Hades

Intro: A question that seems to interest all people is what happens when I die. It is this which I want us to study in this lesson. I plan on approaching this subject by dealing with the answer to this question, then going back and looking at the Scriptures to support the answer.

I. Hell—Hades
   A. The KJV has “hell” while later translations have “hades.”
   B. In 1611 when the KJV was translated they realized that there was no true word in English to express the Greek ᾁδης (hades).
      1. They generally used hell.
      2. Occasionally they used grave.
      3. Neither word does justice to the Greek word.
   C. Definition:
      1. “Hades” might better be translated as “unseen realm.”
      2. “Hell” is translated from the Greek γηννα (geenna) and has reference to everlasting torment for the unrighteous—a place of fire and torment.

II. Death
   A. In life there is a separation between the righteous and the unrighteous.
      1. Maybe more so in God’s mind than ours.
      2. There are but two classes of people; Mat. 12:30 “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”
   B. In death:
      1. There is a separation that takes place
         a. Jam. 2:26 “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
         b. Ecc. 12:7 “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”
            (1) The spirit goes to God.
            (2) The body goes to the grave or the dust from which it was taken.
      2. In death there is the continuation of life.
         a. Jesus taught this principle; Mat. 22:31-32 “But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, 32I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”
         b. At creation and now when we are born, God places within man a living spirit.
         c. That spirit continues to live and will continue on through eternity.
         d. That spirit will live eternally in either heaven or hell.

III. At Death Where Will The Spirit Live?
   A. Paradise
      1. It is the place where the spirit will be blessed and there will be joy, peace, and communion with God.
      2. It is everything we might refer to as heaven, except there is a separation of the spirit from the body.
   B. Tartarus.
      1. It is a place where the spirit will be tormented and be in great anguish.
2. It is everything we refer to as hell, except the separation of the spirit from the body.

C. Paradise, tartarus, and the grave is referred to in the Bible as hades (Greek) or sheol (Hebrew).

IV. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

A. What will transpire.

1. The righteous spirits will come with Christ, they will appear in the sky with Him.
   a. 1 Thes. 3:13 “To the end he may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.”
   b. 1 Thes. 4:13-18 “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”
   c. The bodies will be raised from the graves (1 Cor. 15) and reunited with their spirit.
   d. Those alive at the time will be raised and given an immortal body.
   e. We will go into heaven with Christ and be forever blessed.

2. The unrighteous spirits will be reunited with their body and be cast into eternal hell.

B. Some ask, “Why the judgement?”

1. Judgment is used in two ways in the Scriptures.
   a. To weigh evidence, to decide matters, consider testimony, and determine where someone should be placed.
      (1) This is how we generally use it.
      (2) This is taking place now as we live our lives.
   b. To pass sentence.

2. In relation to the second Coming, judgment is simply the passing of sentence; Mat. 25:31-46

V. SCRIPTURES.

A. Luke 23:39-43 “And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

1. The thief was saved.
   a. Prior to Christ’s death, He had the power to forgive sin upon any basis He desired.
   b. He forgave the thief’s sins.

2. How would he be with Christ in Paradise?
   a. Their bodies would be put in the grave.
   b. Their spirits would go into paradise and in paradise he would be with Christ.

B. Acts 2:27, 31 “Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.... 31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.”

1. Christ’s body would be put in the grave but would not see corruption.
   a. The thief’s body did see corruption.
b. Christ’s body did not see corruption because it was raised from the dead.

2. His resurrection would prove Him to be the Son of God and Savior of the world.
   a. Rom. 1:4 “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:”
   b. Gal. 1:4 “Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:”

C. Acts 7:59 “And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”
   1. Stephen was being stoned.
      a. He saw Jesus standing on the right hand of God.
      b. Acts 7:55 “But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,”
   2. “Receive my spirit.”
      a. Stephen was to be with Jesus in spirit.
      b. Stephen’s body would be in the grave.
      c. Wherever Jesus was (which was in heaven), was where Stephen would be—in other places this is referred to as Paradise.

D. 2 Cor. 12:2-5 “I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. 3And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) 4How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. 5Of such an one will I glory; yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.”
   1. Biblically there are three heavens.
      a. First heaven was where the birds fly and the clouds appear.
      b. Second heaven was where the galaxies exist.
      c. Third heaven was the dwelling place of God (also described as far beyond the heavens).
   2. He went into the third heaven, the dwelling place of God and described it as paradise.

E. 2 Cor. 5:1-11 “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: 3If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. 4For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. 5Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. 6Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 7(For we walk by faith, not by sight:) 8We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. 9Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. 10For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 11Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”
   1. This is a discussion of our home after we have departed this body (tabernacle).
   2. We desire to leave this life so we might have a better life.
   3. 2 Cor. 5:6, 8 “Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:... 8We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”
   4. When the spirit is separated from the body (death), then the spirit is at home with the Lord (he is in heaven).
   5. What is that place?
      a. It is paradise because it is a temporary place and not the eternal state.
      b. It is a place for the spirit but not for the body; heaven is a place for the spirit joined
with the body (an immortal body).

F. Phi. 1:23 “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:"
1. Paul had a desire for death—depart this life and be with Christ.
2. It was needful for them that he remain in the body.
3. Where would he be after he died?
   a. With Christ.
   b. Christ is in heaven, but it is described in the Scriptures as paradise.

G. Rev. 6:9-10; 7:15 “And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?...
Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.”
1. It is speaking of saints that had been beheaded for the cause of Christ.
2. Where were they?
   a. Before the throne of God.
   b. Under the altar of God.
   c. They were speaking to the Lord.

H. These are sufficient to show a Paradise where righteous souls go after death.
1. It is with the Lord, before the throne of God, under the altar of God.
2. They continue to exist, know, and experience.
3. They are blessed by the Father.

I. What about Tartarus?
1. Luke 16:19-31 “There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores. 21And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. 27Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house: 28For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”
   a. It is not a parable, but whether it is or not it would still teach the same thing.
   b. Lazarus, a righteous man, went into Abraham’s bosom where he was blessed.
   c. The rich man, one who was unrighteous, went to torment.
      (1) He was tormented immediately after his death.
      (2) His brothers were still alive.
      (3) There was a great gulf between them, even as there is that separation in this life between the righteous and unrighteous.
2. Mat. 11:21-24 “Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. 23And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24But
I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee."
a. Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum would be cast down to “hell” but it is literally hades until the day of judgment.
b. They would be tormented because they rejected Christ.

3. 2 Pet. 2:4 “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;”
a. Angels that sinned are cast into hell.
b. Hell is not γέννα (geenna), but ταρταρώσας (tartarosas) or Tartarus.
c. They will be kept there until judgment.

Conclusion: When we die, we will go into the hadean realm and either be found in Paradise or Tartarus. After the judgment those in Paradise will enter heave while those in Tartarus will enter hell. Live in such a way as to be able to be found in Paradise after you die.