

# SHEOL

What happened to those who died before Jesus?



# TERMINOLOGY

- ◆ SHEOL~ where righteous and unrighteous go before the resurrection of Christ
- ◆ GRAVE~ all people die and their bodies are given over to the ground
- ◆ HADES~ lower peninsula of Sheol where the unrighteous reside
- ◆ PARADISE~ upper peninsula of Sheol where the righteous reside
- ◆ HELL~ the final and eternal place of judgment for the unrighteous
- ◆ ABRAHAM'S BOSOM~ same as paradise
- ◆ LAKE OF FIRE~ description of Hell
- ◆ NEW JERUSALEM~ the final and eternal place of peace where the righteous reside
- ◆ HEAVEN~ Where God and his Holy dominion reside



# Rich Man And Lazarus





**23** And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

**24** “Then 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.’

**25** But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.



**26** And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

**27** "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, **28** for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'



- Paradise/Abraham's Bosom is separated from Hades by an impassable gulf
- Paradise is now empty- Jesus took them with Him.
- Hades is a holding place for those destined to Hell.
  - No biblical proof for a second chance for those in Hades.
- Tartarus is a holding place for the fallen angels.





Grave



EARTH

Abraham's bosom

concept of Sheol

SHEOL

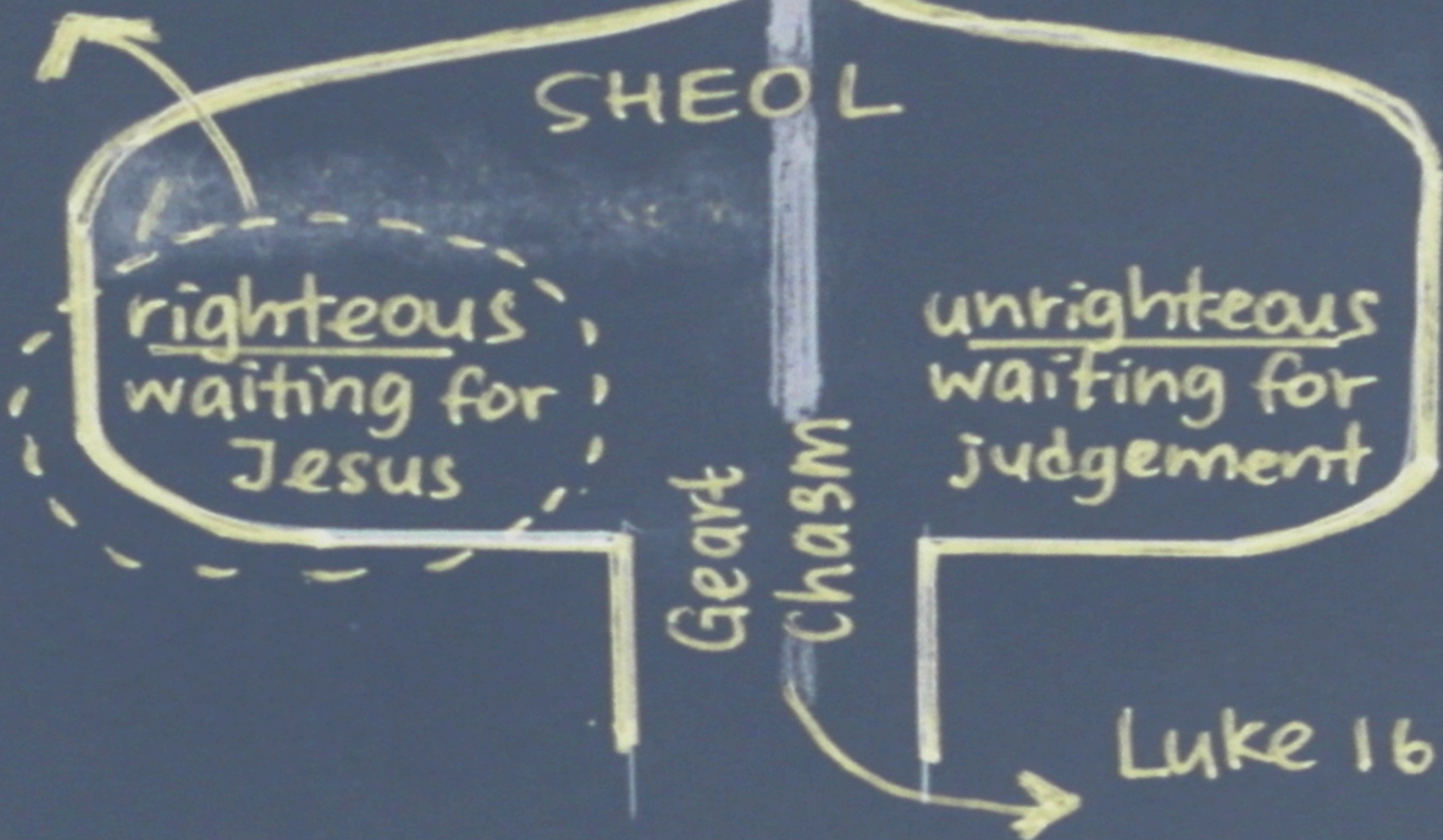
righteous  
waiting for  
Jesus

unrighteous  
waiting for  
judgement

Great

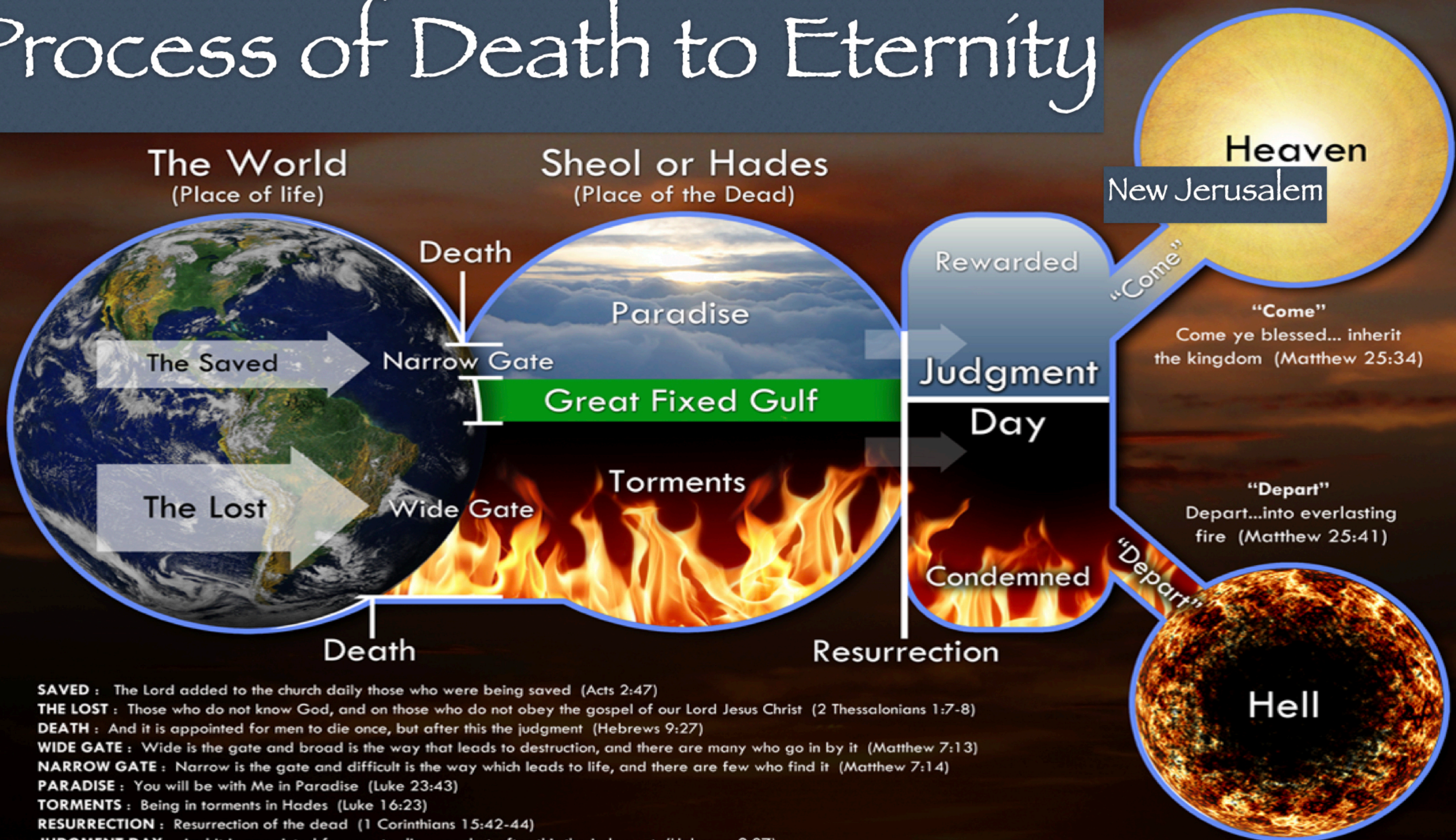
Chasm

Luke 16:26





