

A Study of Sheol and Hades

Sheol is an OT noun (66 uses) meaning “*the world of the dead, the grave, depths, death.*” The word describes the underworld, but usually in the sense of the grave and is most often (30 x’s) translated as “*grave.*”

Gen. 37:35; 42:38; 44:29, 31

1 Sam. 2:6

1 Kg. 2:6, 9

Job 7:9; 14:13; 17:13; 21:13; 24:19

Ps. 6:5; 30:3; 31:17; 49:14-15; 88:3; 89:48

Pro. 1:12; 30:16

Ecc. 9:10

SoS 8:6

Isa. 14:11; 38:10, 18

Eze. 31:15

Hos. 13:14

It is also translated as...

pit (Num. 16:30; Job 17:16)

hell (Deut. 32:22; 2 Sam. 22:6; Job 11:8; 26:6; Ps. 9:17; 16:10; 55:15; 86:13; 116:3; 139:8; Pro. 5:5; 9:18; 15:11; 23:14; 27:20; Isa. 5:14; 14:9, 15; 28:15; 57:9; Eze. 31:16-17; 32:21, 27; Amos 9:2; Jon. 2:2; Hab. 2:5)

Hades is the NT word (10 uses) meaning “*not seen.*” The word carries the idea of an obscure, invisible place.

In the KJV it is translated always as *hell*. The NKJ, and most other newer English versions have taken the Greek letters (ᾍδης) and brought them into the English as *Hades*.

Matt. 11:23; 16:18

Lk. 10:15; 16:23

Acts 2:27, 31

Rev. 1:18; 6:8; 20:13-14

“*In all the New Testament passages except Matt. 11:23 and Lk. 10:15, Hades is associated with death. It expresses the general concept of the invisible world or abode into which the spirits of men are ushered immediately after death.*”

