



LOW IN THE GRAVE HE LAY

A CONSIDERATION OF CHRIST BETWEEN
HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION

MISCONCEPTIONS

Translations Confusing Hades and Gehenna

- **Misconception** – Christ, upon His death, descended to hell to suffer on our behalf.
- *hadēs* – properly, unseen, i.e. “Hades” or the place (state) of departed souls (STRONG)
- *geenna* – valley of (the son of) Hinnom; gehenna (or Ge-Hinnom), a valley of Jerusalem, used (figuratively) as a name for the place (or state) of everlasting punishment (STRONG) (cf. **Matthew 10:28; Revelation 21:8**)

MISCONCEPTIONS

Translations Confusing Hades and Gehenna

- **Misconception** – Christ, upon His death, descended to hell to suffer on our behalf.
- **Mistranslation** – *“Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption... He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, **that his soul was not left in hell** [hadēs], neither his flesh did see corruption.” (Acts 2:27, 31, KJV)*
 - **Psalm 16:10** – *“Sheol,” “The abode of the dead” (NKJV fn)*

MISCONCEPTIONS

The Apostles' Creed

- Apostles' Creed – statement of faith written by men in the 2nd century.
- Roman Catholic Version – “[Jesus] was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead;”
- Many take the statement at face value and assume Jesus went to hell and suffered.

MISCONCEPTIONS

Jesus in Hades

- It is true that Jesus went to hades when He died.
- He died as we do – **Hebrews 2:9, 14-15; 9:27-28**
- Death is a separation of the body and spirit – **James 2:26**
- Jesus gave up His spirit, and went to hades until His resurrection – **John 19:30; Acts 2:27, 31; Luke 16:22-23**

MISCONCEPTIONS

Jesus and the Spirits in Prison – A Misinterpretation (**1 Peter 3:18-20**)

- Many realize Jesus did not go to hell but did go to hades.
- However, some misinterpret this passage to teach that in between His death and resurrection, Jesus preached the gospel to unjust spirits in prison who had been disobedient during Noah's time.
- There are reasons within the immediate and remote context to show this can't be true.

MISCONCEPTIONS

Jesus and the Spirits in Prison – A Misinterpretation (**1 Peter 3:18-20**)

- There are reasons within the immediate and remote context to show this can't be true.
- The text does not necessitate Christ preaching personally – **1 Peter 3:18-20; 1:10-11; 2 Peter 2:5**
- The language indicates the preaching was done during Noah's day – **1 Peter 3:19-20** – “*spirits now in prison*” (NASB); “*formerly,*” “*when once,*” “*in the days of Noah*”

MISCONCEPTIONS

Jesus and the Spirits in Prison – A Misinterpretation (**1 Peter 3:18-20**)

- There are reasons within the immediate and remote context to show this can't be true.
- The text indicates the preaching was exclusively to those during Noah's time – **Acts 10:34; 2 Peter 3:9** – but God is impartial.
- The idea contradicts what Scripture teaches about the sealing of destiny with death – **Hebrews 9:27; Luke 16:25-26; 2 Peter 2:9**

MISCONCEPTIONS

Jesus and the Spirits in Prison – A Misinterpretation (**1 Peter 3:18-20**)

- There are reasons within the immediate and remote context to show this can't be true.
- How could He preach the full gospel before His resurrection? – **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**
- Christ was made alive in spirit form upon His death. During the days of Noah, He preached to those men in spirit form through Noah. These men did not obey, and their spirits are now in prison.

WHEN JESUS DIED

He Was in God's Care

- He committed His spirit to God – **Luke 23:46**
- This was not a last second committing – **1 Peter 4:19; 2:21-24**
- Quotation of **Psalm 31:5** – Context: God keeps those who are faithful and fear Him. We can commit ourselves to Him with confidence.
- **2 Timothy 2:12** – He can keep what we have committed to Him.

WHEN JESUS DIED

He Was Comforted in Paradise

- *“And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.’”*
(**Luke 23:43**)
 - **Paradise** – *paradeisos* – a transcendent place of blessedness (BDAG)
- Corresponds to Abraham’s bosom in Hades – **Luke 16:22-23, 25** – comfort.
- Blessed are those who die in the Lord – **Revelation 14:13**

WHEN JESUS DIED

He Awaited His Resurrection

(1 Peter 3:18-22)

- **Context** – blessedness of suffering for good –
1 Peter 3:17; 1:7; 2:20-21; 3:18
- Jesus was put to death in the flesh but made alive in spirit – **1 Peter 3:18; Matthew 10:28; 22:31-32**
- Jesus was raised from the dead and gained victory – **1 Peter 3:21-22**

WHEN JESUS DIED

He Awaited His Resurrection (**1 Peter 3:18-22**)

- **Context** – blessedness of suffering for good – **1 Peter 3:17; 1:7; 2:20-21; 3:18**
- We are made right with God in baptism – **1 Peter 3:21** (contrast – **vv. 19-20; 2 Peter 2:9**)
- **Application:** Continue doing good even in suffering knowing the gospel ensures blessed victory – **1 Peter 4:1-6**
- The faithful have hope – **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**



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