the Lord’s ascension, all Old Testament saints followed Jesus Christ into the Third Heaven where they will reside until the Second Advent which terminates the dispensation of Israel.

**Ephesians 4:8** “When He ascended on high [ the resurrection ], He led a host of captives [ Old Testament believers in interim bodies ]; and He gave gifts to men.”

Documentation of where in Hades the Lord’s soul went once He experienced physical death is confirmed in this exchange between Jesus and one of the criminals crucified with Him:

**Luke 23:39** One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him [ Jesus ], saying, “Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!”



**Luke 23:40** But the other answered, and rebuking him said, “Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”

**v. 41** “and we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.”

**v. 42** And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!”

**v. 43** And He [ Jesus ] said to Him, “Truly [ ἀμήν (*amēn*): equivalent to ἀληθώς (*alēthōs*): “truly; to speak with certainty” ] I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise<sup>4</sup>.” (NASB)

Within what is referred to as Christianity, there is among its alleged followers those whose understanding of how a person is saved are both varied and sundry.

Some believe in the grace doctrine of faith alone in Christ alone for the imputation of salvation and eternal life.

Others insist that faith is not enough so that to confirm one’s salvation, good works must follow. Yet, unless those works are inspired by the filling of the Holy Spirit and based on divine guidance from doctrinal absolutes, then those works are typified as being burned by fire. See 1 Corinthians 3:12–15.

The believer-criminal on a cross by Jesus could not perform any work. He was nailed to it. He could not dislodge himself in order to perform a work if he had thought it necessary to do.

What he could do was speak and this is what he said, “We are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.”

He then turned to Jesus and said, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom.” Jesus responded, “Today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

## B. The Great Gulf Fixed

This describes a chasm in the earth that is associated with these compartments of *Hádēs*. It sits between Paradise and the compartment of Torments where unbelievers are sequestered awaiting their evaluation in eternity future.

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<sup>4</sup> Paradise is a place within the earth where Old-Testament believers were retained until Jesus ascended into heaven, He in a resurrection body and believers in interim bodies. See Ephesians 4:8 cp. Psalm 68:18a.