# Process of Death to Eternity



**SAVED :** The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:47)

**THE LOST :** Those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8)

**DEATH :** And it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment (Hebrews 9:27)

**WIDE GATE :** Wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it (Matthew 7:13)

**NARROW GATE :** Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it (Matthew 7:14)

**PARADISE :** You will be with Me in Paradise (Luke 23:43)

**TORMENTS :** Being in torments in Hades (Luke 16:23)

**RESURRECTION :** Resurrection of the dead (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)

**JUDGMENT DAY :** And it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment (Hebrews 9:27)



A dramatic landscape featuring rolling hills under a heavy, grey sky. A bright patch of sunlight breaks through the clouds in the upper center, casting a soft glow. The hills are covered in green grass and some trees, with a few small buildings visible on a distant ridge. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

**For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
or let your holy one see corruption**

**Psalm 16:10**





# WHERE DID JESUS GO ON SATURDAY?



# JESUS WENT TO SHEOL

When the Lord Jesus said that *“as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth”* (Mat. 12:40)

- He was saying that He would spend the time between His death and resurrection in Sheol/Hades.
- We know from Psalm 16:10 and Acts 2:25-32 that the Lord’s soul, which was made an offering for sin (Isa. 53:10), was in Sheol/Hades.
- Matthew 12:40 that He was in the heart of the earth, which is where we believe that Sheol/Hades is located

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# What did Jesus do for three days in Sheol?

- Christ visits Hades - place of the unrighteous
