

Where are the Dead?

# Ancient views of death sound modern

Greeks said one might turn unavoidable death into a triumph by dying gloriously

- Homer: unhappy underworld (*Hades*)
  - Instead of death, think transition
- Plato: personality, being moral / immaterial, must continue after body dies

Resurrection was foreign to their beliefs

# Ancient views of death sound modern

## Romans

- Requiescat in pace
- Many believed the dead lived on in the underworld



## Jews

- Job 19:26-27; 2 Sm.12

# I. What is Man?

# 1. Man is a living soul (Gn.2:7)

- “Living being” (NKJV; NASB; NIV)
- “Living creature” (ESV)
  - Gn.2:7 (= 1:20, 24)
  - “Soul” often means *life, person, self*
- Lifeless dirt became alive by breath of God
- Man is superior to animals, Gn.1:26

## 2. There is another part of man (more than just alive / body)

- Eccl.12<sup>7</sup> the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God Who gave it
  - Jesus could have quoted this to Sadducees (Mt.22:32)

## 2. There is another part of man (more than just alive / body)

- Zech.12<sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him
- Mt.10<sup>28</sup> And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. [Soul here: inner man]

## 2. There is another part of man (more than just alive / body)

- Mt.16<sup>26</sup> For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?
  - What does it mean to lose one's soul?  
Misplaced? (Yes) [Mt.10:28]
- Jn.13<sup>21</sup> When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me'



## 2. There is another part of man (more than just alive / body)

- Ac.7<sup>59</sup> And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”
  - 2 Co.4:16 – 5:8
    - Inward man; absent from body, present with Lord
    - 5:1,8, emphasis on inner man
    - Illustrated in rich man, Lk.16

I. What is Man?

II. What is Death?

Death: separation of soul from  
body – termination of physical life

- Mk.5<sup>23</sup> *at the point of death*
  - Being at the very end (last gasp)

# Different kinds of death

## 1. Spiritual

- Isa.59<sup>1</sup> ...the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. <sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear
- Ep.2<sup>1</sup> And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins

# Different kinds of death

## 2. **Second death**

- Rv.21<sup>8</sup> But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death

# Different kinds of death

## 3. Dead to sin

- Ro.6<sup>2</sup> How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? . . . <sup>11</sup> reckon yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus

# Different kinds of death

## 4. Physical

- Ja.2<sup>26</sup> For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also
- Gn.35<sup>18</sup> And so it was, as her soul was departing (for she died), that she called his name Ben-Oni...
- Lk.16<sup>22</sup> So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried [= body in grave, soul in hades]

# Different kinds of death

## 4. Physical

- Lk.20<sup>37</sup> But even Moses showed in the burning bush passage that the dead are raised, when he called the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. <sup>38</sup> For He is not the God of the dead but of the living, for all live to Him



# Different kinds of death

## 4. Physical

- Ac.7<sup>59</sup> And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit
- Ac.9<sup>39</sup> And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. [Her body was still there]

# Different kinds of death

## 4. Physical

- 2 Pt.1<sup>13</sup> Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, <sup>14</sup> knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. <sup>15</sup> Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease [= exodus]

I. What is Man?

II. What is Death?

III. Where are the Dead?

# Body stays on earth until resurrection

- Ro.8<sup>11</sup> He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you

Body stays on earth until resurrection

## Spirit immediately goes to Hades

- Mt.11<sup>23</sup> And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day
- Quotes Isa.14:13-15

“There is no reason to doubt that what the grave or pit is to the body, that Sheol is to the soul. It is the nether-world...” – Girdlestone

Body stays on earth until resurrection  
Spirit immediately goes to Hades

“It never denotes the grave, nor is it the permanent region of the lost; in point of time it is, for such, intermediate between decease and the doom of Gehenna” – Vine

Body stays on earth until resurrection

## Spirit immediately goes to Hades

- Lk.23<sup>43</sup> Jesus said to him, Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise. [Ac.2:27-31]
- Hades: a place or abode of the dead, including both the righteous and unrighteous
- “Since the KJV uses ‘hell’ to signify the grave and the place of disembodied spirits, both good and bad, care must be taken to prevent mistakes and confusion” – Wycliff
- Ps.9:17 – NKJV translates Sheol - ‘hell’

Body stays on earth until resurrection

## Spirit immediately goes to Hades

- Mt.27:57-60 – Lord's body was in the grave
  - Therefore the 'grave' is not 'Hades' (His body was alone – not buried with robber)



