

My Notes

Hell, Hades, Sheol, and the land of the Dead

Old english hell - appears after the introduction of Christianity

Pre Christian: Old Norse Hel. Hel is the goddess of the underworld, daughter of Loki. No one returns from her control.

In the Septuagint, the translation of the OT into Greek, the Hebrew word Sheol is translated as Hades. Hades was then translated into English as hell in the KJV. Other words were also translated as 'hell.' There are also several other words translated as "hell" or used as synonyms.

Bor - pit cistern well

Shahat - pit, trap

Psalm 88

4 I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; (*Bor*)

I am like those who have no help,

5 like those forsaken among the dead,

like the slain that lie in the grave,

like those whom you remember no more,

for they are cut off from your hand.

6 You have put me in the depths of the Pit, (*Bor*)

in the regions dark and deep.

10 Do you work wonders for the dead?

Do the shades rise up to praise you?

11 Is your steadfast love declared in the grave,
or your faithfulness in Abaddon? (*destruction*)

12 Are your wonders known in the darkness,
or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?

Proverbs 9:18 NSRV

But they do not know that the shades are there,
that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

cf. Proverbs 9:18 KJV

*But he knoweth not that the dead are there;
And that her guests are in the depths of hell.*

Psalm 16 NRSV

9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

10 For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit. (*Shahat*)

11 You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

cf. Psalm 16:10 KJV

10 *For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell;
Neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

Proverbs 1:12

12 like Sheol let us swallow them alive
and whole, like those who go down to the Pit. (*Bor*)

Psalm 30

3 O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit. (*Bor*)

8 To you, O LORD, I cried,
and to the LORD I made supplication:

9 "What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the Pit? (*Shahat*)

Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your faithfulness?

Isaiah 14:9-15 NRSV (*Warning to the King of Babylon*)

9 Sheol beneath is stirred up
to meet you when you come;
it rouses the shades to greet you,
all who were leaders of the earth;

it raises from their thrones
all who were kings of the nations.

10 All of them will speak
and say to you:

“You too have become as weak as we!
You have become like us!”

11 Your pomp is brought down to Sheol,
and the sound of your harps;
maggots are the bed beneath you,
and worms are your covering.

12 How you are fallen from heaven,
O Day Star, son of Dawn! (*Jerome’s Latin translation from Greek: Lucifer*)
How you are cut down to the ground,
you who laid the nations low!

13 You said in your heart,
“I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise my throne
above the stars of God;
I will sit on the mount of assembly
on the heights of Zaphon;

14 I will ascend to the tops of the clouds,
I will make myself like the Most High.”

15 But you are brought down to Sheol,
to the depths of the Pit. (*Bor*)

cf Isaiah 14:9-15 KJV

*9 Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming:
it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth;
it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations.*

*10 All they shall speak and say unto thee,
Art thou also become weak as we?
art thou become like unto us?*

*11 Thy pomp is brought down to the grave,
and the noise of thy viols:
the worm is spread under thee,
and the worms cover thee.*

*12 How art thou fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!
how art thou cut down to the ground,
which didst weaken the nations!
13 For thou hast said in thine heart,
I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:
I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation,
in the sides of the north:
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will be like the most High.
15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell,
to the sides of the pit.*

Isaiah 36

16 O Lord, by these things people live,
and in all these is the life of my spirit.
Oh, restore me to health and make me live!
17 Surely it was for my welfare
that I had great bitterness;
but you have held back my life
from the pit of destruction,
for you have cast all my sins
behind your back.
18 For Sheol cannot thank you,
death cannot praise you;
those who go down to the Pit cannot hope
for your faithfulness.

Sirach 21

10 The way of sinners is paved with smooth stones,
but at its end is the pit of Hades.

2 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish,
2 saying,

“I called to the LORD out of my distress,
and he answered me;
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
and you heard my voice.

3 You cast me into the depths,
into the heart of the seas,
and the flood surrounded me;
all your waves and your billows
passed over me.