  - Purpose of Christ's activity was not to convert imprisoned spirits in Hades but to announce his vindication through his death and resurrection (3:18).

**18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, **19** by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, **20** who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

*1 Peter 3:18-20*



# What did Jesus do for three days in Sheol?

- Christ visits Abraham's Bosom (Paradise) - place of the righteous
  - After Jesus rose from the dead He ascended to the Father, taking the saints who were in Abraham's Bosom to Heaven with Him. Thus, He took "*captivity captive*" (see Eph. 4:8-10).
  - Abraham's bosom has been emptied for all time.

**8** Therefore He says:

"When He ascended on high,  
He led captivity captive,  
And gave gifts to men."

**9** (Now this, "He ascended" — what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? **10** He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Ephesians 4:8-10



God did not  
spare angels  
when they  
**sinned**, but  
cast them into **Tartarus**  
and committed them to pits of  
darkness reserved  
for **judgment**

2 Peter 2:4





- This representation that the mass of fallen angels are confined in “Tartarus,” is not inconsistent with the representations which elsewhere occur that their leader is permitted to roam the earth, and that even many of those demons are allowed to tempt men.
- It may be still true that the masses are confined within the limits of this prison.
- It may even be true also that Satan and those who are permitted to roam earth are under bondage, and are permitted to range only within certain bounds.



Click the link below for this week's video

<https://youtu.be/fEYxCxyRB34>