Body stays on earth until resurrection

## Spirit immediately goes to Hades

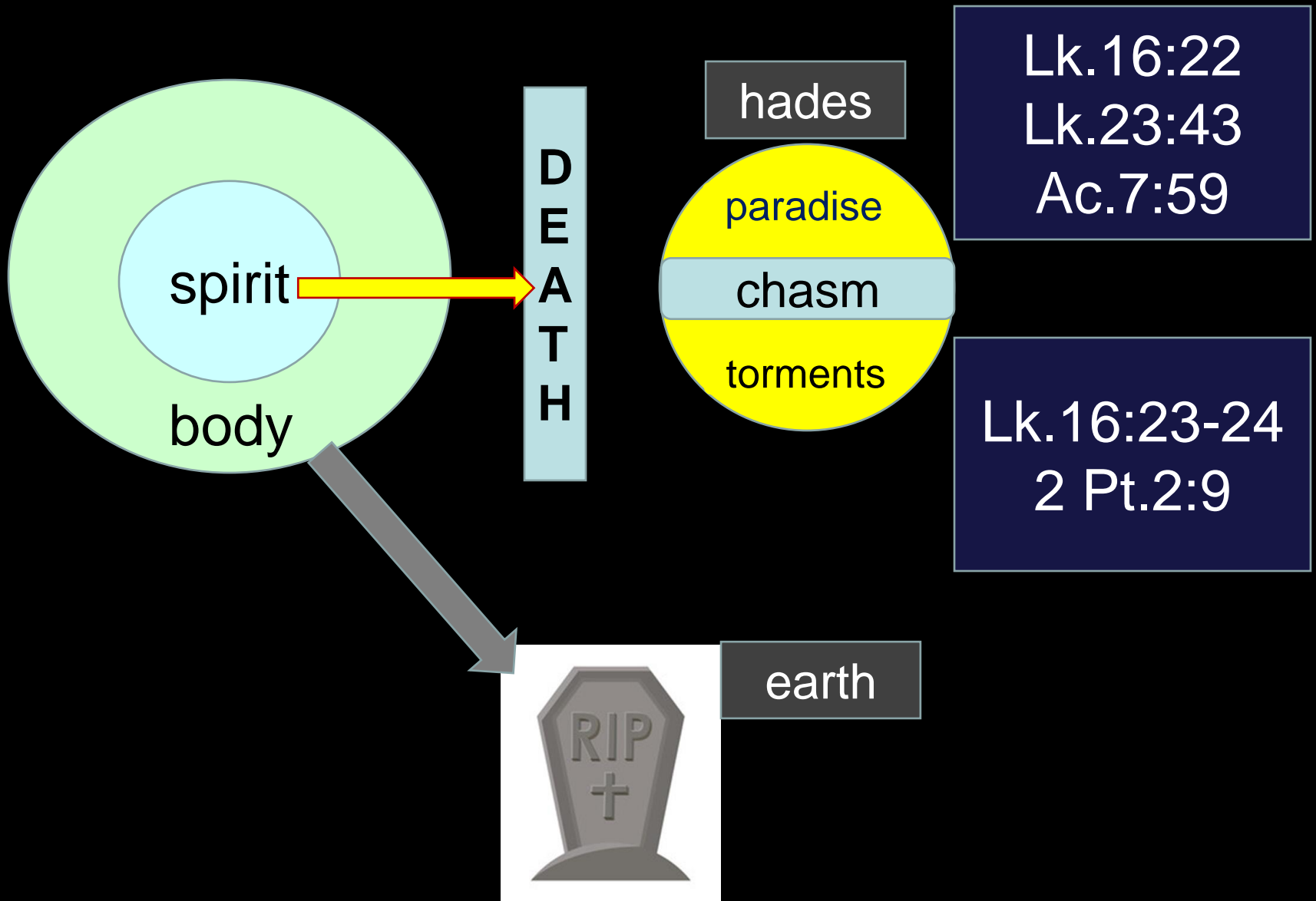
- Ph.1<sup>21</sup> For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup> But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup> For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to **depart and be with Christ**, which is far better
- Ec.12<sup>7</sup>, then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it

Body stays on earth until resurrection

## Spirit immediately goes to Hades

- Lk.16<sup>23</sup> torments...
  - Could see, talk, feel, remember...
- 2 Pt.2<sup>9</sup> the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment

# Death and Hades



## What is not taught –

### 1. Spirit of man in the grave

- Sheol / Hades never mean ‘grave’
- “It is the intermediate period between decease and Gehenna or Heaven” – Vine

### 2. Purgatory. Unbiblical, antibiblical

### 3. At death, going directly to heaven / hell

I. What is Man?

II. What is Death?

III. Where are the Dead?

IV. What will Happen  
at the Last Day?

- Resurrection, Jn.5<sup>28</sup> Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice <sup>29</sup> and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation

- Resurrection, Jn.5<sup>28-29</sup>
- Judgment, 2 Co.5<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad

- Resurrection, Jn.5<sup>28-29</sup>
- Judgment, 2 Co.5<sup>10</sup>
- Heaven or hell, Mt.25<sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world . . . <sup>41</sup> “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels, <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life”



Hebrew Ge-Hinnom the valley of Tophet [south side of Jerusalem] [converted by Josiah into a place of abomination by strewing of dead men's bones, 2 K.23:13f.; it became the garbage and rubbish heap of Jerusalem, and as a place of continuous fires, a symbol of the place of lost spirits in torment]. It is found 12 times in NT, 11 of which are in the Synoptists, in every instance as uttered by the Lord Himself.

(Vine; Unger)

- Resurrection, Jn.5:28-29
- Judgment, 2 Co.5:10
- Heaven or hell, Mt.25:34, 41 (10:28)
- Tartaroō, hold captive in Tartarus, 2 Pt.2<sup>4</sup>  
For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment

‘Greeks thought of Tartarus as a subterranean place lower than Hades, where divine punishment was meted out; thus the term came to be so employed in Jewish apocalyptic literature’ – Unger, 779

- Synonyms for hell:
  - Unquenchable fire, Mt.3:12
  - Furnace of fire, Mt.13:42
  - Place prepared for devil and his angels, Mt.25:41
  - Blackness of darkness, Jd.13
- Hell is everlasting, Mt.18:8, if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire

# Three ideas in hell

- Absence of righteousness
- Separation from God
- Judgment

Heaven

Resurrection

Judgment

Hell

- 1 Thes.2<sup>19</sup> For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?