4 Then I said, ‘I am driven away
from your sight;
how shall I look again
upon your holy temple?’

5 The waters closed in over me;
the deep (*Tihom*) surrounded me;
weeds were wrapped around my head

6 at the roots of the mountains.

I went down to the land
whose bars closed upon me forever;
yet you brought up my life from the Pit, (*shahat*)
O LORD my God.

7 As my life was ebbing away,
I remembered the LORD;
and my prayer came to you,
into your holy temple.

Abussos (Greek) tihom (Hebrew): the deep, the abyss,

We can remember a Creation myth from found in the Ancient Near East and with some parallels in greek stories.

God defeated the waters or its representative: the abyss, chaos, Rahab, Leviathan, the dragon, the serpent, hydra.

Job 26:12

- 12 By his power he stilled the Sea;
by his understanding he struck down Rahab.
13 By his wind the heavens were made fair;
his hand pierced the fleeing serpent.

Psalm 74

- 12 Yet God my King is from of old,
working salvation in the earth.
13 You divided the sea by your might;
you broke the heads of the dragons in the waters.
14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan;
you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.

Psalm 89

- 6 Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,
7 a God feared in the council of the holy ones,
great and awesome above all that are around him?
8 O LORD God of hosts,
who is as mighty as you, O LORD?
Your faithfulness surrounds you.
9 You rule the raging of the sea;
when its waves rise, you still them.
10 You crushed Rahab like a carcass;
you scattered your enemies with your mighty arm.

Genesis 1 presents a non-mythical vision of creation where God hovered over the abyss and by his word alone, he brought order and abundance of life to the darkness and emptiness or to the chaos:

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of **the deep**, while a wind from (or the Spirit of) God hovered over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

Psalm 77

16 When the waters saw you, O God,
when the waters saw you, they were afraid;
the very **deep** trembled.

19 Your way was through the sea,
your path, through the mighty waters;
yet your footprints were unseen.

20 You led your people like a flock
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Exodus 15:4 “Pharaoh’s chariots and his army he cast into the sea;
his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

5 The floods covered them;
they went down into the **depths** like a stone.

Psalm 71

20 You who have made me see many troubles and calamities
will revive me again;
from the **depths** of the earth
you will bring me up again.

Luke 8:30 Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. 31 They begged him not to order them to go back into the **abyss**.

Romans 10:6, 7 But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” ’ (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 “or ‘Who will descend into the **abyss?**” ’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

Rev 9: 11 They have as king over them the angel of the **bottomless pit**; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon. (*Destruction, destroyer*)

Rev 11:7 When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the **bottomless pit** will make war on them and conquer them and kill them

Rev 20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the **bottomless pit** and a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the **pit**, and locked and sealed it over him, so that he would deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be let out for a little while.

Greek conceptions of Hades and Paradise

Elysium

- The Elysian Fields were, according to Homer, located on the western edge of the Earth by the stream of Oceanus
- Hesiod located them at the western ocean at the end of the earth
- In Dante's epic The Divine Comedy, Elysium is mentioned as the abode of the blessed in the lower world.
- The Champs-Élysées in Paris is French for "Elysian Fields".
- a paradisiacal afterlife reserved for distinguished individuals. The Elysian Fields are first referenced in Homer's Odyssey Book 4 where Menelaus is promised that he will go there instead of dying - not the normal afterlife

Tartarus – A Single Use in 2 Peter

- Appears once in the NT: 2 Peter 4 For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell (tartaros) and committed them to chains of deepest darkness to be kept until the judgment; (2 Peter 2:4)

- Tartarus is a Greek mythological term meaning a deep abyss or prison for rebellious beings – Titans were sent there
- It was initially a temporary holding place for disobedient spiritual beings, not a fiery afterlife for people.
- In Roman mythology, sinners (as defined by the Roman societal and cultural norms of their time) are sent to Tartarus for punishment after death. Virgil describes Tartarus in great detail in the Aeneid.
- A final threat to Zeus' power was to come in the form of the monster Typhon, son of Gaia and Tartarus. Zeus with his thunderbolt was quickly victorious, and Typhon was also imprisoned in Tartarus. Hesiod in Theogeny
- Homer Iliad Tartarus is "as far beneath Hades as heaven is above earth – an anvil would fall 9 days

Outer darkness

3 times in the Bible all in Matthew in parables

Matthew 8:11-13

¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and will take their places at the banquet with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹² while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹³ And Jesus said to the centurion, “Go; let it be done for you according to your faith.” And the servant^[a] was healed in that hour.

