

2012 “Easter Special” (#03)
“An Easter Service in Hell”

At death, the trichotomous humanity of Jesus Christ departed to three different places according to messianic prophecy.

- **His body** departed to tomb of Joseph Arimathea (Mark 15:42-47; Isa.53:9).
- **His spirit** departed to God, the Father (Luke 23:46; Ps.31:5).
- **His soul** departed to Sheol (Hebrew), Hades (Greek), or hell (English) (Acts 2:27; 13:35; Isa.14:9; Ps.16:10).

The four Gospels give details of the burial of the body of Jesus **but not** of the burial of His soul. However, Peter preached about it at Pentecost to Jews (Acts 2:22-33) and at Caesarea to Gentile Cornelius (Acts 10:39-42; Ps.16:8-11). Later Peter gives details of Jesus preaching the First Easter Service in Hell (1 Pet.3:18-22).

This lesson will study four aspects of this First Easter Service in Hell.

1. We will examine our lesson text by the following five homiletical points.

- (1 Pet.3:18a) **Suffering for sins**
 - (dikaios huper +abl. of subst. adikos – hina prosago) (a.a.subj3ps)
- (1 Pet.3:18b) **Spiritually alive**
 - (men / thanatoo (perf.p.ptc.nsm) sarx (lsf) – de/ zoopoieo) (a.p.ptc.nsm) pneuma (lsn)
- (1 Pet.3:19-20) **Spirits in prison**
 - (en+inst. of association) [Holy Spirit] – (diasozo) (a.p.ind.3pl) [delivered safely through] – (dia+abl.of separation hudor (abl.s.n) **“Those immersed by water drown.”**
- (1 Pet.3:21) **Symbolism of baptism**
 - (hos) (relative pronoun/ nsn) antitupos (nsn) – Baptism of The Holy Spirit
- (1 Pet.3:22) **Session in Heaven**
 - Victory in angelic conflict – (aggelos, exousia, and dunamis hupotasso) (a.p.ptc.gplm)

2. David prophesied that the soul of Christ would visit Sheol during the period of His burial (Ps.16:8-11).

(Ps.16:10) “For **Thou wilt not** abandon (azab / kal impf. 2ps) My soul to Sheol; **neither wilt Thou** allow (Nathan / kal impf.2ps) thy Holy One to undergo (raah / kal infin.) decay (shachath) [pit].”

Write the two things God would not allow to happen to Jesus during the burial on the lines below.

_____ neither _____

Decay was a time issue rather than a body issue. Jesus was raised with a resurrection body (1 Cor.15:35-49). It can be explained by Martha’s comment to Jesus regarding the death of her brother, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” (John 11:39, NIV)

3. The Scriptures give a seven-fold description of where Jesus went during His 3 days and 3 nights of burial.

Heart of the earth	(Matt.12:40)	Abyss	(Rom.10:7)
Lower part of earth	(Eph.4:9-10)	Under the earth	(Phil.2:9-10)
Prison of spirits	(1 Pet.3:19)	Tartarus	(2 Pet.2:4)
Sheol from beneath	(Isa.14:9)		

Three divisions:

- Paradise [Abraham bosom] (Luke 23:43)
- Torment (Luke 16:22-26)
- Tartarus [The Pit] (2 Pet.2:4).

4. We will list six things Jesus did during His 3 days and 3 nights of burial in Sheol.

- He kept an appointment with the thief on the cross in paradise (Luke 23:43).
- He made a public proclamation (kerusso) to the spirits in prison of Tartarus (1 Pet.3:19; Jude 6); (2 Pet.2:4).
- He was greeted by the believers in Abraham's bosom (Isa.14:9).
- He met with the saints who had believed and died during His first advent and would be raised at His resurrection (Matt.27:50-53; John 14:1-3).
- He closed the door to Paradise [Abraham's bosom] of Sheol to the believer (Rev.20:1). After His resurrection, all believers will go to third heaven at death (2 Cor.5:6-8; 12:1-4; Phil.1:23; John 14:1-3).
- Jesus bore witness "that at the name of Jesus **every knee** should bow, in heaven and on the earth and **under the earth** and **every tongue** confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil.2:10-11)

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

(Rom.1:16)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”