Matthew 22:12-14

¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Matthew 25:29-31

²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Weeping, gnashing of teeth

The phrase "(there shall be) weeping and gnashing of teeth" (in the Ancient Greek: ὁ κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὁ βρυγμὸς τῶν ὀδόντων) appears seven times in the New

Testament as a description on the fate of the unrighteous ones at the conclusion of the age.

7 times in the Bible: 6 in Matthew and 1 in Luke

Matthew 8:12, Matthew 13:42, Matthew 13:50, Matthew 22:13, Matthew 24:51, Matthew 25:30, Luke 13:28

Being cast out from the presence of goodness or God.

Gnashing (חרק) of teeth (שנים) appears several times in the Old Testament, including three mentions in Psalms, one in Job and one in Lamentations. But has the sense of anger and persecution of others, threatening.

Hell: God is there

Psalm 139:7,8 NRSV

7 Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

cf Psalm 139:8 KJV

8 *If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there:
If I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.*

Job 26

5 The shades below tremble,
the waters and their inhabitants.
6 Sheol is naked before God,
and Abaddon has no covering.

cf. Job 26:6 KJV

6 *Hell is naked before him (God),
And destruction hath no covering.*

1 Clement 28 (1st century Christian leader)

1 SINCE then all things are seen and heard by him, let us fear him, and leave off from foul desires of evil deeds, that we may be sheltered by his mercy from the judgments to come. 2 For whither can any of us fly from his mighty hand? And

what world shall receive those who seek to desert from him ? 3 For the writing says in one place: “Where shall I go and where shall I hide from thy presence ? If I ascend into heaven thou art there, if I depart to the ends of the earth there is thy right hand; If I make my bed in the abyss there is thy spirit” 4 Whither then shall a man depart or where shall he escape from him who embraces all things?

Ephesians 4:9 (When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.)

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20 who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

Rev 1:17-18 NRSV

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades (*hell* - KJV).

Valley of Hinnom, Gehenna and the Fire

Hinnom is a valley outside of old Jerusalem. The prophet began to refer to it as a place of judgement. There was also a picture of judgement fire. “LXX does not have γέεννα. Joseph. mentions neither the term nor the matter, probably because he was a Pharisee and thus denied the resurrection of the ungodly. Philo does not know the word and uses τάρταρος instead.” (TDNT) It is in the apocrypha, (eg. 1 Enoch) that the Valley of Hinnom is called Gehenna and becomes a place of judgement and fire. It then appears in the NT. Gehanna was translated as “hell” in the KJV.

Joshua 15

8 then the boundary goes up by the valley of the son of Hinnom at the southern slope of the Jebusites (that is, Jerusalem)

2 Kings 23:10

10 He defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of Ben-hinnom, so that no one would make a son or a daughter pass through fire as an offering to Molech.

2 Chronicles 28:3

3 and he made offerings in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and made his sons pass through fire, according to the abominable practices of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel.

Jeremiah 7:31-32

31 And they go on building the high place of Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire—which I did not command, nor did it come into my mind. 32 Therefore, the days are surely coming, says the LORD, when it will no more be called Topheth, or the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of Slaughter: for they will bury in Topheth until there is no more room.

Isaiah 66

22 For as the new heavens and the new earth,
which I will make,
shall remain before me, says the LORD;
so shall your descendants and your name remain.

23 From new moon to new moon,
and from sabbath to sabbath,
all flesh shall come to worship before me,
says the LORD.

24 And they shall go out and look at the dead bodies of the people who have rebelled against me; for their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.

1 Enoch CHAPTER 27

1 Then I said: “What is the purpose of this blessed land, which is completely full of trees, and of this accursed valley in the middle of them?”

2 Then Raphael, one of the Holy Angels who was with me, answered me, and said to me: “This accursed valley, is for those who are cursed for ever. Here will be gathered together all who speak with their mouths against the Lord – words that are not fitting, and say hard things about His Glory. Here they will gather them together, and here will be their place of judgment.

3 And in the last days there will be the spectacle of the righteous judgment upon them, in front of the righteous, forever. For here, the merciful will bless the Lord of Glory the Eternal King.

1 Enoch CHAPTER 54:1-6

And I looked, and turned to another part of the Earth, and I saw there a deep valley with burning fire. And they brought the kings and powerful and threw them into that valley. And there my eyes saw how they made instruments for them – iron chains of immeasurable weight. And I asked the Angel of Peace, who went with me, saying: “These chain instruments – for whom are they being prepared?” And he said to me: “These are being prepared for the hosts of Azazel, so that they may take them, and throw them into the lowest part of hell (Hades); and they will cover their jaws with rough stones, as the Lord of Spirits commanded. And Michael and Gabriel, Raphael and Phanuel – these will take hold of them on that great day. And throw them, on that day, into the furnace of burning fire, so that the Lord of Spirits may take vengeance on them for their iniquity, in that they became servants of Satan, and led astray those who dwell upon the dry ground.

1 Enoch - Eternal punishment: a long time? annihilation? infinite?

18:13 The angel said: 'This place is the end of heaven and earth; this has become a prison for the stars and the host of heaven. 14 And the stars which roll over the fire are those which have transgressed the command of the Lord at the beginning of their rising, because they did not come forth at their appointed times. **15 And He was angry with them, and bound them until the time when their guilt should be consummated, even for ten thousand years.'**

19:1 And Uriel said to me: 'Here shall stand the angels who have united with women, and their spirits, taking many different forms, are corrupting mankind and leading them astray to worship demons as gods. Here they shall remain until the day of the great judgment when **they will be judged and brought to an end.**

21:7 And from there I went to another place, which was still more horrible than the former, and I saw a horrible thing: a great fire there which burned and blazed, and the place was cleft as far as the abyss, being full of great descending columns of fire: neither its extent or magnitude could I see, nor could I conjecture. 8 Then I said: 'How fearful is the place and how terrible to look upon!' 9 Then Uriel answered me, one of the holy angels who was with me, and said unto me: 'Enoch, why do you have such fear and fright?' And I answered: 'Because of this fearful place, and because of the spectacle of the pain.' 10 And he said to me: '**This place is the prison of the angels, and here they will be imprisoned forever.**'

Jude 7 Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which, in the same manner as they, indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural lust, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire

Matthew 5: 22 -30

But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire... If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. (*Gehenna*)

Matthew 10:28

28 Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (*Gehenna*)

Matthew 23:15

15 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cross sea and land to make a single convert, and you make the new convert twice as much a child of hell (*Gehenna*) as yourselves.

Matthew 23:33

33 You snakes, you brood of vipers! How can you escape being sentenced to hell? (*Gehenna*)

Mark 9:43

43 If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell (*Gehenna*), to the unquenchable fire.

Luke 12:5

5 But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. (*Gehenna*) Yes, I tell you, fear him!

James 3:6

6 And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. (*Gehenna*)

Hades, Fire and Paradise, the garden

Revelation 2:7

7 Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.

Irenaeus (A.D. 180) Ante-Nicene Fathers vol.1 pg. 531

In paradise certainly, as the Scripture declares, "And God planted a garden [paradisum] eastward in Eden, and there He placed the man whom He had formed." And then afterwards when [man] proved disobedient, he was cast out thence into this world. Wherefore also the elders who were disciples of the apostles tell us that those who were translated were transferred to that place (for paradise has been prepared for righteous men, such as have the Spirit; in which place also Paul the apostle, when he was caught up, heard words which are unspeakable as regards us in our present condition), and that there shall they who have been translated remain until the consummation [of all things], as a prelude to immortality.

Papias (A.D. 60-130) fragment V

for the first will be taken up into the heavens, the second class will dwell in Paradise, and the last will inhabit the city; and that on this account the Lord said, "In my Father's house are many places:" for all things belong to God, who supplies all with a suitable dwelling-place, even as His word says, that a share is given to all by the Father, according as each one is or shall be worthy. And this is the couch in which they shall recline who feast, being invited to the wedding. The presbyters, the disciples of the apostles, say that this is the gradation and arrangement of those who are saved, and that they advance through steps of this nature; and that, moreover, they ascend through the Spirit to the Son, and through the Son to the Father; and that in due time the Son will yield up His work to the Father...

Second Clement (A.D. 100) ch.17

And Their worm shall not die, and their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be for a spectacle unto all flesh. He speaks of that day of judgment, when men shall see those among us that lived ungodly lives and dealt falsely with the commandments of Jesus Christ. But the righteous, having done good and endured torments and hated the pleasures of the soul, when they shall behold them that have done amiss and denied Jesus by their words or by their deeds, how that they are punished with grievous torments in unquenchable fire, shall give glory to God, saying, There will be hope for him that has served God with his whole heart.

Luke 16:22 The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. 24 He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. 26 Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.'

Esdras 7:26 (date unknown, likely late 1st century) "For indeed the time will come, when the signs that I have foretold to you will come to pass, that the city that now

is not seen shall appear, and the land that now is hidden shall be disclosed. 27 Everyone who has been delivered from the evils that I have foretold shall see my wonders. 28 For my son the Messiah shall be revealed with those who are with him, and those who remain shall rejoice four hundred years. 29 After those years my son the Messiah shall die, and all who draw human breath. 30 Then the world shall be turned back to primeval silence for seven days, as it was at the first beginnings, so that no one shall be left. 31 After seven days the world that is not yet awake shall be roused, and that which is corruptible shall perish. 32 The earth shall give up those who are asleep in it, and the dust those who rest there in silence; and the chambers shall give up the souls that have been committed to them. 33 The Most High shall be revealed on the seat of judgment, and compassion shall pass away, and patience shall be withdrawn. 34 Only judgment shall remain, truth shall stand, and faithfulness shall grow strong. 35 Recompense shall follow, and the reward shall be manifested; righteous deeds shall awake, and unrighteous deeds shall not sleep. 36 The pit of torment shall appear, and opposite it shall be the place of rest; and the furnace of hell shall be disclosed, and opposite it the paradise of delight. 37 Then the Most High will say to the nations that have been raised from the dead, 'Look now, and understand whom you have denied, whom you have not served, whose commandments you have despised.

Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and the one who sat on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books. 13 And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, Death and Hades (*Hell - KJV*) gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to what they had done. 14 Then Death and Hades (*Hell - KJV*) were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire; 15 and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them as their God;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

The Resurrection

Ezekiel 37:12 Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. 14 I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

Daniel 12:2 Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. 4 But you, Daniel, keep the words secret and the book sealed until the time of the end. Many shall be running back and forth, and evil shall increase."

1 Cor 15:20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. 21 For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; 22 for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "All things are put in subjection," it is plain that this does not include the one who put all things in subjection under him. 28 When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under him, so that God may be all in all...

35 But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" 36 Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. 39 Not all flesh is alike, but there is one flesh for human beings, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.

40 There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one thing, and that of the earthly is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; indeed, star differs from star in glory.

42 So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. 47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. 50 What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

The New Heavens and the New Earth

2 Peter 3.3 First of all you must understand this, that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and indulging their own lusts 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since our ancestors died, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation!" 5 They deliberately ignore this fact, that by the word of God heavens existed long ago and an earth was formed out of water and by means of water, 6 through which the world of that time was deluged with water and perished. 7 But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the godless.

8 But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? 13 But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

1 Thess 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever.