

Death and the Afterlife

The bible does not say much about the **afterlife**. Therefore, much of what is being taught is **speculation** based on individuals' interpretation of scripture.

When it comes to the question of the **body and soul** and where we will spend eternity, you will find many different answers, depending on the source.

The Torah has no clear reference to **afterlife** at all. It says nothing about the soul leaving the body going to a place to await reunification with the body.

Therefore, in the Torah both the good and evil dead goes to **Sheol**, or **Hades** or **Hell**. [the place of the dead] Depending on the bible translation.

Psalms 86:13 CJB

(13) For your grace toward me is so great! You have rescued me from the lowest part of Sh'ol.

Psalms 139:8 CJB

(8) If I climb up to heaven, you are there; **if I lie down in Sh'ol**, you are there.

However, **in the Torah**, it is obvious that life does continue some place after leaving the earth.

For instant in the Torah, we read about **Enoch** and **Elijah** who Elohim took without them dying.

Genesis 5:24 TS2009

(24) And [Enoch] Ḥanok̄ walked with Elohim. Then he was no more, for Elohim took him.

2 Kings 2:11 TS2009

(11) And it came to be, as they continued on and spoke, that see, a chariot of fire with horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Ēliyahu went up by a whirlwind into the heavens.

When **king Saul** was facing the Philistines in battle, and Yah did not respond to his inquiries, he had a witch to bring **Samuel back** from the dead for advice.

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1 Samuel 28:12 TLV

(12) But when the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud shriek. Then the woman spoke to Saul saying, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!"

Yeshua says Elohim is the Elohim of the **living**.

Matthew 22:31-32 TLV

(31) But concerning the resurrection of the dead, haven't you read what was spoken to you by [Elohim] God, saying,

(32) 'I am the [Elohim] God of Abraham, and the [Elohim] God of Isaac, and the [Elohim] God of Jacob'? **He is not the [Elohim] God of the dead, but of the living!"**

I believe the reason nothing is recorded in the Torah about the afterlife, is because Yah did **not** reveal everything about his plans to Israel.

The writer of Hebrews says:

Hebrews 1:1 CJB

(1) In days gone by, [Elohim] God spoke in many and varied ways to the Fathers **through the prophets**.

However, He obviously **did not tell** them everything about his plans.

The apostle Paul was given revelations which he called Yah's **secrets** that had not been revealed before.

Ephesians 1:9-10 CJB

(9) he has made known to us his **secret plan**, which by his own will he designed **beforehand** in connection with the Messiah

(10) and will put into effect when the time is ripe—his plan to place everything in heaven and on earth under the **Messiah's headship**.

Ephesians 3:3-6 CJB

(3) and that it was by a revelation that **this secret plan** was made known to me. I have already written about it briefly,

(4) and if you read what I have written, you will grasp how I understand this secret plan concerning the Messiah.

(5) In **past generations** it was **not** made known to mankind, as the Spirit is now revealing it to his [apostles] emissaries and prophets,

(6) that in **union with the Messiah** and through the Good News the **Gentiles were to be joint** heirs, a joint body and joint sharers with the Jews in what God has promised.

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1 Corinthians 2:7-10 CJB

(7) On the contrary, we are communicating **a secret** wisdom from [Elohim] God which has been **hidden until** now but which, **before** history began, [Elohim] God had decreed would bring us glory.

(8) Not one of **this world's leaders has understood it**; because if they had, they would not have executed the Lord from whom this glory flows.

(9) But, as the Tanakh says, "**No eye has seen, no ear has heard and no one's heart** has imagined **all** the things that [Elohim] God has prepared for those who love him."

(10) It is **to us**, however, that [Elohim] God **has revealed these things**. How? Through the Spirit. For the Spirit probes all things, even the profoundest depths of [Elohim] God.

Yah did not tell Israel that:

- "His plan was to place everything in heaven and on earth under the **Messiah's headship.**"
- the **Gentiles were to be joint** heirs, a joint body and joint sharers with the Jews in what God has promised.
- the **hidden secret** wisdom.

1 Corinthians 2:9

(9) "**No eye has seen, no ear has heard and no one's heart** has imagined **all the things** that [Elohim] God has prepared for those who love him."

Yah revealed these things to the **apostles**. Because these things are **in connection** with the **Messiah**.

Therefore, we **cannot** say the soul of man **does not** continue to live after the body dies, because it is **not** in the Torah.

In the **New Testament** Yeshua taught that man **has a soul**, which **only** Elohim can kill. A soul that **continues** to live when **the body** dies.

Matthew 10:28 TLV

(28) And do not fear those who **kill the body** but **cannot kill the soul**. Instead, fear the One who is able to destroy **both soul and body** in **Gehenna**.

The writer of Hebrews tells us that **not only** does man have a **body and soul** but is also a **spirit**.

Hebrews 4:12 TLV

(12) For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged

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sword—piercing right through to a **separation** of **soul** and **spirit, joints and marrow**, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Therefore, it is said: "***man is a spirit has a soul and lives in a body.***"

The **body** has **no** life itself. It was only dust until Elohim breathed the breath of life into it.

Genesis 2:7 CJB

(7) Then [Yahweh] Adonai, [Elohim] God, formed a person [*Hebrew: adam*] from the dust of the ground [*Hebrew: adamah*] and breathed into his nostrils the **breath of life**, so that he became a **living being**.

Therefore, at the end of our **earthly life**, the body **returns** to the earth.

According to **Solomon** there is **no** hope beyond **Sheol**.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 CJB

(10) Whatever task comes your way to do, do it with all your strength; because in Sh'ol, where you will go, there is neither working nor planning, neither knowledge nor wisdom.

Ecclesiastes 9:5 CJB

(5) For the living know that they will die, but the **dead know nothing**; there is no longer any reward for them, because all memory of them is lost.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 TS2009

(7) and the **dust** returns to the earth as it was, and the **spirit** returns to Elohim who gave it.

The word spirit in this verse throws many off courses. Because they think that spirit is only the **breath or air**.

However, this **spirit** come from the Hebrew word **rûach** [roo'-akh]. No **H7307** in the strong Hebrew and Greek dictionary.

In additions to meaning the wind and breath, **rûach** also includes the definitions of a **rational being** with its expression and functions, The seat of emotion, mind, desire, sorrow, trouble, anger, courage. It is the same word used in reference to the **Holy Spirit** [**rûach Hakodesh**]. Who, as we know is not wind but a person.

Thus, the spirit of a man and the soul of a man are **fused** together. The spirit brings life, while the soul bring personality.

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Therefore, it is **not** a matter of a man's **breath** leaving him and going back to Elohim, but **the soul**, the **entity** which brought life to the body, departs **from** the body [for a while] and **continues to live** in the place reserved for souls.

Remember, Solomon **did not** have the **full revelation** of Elohim's plans. He did **not know** that the earthly bodies would be resurrected, reconstructed, and changed into **immortal** bodies in the last days.

Paul said that was **a secret** that was revealed **only** to the apostles and prophets after yeshua's redemption.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 CJB

(51) Look, I will tell **you a secret**—not all of us **will die!** But we will **all be changed!**

(52) It will take but a moment, the blink of an eye, **at the final shofar**. For the shofar will sound, and the dead will be raised **to live forever**, and we too will be **changed**.

(53) For this **material** which **can decay must** be clothed with **imperishability**, this which is mortal must be clothed with immortality.

Elohim's plan for the **redemption of humanity**, the **restoration of humanity** is centered on his **original** plan for earth.

Isaiah 45:18 TS2009

(18) For thus said יהוה, [Yahweh] Creator of the heavens, He is Elohim, **Former of earth** and its Maker, **He established it**, He **did not** create it to be **empty**, He formed it to **be inhabited**: "I am [Yahweh] יהוה, and there is none else.

He **also** created **man** to take care of it.

Genesis 2:15 TS2009

(15) And [Yahweh] יהוה Elohim took the **man** and put him in the garden of Ėden to **work it** and to **guard it**.

Genesis 1:27-28 TS2009

(27) And Elohim created the **man in His image**, in the image of Elohim He created him – male and female He created them.

(28) And Elohim blessed them, and Elohim said to them, "**Be fruitful and increase**, and fill the earth and subdue it, **and rule over** the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over all creeping *creatures* on the earth."

Therefore, everything that Elohim **has done** since man fell into sin, all that he **is doing now**, and all that he **will do** in the future, is pointing to his final plan to **re-populate** the earth with holy, righteous, and obedient people.

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He is not starting over again by creating a **new** godly race but is changing those of us who are **already** alive now and allowing us to continue to live on earth forever, but in **renewed bodies**.

Everyone, that is, who **believe** in the messiah.

When yeshua come back, they will be **resurrected**, those who are alive will be changed and we will all live on the renewed earth forever.

However, **when** the **bodies** of the righteous **dies**, their souls are **transported** to **paradise**. Which is also called **Abraham's bosom** or Abraham's side.

Luke 23:43 TLV

(43) Yeshua said to him, "Amen, I tell you, today you shall be with Me in **Paradise**."

The question that **many believers are struggling with** is **the location of paradise**.

Where is paradise located? It is on earth or in heaven?

The word **paradise** in this verse is translated from the Greek word **paradeisos, G3857**.

Paradeisos comes from the Persian word "**pardes**," and means "**enclosure, preserve, garden, park, citrus orchard**," as well as "**Paradise**".

The garden of Eden is **also** called paradise. Thus, some translation used the word as **Gan- Eden** instead of paradise.

If this definition is **correct**, the **departed souls** are living in a **beautiful garden** like surrounding. Whether on earth or in heaven. However, wherever they are, **Elohim** is also there with them.

Psalms 139:7-8 CJB

(7) Where can I go to escape your Spirit? Where can I flee from your **presence?**

(8) If I climb up to heaven, **you are there; if I lie down in Sh'ol**, you are there.

When **yeshua as dying** he promised the thief that they would be **together** that day in **paradise**.

Luke 23:43 CJB

(43) Yeshua said to him, "Yes! I promise that **you will be with me today in Gan-`Eden.**"

Meaning the **garden of Eden.**

According to **Thayer's Greek dictionary**, "*the early church Fathers said the paradise in which our **first parents dwelt** before the fall **still exists**, neither on the earth or in the heavens, but above and beyond the world.*"

Thayer's dictionary **also** defines **Paradeisos** as the **part of Hades** which was thought by the later Jews to be the abode of the **souls of pious** until the resurrection:

We find an example of this is--

Luke 16:22-23 TLV

(22) It happened that the poor man died and was carried by the angels to **Abraham's side**. Then the rich man also died and was buried.

(23) And from **Sheol**, as he was in torment, he raised his eyes. And he sees Abraham far off, and Lazarus at his side.

Luke 16:26 CJB

(26) Yet that isn't all: between **you and us a deep rift** has been established, so that those who would like to pass from here to you cannot, nor can **anyone cross over** from there to us.'

However, there are some who believe that when yeshua **ascended** into heave he took **all the souls** in paradise with him to heaven. Therefore, there are no **longer two** compartments in **Sheol**. Because only the souls of the ungodly dead are still there.

I will address this in another lesson.

The **one** scripture that the Ruach brought to my attention, which describes the location of paradise is **2 Corinthians 12:2-4**. The apostle Paul said he was taken there.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 TS2009

(2) I know a man in Messiah who **fourteen years ago** – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, Elohim knows – such a one was caught up to the **third heaven**.

(3) And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not

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know, Elohim knows –

(4) that he was **caught up into paradise^a** and heard unspeakable words, which it is not right for a man to speak. Footnote: ^aLit. **garden**.

2 Corinthians 12:4 CJB

(4) was snatched into **Gan-`Eden** and heard things that cannot be put into words, things unlawful for a human being to utter.

Therefore, according to Paul, **paradise**, or **garden of Eden** is located in the **third** heaven.

Yeshua **promises** the messianic community in Ephesus that if they overcame, they would eat from the **tree of life** in **Elohim's paradise**.

Revelation 2:7 CJB

(7) Those who have ears, **let them hear** what the Spirit is saying to the Messianic communities. To him **winning the victory** I will give the **right** to eat from the **Tree of Life** which is in **God's Gan-`Eden**." '

Revelation 2:7 TS2009

(7) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies. To him who overcomes^a I shall give to eat from the **tree of life**, which is **in the midst of the paradise^b of Elohim**." '

No doubt, it was **the paradise of Elohim** that Paul was taken to in the third heaven.

We will discuss more about paradise in our next lesson.

Lesson two

The torah has no clear references about the afterlife. King Solomon says we should live our lives to the fullest because when we die, **we are done**. The dead know nothing and when the body returns to dust the spirit returns to Elohim. **[Ecc. 9:10; 9:5; 12:7]**.

However, we **cannot** establish a doctrine of the afterlife based on what Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastic because Solomon **did not** have the **full revelation** of Elohim's plans for redemption.

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Solomon did **not know** that the earthly bodies would be resurrected, reconstructed, and changed into **immortal** bodies in the last days.

Paul said the information about the **resurrection** and believers receiving **immortal bodies** was **a secret** that Yah revealed **only** to the apostles and prophets in his day, after yeshua's redemption.

In fact, Solomon **himself** admitted that he does not have the full revelation.

Ecclesiastes 3:19-22 CJB

(19) After all, the same things that happen to people happen to animals, the very same thing—just as the one dies, so does the other. Yes, their breath is the same; so that humans are no better than animals; since nothing matters, anyway.

(20) They all go to the **same place**; they all come from **dust**, and they all return to dust.

(21) **Who knows** if the spirit of a human being goes **upward** and the spirit of an animal goes **downward** into the earth?"

(22) So I concluded that there is nothing better for a person to do than take joy in **his activities**, that that is his allotted portion; for who can enable him to see what will happen **after him**?

Therefore, most of the information we have on the afterlife is from the New Testament. However, the New Testament does **not say** much about the afterlife, but it does tell us that the souls of **both** the **righteous** and **unrighteous** leaves the body and **continue** to exist in another location. While awaiting to rejoin the new immortal bodies.

The body is **incomplete** without the **soul** and the soul is incomplete without the body. Because that is the way Elohim created it.

And since Elohim created the earth to be inhabited, the whole complete man must inhabit it. That is the purpose of the resurrection.

Both the righteous and the unrighteous will be resurrected. The righteous will be resurrected to everlasting joy, while the unrighteous to everlasting punishment.

It is at Yeshua's return when both groups will receive their reward.

Scripture teaches that **none** of us will receive our final **reward** or **punishment** **until** the **final** judgement. Which means we are **not** rewarded at the time of death.

The righteous **do not go** to the heaven where the throne of the father is, and the unrighteous do not go to a burning hell at the time of death as it is being

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taught.

Else what would be the reason for the resurrection and judgement if after judgement the righteous go back to heaven, and the unrighteous go back to hell?

If the wicked goes to a **burning hell** when they die, some would have been there more than 5,000. Years. what would be the point of their being resurrected, just to be judged and thrown back into a burning hell.

Therefore, the wicked too are **waiting** for the return of the messiah. None of the righteous under the first covenant have received their rewards. Believers like, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Aaron, Daniels, David, are still waiting for their **final redemption**.

The writer of Hebrews said those **faithful saints** who died **have not** received their reward because they are **waiting for us**.

Hebrews 11:13 CJB

(13) All these people kept on trusting **until they died**, without receiving what had been promised. They had only seen it and welcomed it from a distance, while acknowledging that they were aliens and temporary residents on the earth.

Hebrews 11:39-40 CJB

(39) All of these had their merit attested because of their trusting. Nevertheless, they **did not receive** what had been promised,

(40) because [Elohim] God had planned something better that would **involve us**, so that **only with us** would they be brought to the goal.

For those who believes the soul sleeps while the body lies dead in the grave. And does not know anything should know that the word **spirit** in Hebrew is **rûach** and refers to a functional **rational being** with emotion, mind, desire, sorrow, trouble, anger, courage.

This is seen when **Moses**, and **Elijah** was speaking with yeshua on the mountain during his Transfiguration. [Mat 17:3]

Scriptures tell us that **Elijah** went up to heaven on a chariot of fire, but said **Moses died** and yah buried his body. **Jude 1:9** says that Michael the ruling angel argued with the adversary over **Moses' body**.

Jude 1:9 CJB

(9) When Mikha'el, one of the ruling angels, took issue with the Adversary, arguing over the **body of Moshe**, he did not dare bring against him an insulting

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charge, but said, "May [Yahweh] Adonai rebuke you."

John saw **martyred souls** crying out from **underneath** the altar.

Revelation 6:9-11 CJB

(9) When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar **the souls** of those who had **been put to death** for proclaiming the Word of [Elohim] God, that is, for bearing witness.

(10) They cried out in a loud voice, "Sovereign Ruler, HaKadosh, the True One, how long will it be before you judge the people living on earth and avenge our blood?"

(11) Each of them was given a white robe; and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow-servants should be reached, of their brothers who would be killed, just as they had been.

There is **so much** controversy over where the **souls** are now. Some of the confusion is based on the English translation of the word **hell, sheol, and hades**.

Jeff Harrison] TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH Ministries wrote:

*"Somewhere in the time between the Old Testament and the New Testament, people **in Israel** came to understand that there were **two different parts** of **sheol**: one for the **righteous** and one for the **unrighteous**. The righteous part of **sheol** had different names.*

*One of these names was called the **bosom of Abraham**, but the **most common** name in Hebrew is **Gan Eden**, the **garden of Eden**. This is not the **physical garden of Eden that Adam and Eve lived in**.*

***This garden of Eden is spiritual**. It is a place of **spiritual blessings**, just as the **Garden of Eden** was a place of **physical blessings**." Even though it is a **spiritual place**, it is thought of as a **garden like environment**. They believe that this is the place where Abraham and all the righteous patriots and kings and prophets are waiting for the **resurrection**."*

Gan Eden is also called **paradise [Greek]**. Its location is believed to be in **one of the heavens**. But **not** the very heaven where Yahweh's throne is.

When **yeshua was dying** he promised the thief that they would be **together** that day in **paradise**.

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Luke 23:43 CJB

(43) Yeshua said to him, "Yes! I promise that you will be with me today in Gan-`Eden." [Paradise]

We know that yeshua did **not go** to the father's side when he died. After his resurrection he said to Mary.

John 20:17 TLV

(17) Yeshua says to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have **not yet gone up** to the Father. Go to My brothers and tell them, 'I am going up to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'"

Apparently yeshua went to **paradise** where **all** soul goes when they die.

The **apostle Paul** was taken to paradise **alive**. He does not know if his physical body went there or if he was taken there in the spirit.

Apparently, there was something going on there that **yah wanted Paul** to see and to know. However, Paul was not permitted to tell us what it was.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 TS2009

(2) I know a man in Messiah who **fourteen years ago** – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, Elohim knows – such a one was caught up to the **third heaven**.

(3) And I know such a man – whether **in the body** or **out of the body** I do not know, Elohim knows –

(4) that he was **caught up into paradise^a** and heard unspeakable words, which it is not right for a man to speak. Footnote: ^aLit. **garden**.

2 Corinthians 12:4 CJB

(4) was snatched into **Gan-`Eden** and heard things that cannot be put into words, things unlawful for a human being to utter.

A closer look at this verse will show that Paul **did not say** he was caught up **into the presence** of the Yah, the father.

Therefore, **either** paradise is located in the **third heaven**, or Paul went to **two** separate places.

There are some people who believe that hades and paradise are location **under** the earth, are teaching that when yeshua went back to heaven he took all the souls from paradise to heaven with him. He left only the wicked in hades.

The scripture they use does not support that idea. It is Ephesians 4:8.

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Ephesians 4:8 TS2009

(8) That is why it says, "**When He went up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.**" Psa_68:18.

This verse **does not say** Yeshua lead souls from paradise into heaven.

According to William Morford in his New Testament notes "Take captivity Captive" is a Hebrew idiom meaning to **turn the table on your enemies** in warfare. To reverse the captivity of the people.

Each of the **three time** this is used in the Hebrew scriptures it is in reference to Israel's victory over their enemies.

Paul is quoting from Psalm 68.

Psalms 68:18 TS2009

(18) You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive, You have received gifts among men, And even the rebellious, That Yah Elohim might dwell *there*.

Conclusion:

Paradise or Gan-Eden is a **spiritual place** where the souls of the righteous are waiting to be **reunited** with their bodies. So that they can live forever on the beautiful earth the father is preparing for us.

Neither the **wicked** nor the **righteous** have received their reward yet. That will only happen when yeshua comes back and we will all be rewarded at the same time. Including all those who lived before yeshua.

No one seems to know the **exact location**. It could be located in one of the heavens. However, it is **not** the heaven where the father, Yahweh, live.

Buy **wherever** paradise is, it a beautiful garden, a place of wonderful blessings in the presence of the Lord. Though not the actual heaven where the father dwell.

That is what we must focus on. That is what brings us joy. Not so much as where it is located, that is of no important. Wherever, it is we will be with the Lord.

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Lesson three What the Bible say about Gei-Hinnom!!!!

Elohim's plan for the **redemption of humanity**, the **restoration of humanity** is centered on his **original** plan at creation.

Isaiah 45:18 TS2009

(18) For thus said [Yahweh] יהוה, Creator of the heavens, He is Elohim, **Former of earth** and its Maker, **He established it**, He **did not** create it to be **empty**, He formed it to **be inhabited**: "I am [Yahweh] יהוה, and there is none else.

Although the Devin deceived Eva and Adam made the decision to also disobey Yah's instruction, causing death and destruction, Yah has not changed his original purpose.

However, he will be doing things a little different.

So, in his process of accomplishing his purpose he has made provision for the preservation of humanity.

Therefore, at the time of death, only the body dies. The soul is preserved and kept alive in a place that yah has created for it to be.

We have said that according to scripture, the soul does not sleep in the grave, but goes to a **temporary place** where it waits to be **reunited** with the body.

The body is **not complete** without the soul and the soul is not complete without the body. Therefore, **after** the resurrection Yah will repopulate the earth with **complete living beings** as he intended from the beginning.

Genesis 2:7 TS2009

(7) And Yahweh Elohim formed the man out of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils breath of lives. And the man became a **living being**.

We **do not know** what kind of bodies we will have. Paul said they will be **different** because **flesh and blood** cannot inherit the kingdom.

However, they will be **physical bodies**. Perhaps similar to the one Yeshua had after his resurrection. he still had the same body. He still had the nail scars in his hands. He still ate food, but he could inter a room without opening the door. In the bible the Greek word **Hades** and the Hebrew word **Sheol** are understood

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to be the place where the souls of those who die go to await the resurrection.

They are **temporary** places that will be emptied **after** the resurrection.

Revelation 20:13-14 CJB

(13) The sea gave up the dead in it; and Death and Sh'ol gave up the dead in them; and they were judged, each according to what he had done.

(14) Then Death and Sh'ol were hurled into the lake of fire. This is the **second death**—the lake of fire.

Nobody seems to know exactly **where** hades/Sheol is actually located.

However, based on **Luke 16:26** hades/Sheol has **two** sections with a **deep rift** separating the two.

Luke 16:26 CJB

(26) Yet that isn't all: between **you and us a deep rift** has been established, so that those who would like to pass from here to you cannot, nor can **anyone cross over** from there to us.'

One section was for the righteous called **Gan-Eden** (garden of Eden) or **paradise**.

Thayer's dictionary also defines **Paradeisos** [Paradise] as the **part of Hades** which was thought by the later Jews to be the abode of the **souls of pious** until the resurrection.

However, at some point in history **a doctrine was introduced**, based on Ephesian 4:8 that says when Yeshua ascended into heaven, he emptied **paradise** and took all the saints to heaven with him. And left the unrighteous dead in Hades. And since that time, when the righteous die they go directly to heaven.

However, when we look closely at **Ephesians 4:8** we see that it has nothing to do with taking the righteous souls to heaven, but with Yeshua's complete victory over his enemies.

Yeshua turned **the table on your enemies**. He rescued those who were held captives **by Satan**, and led them in a triumph victory publicly.

Colossians 2:15 CJB

(15) Stripping the **rulers and authorities of their power**, he made a **public spectacle of them**, triumphing over them by means of the stake.

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So rather than saying yeshua **emptied paradise** of the soul being held there and took them to heaven, Paul said yeshua ascended as a **victor**, a conquer. He had triumphed over **sin, Satan, death**, and the **grave**.

One thing we **must consider** is, if **both** the **wicked** and the **righteous** will receive their reward only when Yeshua comes back to judge them, **what would be the purpose of taking the righteous to heaven**.

In addition to **Hades and Sheol**, there is **another place** in scripture called **Gehenna** which refers to a **place of punishment**, like the lake of fire.

The **king James** version of the bible translates the words **hades, Gehenna** and **sheol** as **hell**. Hell is thought of as a place burning with fire, where the wicked goes at death. Which has caused a lot of **misunderstanding** among believers.

However, **Gehenna** is a portrait of what will happen to the wicked in the day of judgement.

Yeshua speaks of **Gehenna in many places**.

Matthew 5:29 CJB

(29) If your right eye makes you sin, gouge it out and throw it away! Better that you should lose one part of you than have your whole body thrown into **Gei-Hinnom**.

The word **Gehenna** comes from a place south of Jerusalem called the valley of the son of Hinnom. It was a place where children **were sacrificed** to the god **Moloch**.

King **Ahaz**, a king of Judah, **burned his children** in the **valley of Hinnom**.

2 Chronicles 28:3 CJB

(3) Moreover, he made offerings in the **Ben-Hinnom Valley** and even **burned up his own children as sacrifices**, in keeping with the horrible practices of the pagans, whom Adonai had thrown out ahead of the people of Isra'el.

Manasseh was another king **who sacrificed his children** in the valley of Hinnom.

2 Chronicles 33:6 CJB

(6) He made his children pass through the fire [*as a sacrifice*] in the **Ben-Hinnom Valley**. He practiced soothsaying, divination and sorcery; and he appointed mediums and persons who used spirit guides. He did much that was evil from Adonai's perspective, thus provoking him to anger.

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Ben-Hinnom Valley was a testable place for Yahweh. he called it the **valley of slaughter**.

Jeremiah 7:30-32 LEB

(30) For the people of Judah have done evil in my eyes," declares Yahweh, "They have set their abominations in the house that is called by my name, to defile it.

(31) And they built the high place of Topheth, which *is* in *the Valley of Ben Hinnom*, to **burn their sons and their daughters in the fire**, which I have not commanded, and it did not come into my mind.

(32) Therefore look, days *are* about to come," declares Yahweh, "and it will no longer be called Topheth or *the Valley of Ben Hinnom*, but the Valley of the **Slaughter**, and they will bury in Topheth until there is no more place.

Isaiah speaks of **Ben Hinnom** as a horrible place burning with sulphur.

Isaiah 30:33 TS2009

(33) For Topheth was **ordained of old**, even for the sovereign it has been prepared. He has made it **deep and large**, its **fire pit** with much wood; the breath of Yahweh, as a stream of **burning sulphur**, is burning in it!

[army of Assyrians]

Easton's Bible Dictionary says:

This valley afterwards became the **common receptacle** for all the **refuse** of the city. Here the **dead bodies of animals** and of **criminals**, and **all kinds of filth**, were cast and consumed **by fire kept always burning**. It thus in process of time became **the image** of the place of **everlasting destruction**.

This is what was going on there in Yeshua's day. Yeshua referred to **Gehenna** atleast **eleven times in his teaching**. One example is in Luke 12.

Luke 12:4-5 TS2009

(4) "But I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that are unable to do any more.

(5) "But I shall show you whom you should fear: Fear the One who, after killing, possesses authority to **cast into GēHinnom**. Yes, I say to you, fear Him!

Gehenna is a tangible, actual place on earth. A place used to describe the **future place of punishment** for the wicked that is also called the **lake of fire**.

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However, it seems that **no one** has gone there yet. When the **wicked souls** have been reunited with the bodies at the resurrection and stand before the great white throne judgement. **That is when they will receive their punishment.**

Revelation 20:11-15 CJB

(11) Next I saw a great white throne and the One sitting on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them.

(12) And I saw the dead, both great and small, standing in front of the throne. Books were opened; and another book was opened, the Book of Life; and the dead were judged from what was written in the books, **according to what they had done.**

(13) The sea gave up the dead in it; and Death and Sh'ol gave up the dead in them; and **they were judged, each** according to what he had done.

(14) Then Death and Sh'ol were hurled into the **lake of fire**. This is the **second death**—the lake of fire.

(15) Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was hurled into the lake of fire.

Because there is so much confusion about **Hell, Sheol, Hades**, and Gehenna, we need to understand what the Bible teaches about them.

The fact that **not much information** about the afterlife is in the bible opens the door for many erroneous teachings. The adversary uses this to his advantage. Therefore, I believe if we search for the truth we will find it. Yeshua said seek and you shall find. Sometimes we can find the answer in sources other than the bible.

However, there are many things we will not understand until the Messiah comes.

Lesson four

Where Are the Departed Souls?

Many of us grew up under the teaching that when Christians die, we immediately go to heaven, and when sinners die, they immediately go to hell.

However, scripture does not support that belief. If everyone is rewarded or punished at death, there would be no need of a resurrection.

On the other hand, many agree that there is a **resurrection** of the dead.

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However, they cannot agree on whether the **soul sleeps** in the grave with the body until the resurrection or whether the **soul continues** to function as an intelligently being in sheol or paradise.

The Tanach does not give us any information about the afterlife and the New Testament gives little information. Therefore, that which is written has been misinterpreted and misapplied to the point where believers are totally confused.

Today we will look again at these issues to try to understand better based on the knowledge we have in the bible.

First, we need to see what scripture says about **man**.

Genesis 2:7 TS2009

(7) And Yahweh Elohim formed the man out of **dust from the ground**, and breathed into his nostrils breath of lives. And the man became a **living being**.

Some translations say, "a living soul."

The word soul is defined as **nephesh**.

BDB Hebrew dictionary Definition:

H5315 nephesh

1) **soul, self, life, creature, person, appetite, mind, living being, desire, emotion, passion**

1d) **the man himself**, self, person or individual

1e) seat of **the appetites**

1f) seat of **emotions and passions**

1g) activity of **mind**

1h) activity of the **will**

1i) activity of the **character**

Strong's Hebrew and Greek dictionary Definition:

H5315 Nephesh neh'-fesh

H5314; properly a breathing creature, - appetite, beast, body, breath, man, mind, person, and pleasure.

However, this does not mean that man is a single entity and the whole person dies. For according to scripture man is a **triune** being. Made up of Body, soul, and spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 CJB

(23) May the God of shalom make you completely holy—may your **entire spirit, soul** and **body** be kept blameless for the coming of our Lord Yeshua the

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Messiah.

Hebrews 4:12 CJB

(12) See, the Word of God is alive! It is at work and is sharper than any double-edged sword—it cuts right through to where **soul meets spirit** and joints meet marrow, and it is quick to judge the inner reflections and attitudes of the heart.

Therefore, in view of this revelation, that others did not have before messiah came, we have a better understanding of man in reference to death.

Yahweh pronounced the death penalty on humankind because of his disobedient.

Genesis 3:19 CJB

(19) You will eat bread by the sweat of your forehead till you return to the ground—for you were taken out of it: **you are dust, and you will return to dust.**"

Ecclesiastes 12:7 CJB

(7) **the dust returns to earth**, as it was, and the **spirit** returns to God, who gave it!

Here the word **spirit** is translated from the Hebrew word **Ruach**.

Strong's Hebrew and Greek dictionary Definition:

H7307 rûach [roo'-akh]. A **rational being** (including its expression and functions): air, anger, breath, courage, and mind.

Webster dictionary.

Spirit is the soul of man, An immaterial intelligent substance of human beings. Spirit is a substance in which **thinking, knowing, doubting**, and a power of moving do subsist. Hence, An immaterial intelligent being.

Therefore, the word spirit does not necessarily mean just **breath or air** but the entire personality. **The real essence of man.**

Solomon did not seem to know **the real essence of man**.

He only knew that man is a **body with a spirit**. But he had no insight into the **future resurrection** of the body and spirit.

Ecclesiastes 3:21-22 CJB

(21) Who knows if the spirit of a human being goes upward and the spirit of an animal goes downward into the earth?"

(22) So I concluded that there is nothing better for a person to do than **take joy in his activities**, that that is his allotted portion; for who can enable him to

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see what will happen after him?

However, it is important that **we** know this because of Elohim's purpose in creating humanity and the earth.

According to scripture, Yah's **original plan** is for man to rule over the earth.

When man sinned and contaminated the earth Yah made plans to remove the curse by restoring everything to its original condition. This would also include the restoration of man.

This process would be through a redeemer. One who would take the place of humanity and die in his place. However, the process of restoration would extend over an extended period of time, by man's calculation.

In the meantime, **when the body dies** and return to dust, Yah preserved the soul to be **reunited** with the body, at the proper time of resurrection.

The death penalty was pronounced on **the body**. It was the body that was made of dust. "***you are dust, and you will return to dust.***"

However, because the **soul needs** the body to function properly, and the **body needs** the soul to function properly they will be reunited, and the righteous **will live forever** with Yah, the father and Yeshua, the son. And the wicked will be destroyed because they rejected the offer to **apply the blood of the messiah to their lives**.

The soul is **not** immortal as some thinks. It will live forever **only** if man believe in yeshua.

Romans 6:23 CJB

(23) For what one earns from sin is death; but **eternal life** is what one receives as a **free gift** from [Elohim] God, in union with the Messiah Yeshua, our Lord.

Therefore, the soul can die.

Ezekiel 18:4 CJB

(4) Look, **all lives** belong to me—both the parent's life and the child's life are equally mine—**so it is the person who sins, himself, who must die.**

That is obvious by what ELOhim said about Adam and Eve and the tree of life.

Genesis 3:22-23 TS2009

(22) And Yahweh Elohim said, "See, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also **of the tree**

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of life, and eat, and live forever..."

(23) so Yahweh Elohim sent him out of the garden of Ėden to till the ground from which he was taken.

If the soul were immortal, it would not matter if Adam ate from the tree of life. He would have lived forever anyway.

Also, John said:

John 3:16 CJB

(16) "For [Elohim] God so loved the world that he gave his only and unique Son, so that everyone who trusts in him may have eternal life, instead of being utterly destroyed.

That is why **eternal life** come through **faith** in the messiah yeshua. Because of Elohim's **grace**, we are given a chance to live, but the choice **must be ours**.

Yah prophesied through **Isaiah** that he would make a new heaven and a new earth that would be populated by righteous people and peaceful animals.

Isaiah 65:17 TS2009

(17) "For look, **I am creating new heavens and a new earth**, and the former shall not be remembered, nor come to heart.

However, **until** the new **heavens and** earth are created the souls of all the saints who died throughout the ages are alive in a place called sheol/paradise. Including Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the patriarch, and the prophets.

Jews believe that **sheol/hades** are the same place which have a **deep rift** separating the wicked from the righteous. Although they **are** within speaking distance of each other.

However, the location of Sheol has not been firmly established. Therefore, it is usually a **Matter of opinion**.

The apostle Paul is the only person who said paradise in is the **third heaven**. However, he was not permitted to tell us anything that are happening there. Only that he saw and heard things.

2 Corinthians 12:2 CJB

(2) I know a man in union with the Messiah who fourteen years ago was snatched up to the third heaven; whether he was in the body or outside the body I don't know, God knows.

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2 Corinthians 12:3-4 CJB

(3) And I know that such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I don't know, God knows—

(4) was snatched into Gan-`Eden and heard things that cannot be put into words, things unlawful for a human being to utter

If the section of Sheol where the righteous are located, called paradise or garden of Eden, is located in the heavens, then the section where the wicked souls are is **also** located in heaven. Else how can they see and communicate with each other.

Luke 16:24 TLV

(24) So he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me! And send Lazarus so he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, because I am suffering torment in this flame.'

Furthermore, scripture say the spirit of **all men** goes back to Elohim. As a rule, we send the spirit of the wicked to hell and the spirit of the righteous to heaven.

We must keep in mind that **both** sheol and paradise are merely **temporary** locations where souls are waiting for the resurrection. Neither the righteous souls nor the wicked souls are rewarded when they separate from the body. It will be when they **reunite** with their bodies that they will be judges and either rewarded or sentenced to death.

Since their lives on earth was lived **in the body**, they will be judged **in the body**. One will **not** be judged or rewarded without the other.

Therefore, wherever the spiritual place called **sheol is located**, it is a place where the departed **souls** are. The righteous souls go to the section called paradise. A beautiful, delightful, **garden of Eden** where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are believed to be.

The Jews who was faithful to Yah during the time of **Greek persecution**, expected to be welcomed by Abraham. Isaac and Jacob in paradise. And to be resurrected to a new life.

4 Maccabees 13:17 WEBA

(17) If we suffer thus, Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob will receive us, and all the fathers will **commend us**.

2 Maccabees 7:9-14 WEBA

(9) And when he was at the last gasp, he said, You, miscreant, **do release us out of this present life**, but the **King of the world** shall **raise up us**, who

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have died for his laws, **to an eternal renewal of life.**

Paradise/Gan-Eden is where **Yeshua's soul** went to await his resurrection.

Luke 23:43 CJB

(43) Yeshua said to him, "Yes! I promise that you will be with me **today** in Gan-Eden."

It is the place where **Stephen's soul** went to await his resurrection.

Paradise seems to be a place that is located in a **separate** area of heaven.

Although we cannot find any information about the **third heaven to substantiate it.**

The **third heaven** is believed to be the throne room of Elohim. It is where the temple is where yeshua is now ministering as high priest. It is also where yeshua took his own blood to atone for man's sin.

Therefore, it is difficult to reconcile how the place where Yah's throne is also the place of departed souls. Especially since paradise is a temporary place of residence.

Unless we take under consideration that heavens have **multiple layers** as the Israelites envisioned.

The **Hebrew** word for heaven, is **shâmayim [shaw-mah'-yim]**

H8064 BDB Definition:

It means heavens, sky, abode of the stars, Heaven (as the abode of God)

It is **not** the same word used for **Gan-Eden**. The word **Gan-Eden/paradise** means a delightful garden. A pleasant place where happiness reigns.

Therefore, we might consider that sheol/paradise is in a **different level** of heaven from where the **father's throne, the ministry of yeshua in the temple, the ministering angels and living creatures are.**

Remember, Yeshua **did not say** you will be with me in the **shâmayim**. He said you will be with me in **paradise**. The place of departed spirits/souls. Yeshua did not go to the shâmayim until **forty days** later.

So, man is a spirit, has soul and lives in a body. When the body dies the soul/spirit goes to a temporary place of residence to await the reunification with the body at the resurrection.

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But the question that **continue** to plague believes, is the state of the souls in sheol/paradise. **Are they sleeping?** Are they **just spirits** floating around unaware of what has happened to them?

Those who believe the soul is sleeping base their belief in what **Solomon, David, Job,** and **others** said in the Tanakh. However, it is obvious that those men did not have the full revelation of yah eternal plan.

1 Corinthians 2:7-10 CJB

(7) On the contrary, we are communicating **a secret** wisdom from [Elohim] God which has been **hidden until** now but which, **before history began,** [Elohim] God had decreed would bring us glory.

(8) Not one of **this world's leaders has understood it;**

(9) But, as the Tanakh says, "**No eye has seen, no ear has heard and no one's heart** has **imagined all** the things that [Elohim] God has prepared for those who love him."

(10) It is **to us,** however, that [Elohim] God **has revealed these things.** How? Through the Spirit. For the Spirit probes all things, even the profoundest depths of [Elohim] God.

Therefore, we **cannot** base a doctrine on what has been taught by those who do not have full revelation.

It is true, however, that when a man dies his **thought perish** or his **plans ceases.** Because his life on earth as he knew it is all over. All his plans end abruptly.

Psalms 146:4 CJB

(4) When they breathe their last, they return to dust; on that very day all their plans are gone.

However, it is **not** the end of him. He will still have to face Yah in the end to be judged.

Hebrews 9:27 CJB

(27) Just as human beings have to **die once,** but after this comes judgment.

So, what **does** the scripture say about the consciousness of the soul in the afterlife?

Even thou I did not find a **scripture** that says specifically that the soul is conscious, there **are** example that souls are alive and functional.

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Luke 16:23-24 TLV

(23) And from Sheol, as he [the rich man] was in torment, **he raised his eyes.** And **he sees Abraham far off,** and **Lazarus at his side.**

(24) So he cried out and said, '**Father Abraham,** have mercy on me! And send Lazarus so he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, because I am suffering torment in this flame.'

In this illustration, both, Lazarus, Abraham, and the rich man was alive and communicated with each other. With **full memories** of their past lives.

Yeshua said ELOhim is the ELOhim of the living.

Matthew 22:31-32 TLV

(31) But concerning the resurrection of the dead, haven't you read what was spoken to you by [Elohim] God, saying,

(32) 'I am the [Elohim] God of **Abraham,** and the [Elohim] God of **Isaac,** and the [Elohim] God of **Jacob**'? **He is not the [Elohim] God of the dead, but of the living!"**

Another example is

Revelation 6:9-10 CJB

(9) When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, **I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been put to death** for proclaiming the Word of God, that is, for bearing witness.

(10) They cried out in a loud voice, "Sovereign Ruler, HaKadosh, the True One, how long will it be before you judge the people living on earth and avenge our blood?"

In additional, Yeshua further **attest** to the fact that the soul/spirit is in the hands of the father. When his **body was dying,** he gave his spirit over into the hands of the father, which was **reunited with his body** three days later.

Luke 23:46 CJB

(46) Crying out with a loud voice, Yeshua said, "**Father! Into your hands I commit my spirit.**" With these words he gave up his **spirit.**

Also, when Stephen was martyred, he also gave his spirit into the hands of yeshua.

Acts 7:59 TLV

(59) They went on stoning Stephen as he was calling out, "Lord Yeshua, **receive my spirit!"**

The word spirit in **both** verses is translated from the Greek word **pneuma.**

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Thayer Definition:

G4151 pneuma [pnyoo'-mah]

The soul. the rational spirit, the power by which the human being feels, thinks, decides.

Strong's Hebrew and Greek dictionary Definition:

G4151 pneuma [pnyoo'-mah]

The rational soul, *vital principle*, mental *disposition*, etc.

Therefore, **only** the body dies. The life-giving element, the soul/spirit of man continue to live on in a conscious functional state of mind until the time when it will be **reunited** with the body and the righteous will continue to live on the restored earth that is totally free from sin.

However, the wicked souls will **also reunite with their bodies**, and since their names are not recorded in the book of life, they will experience a **second death**. This time **both** soul and body will be destroyed.

Ezekiel 18:4 CJB

(4) Look, all lives belong to me—both the parent's life and the child's life are equally mine—so it is the person who sins, himself, who must die.

Lesson Five

State Of the Soul After Death

In our study of death and the afterlife there are two things that still trouble us.

1. One is understanding the **state of the soul**. Does the soul sleep or is it awake during the interim between death and resurrection of the body when it will be reunited with it?
2. Is hades/paradise located in heaven where the father's throne is?

First let us take another look at soul.

We have already established that the New Testament describes the soul as

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having the ability to think, reason and make decisions. It is the spiritual part of man that was placed in the body at the time of creation.

The word **spirit** in **Ecclesiastes 12:7** is translated from the Hebrew word **Ruach** and means a **rational being**.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 CJB

(7) **the dust returns to earth**, as it was, and the **spirit** returns to God, who gave it!

Strong's Hebrew and Greek dictionary Definition:

Spirit - H7307 rûach [roo'-akh]. A **rational being** (including its expression and functions): air, anger, breath, courage, and mind.

Webster dictionary.

Spirit is the **soul** of man, An **immaterial** intelligent substance of human beings. Spirit is a substance in which **thinking, knowing, doubting**, and a power of moving do subsist. Hence, **An immaterial intelligent being**.

We know the body is **mortal** and **dies**. However, what many do not know is that the soul is **also mortal** and **can die**, but only by the hand of Elohim.

Matthew 10:28 TLV

(28) And do not fear those who **kill the body** but **cannot kill the soul**. Instead, fear the One who is able to destroy **both soul and body** in **Gehenna**.

Paul said **only Elohim** is **immortal**. Which means everything that he created is subject to death at his will.

1 Timothy 6:15-16 CJB

(15) His appearing will be brought about in its own time by the blessed and sole Sovereign, **who is King of kings and Lord of lords**,

(16) **who alone is immortal**, who dwells in **unapproachable light** that **no human** being has ever seen or can see—to him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

Therefore, the immortality of the soul comes through faith in **Yeshua alone**.

John 3:16 CJB

(16) "For Elohim [God] so loved the world that he gave his only and unique Son, so that **everyone who trusts** in him may have **eternal life**, instead of being

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utterly destroyed.

The **opportunity** to live forever is offered to **everyone**. However, Eternal life will be given **only** to those who accept it **by faint** is Yeshua.

Scripture teaches us that our earthly body **must** return to the earth from which it came.

Genesis 3:19 CJB

(19) You will eat bread by the sweat of your forehead till you return to the ground—for you were taken out of it: **you are dust, and you will return to dust.**"

However, Elohim will give us **new bodies**.

1 Corinthians 15:42-58 CJB

(42) So it is with the resurrection of the dead. When the body is "sown," **it decays**; when it is raised, **it cannot decay**.

(43) When sown, it is without dignity; when raised, **it will be beautiful**. When sown, it is weak; when raised, it will be strong.

(44) When sown, **it is an ordinary human body**; when raised, it will be a body controlled by the Spirit. If there is an **ordinary human body**, there is also a body controlled by the Spirit.

(53) For this **material** which can decay must be clothed **with imperishability**, this which is **mortal** must be clothed with **immortality**.

We know this will all take place when Yeshua **returns** to establish his one thousand years reign. At the end of which judgement will take place.

Hebrews 9:27 CJB

(27) Just as human beings **have to die once**, but after this comes judgment,

This judgement will **not** take place at the time of death, but after the Lord's return. Therefore, **no one** will receive his reward in heaven or his punishment in Gehenna [hell] when he dies.

Yeshua explains this to his disciples when they wanted to know about the end times.

Matthew 24:3 CJB

(3) When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the talmidim [disciples] came to him privately. "Tell us," They said, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that you are coming, and that the `olam hazeh is ending?" [the end

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of the age]

Matthew 25:31,32,46 CJB

(31) "When the Son of Man **comes in his glory**, accompanied by all the angels, he will **sit on his glorious throne**.

(32) All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates sheep from goats.

(46) They will go off to **eternal punishment**, but those who have done what God wants will go to **eternal life.**"

Therefore, **until** the resurrection; **until** the final judgement, our bodies dies but our souls continue to live in a place that yah has prepared for them.

They will remain there **until** they are **reunited** with the bodies because one cannot function properly without the other. Elohim created them to be a unit, united as one.

However, are the **souls sleeping or conscious?**

The doctrine of soul sleep is based on what Solomon and David wrote in the Tanach [Old Testament]. Specifically in **Ecclesiastes 9:5; 12:7, Psalms 146:4.**

These men wrote in a time when **no revelation** had been revealed to man about Yah's process of redemption. These men were **not** told about the resurrection of the body.

Therefore, Solomon advice is to **do everything your heart's desire now** because when you are dead you are done. There is no accountability of your action in the future. There is no judge to face, there is no Gehenna to be thrown into.

Paul is saying the same thing to the Corinthians if there is no resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:32 TLV

(32) If, for human reasons, I fought with "wild animals" at Ephesus, what good is that to me? **If the dead are not raised, "let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"**

So, if death is the end of us, it does not matter if we have faith in the messiah or not.

Listen to what Solomon tells us-

Ecclesiastes 9:5 CJB

(5) For the living know that they will die, but the **dead know nothing**; there is

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no longer any reward for them, because **all memory of them is lost.**

Yes, that is true. The **body** dies and when it does it cannot think. When we die all our earthly plans come to an end. no more jobs, businesses, or any kind of interaction with others. And after a while no one remembers us.

But what about the **soul?** The **immaterial** part of man. It did not come from the earth. Elohim **breathed it** into the body. Therefore, it does **not die** with the body. It continues to exist alive while waiting for the end of this system of evil when the body will be resurrected and become immortal. At that time, **our souls** will come back into the body.

I find no scripture which says the soul continues to live in a conscious state after it leaves the dead body. However, there are examples in the scriptures of those who did.

Yeshua is a very **important example.** He promises the thief that he would be with in paradise [Gan-Eden] the place where righteous souls go.

Luke 23:43 TLV

(43) Yeshua said to him, "Amen, I tell you, today you shall be with Me in **Paradise.**"

Paradise -G3857 - paradeisos

Thayer Greek dictionary Defines paradise as

- 1) a garden, pleasure ground, grove, park.
- 2) the part of Hades which was thought by the later Jews to be the abode of the **souls of pious** until the resurrection.
- 3) heaven

Webster dictionaries define Paradise -par'adise, as

1. a place of bliss; a region of supreme felicity or delight.
2. Heaven, the blissful seat of **sanctified souls** after death.

Thus, according to these definitions yeshua went to the place where righteous souls go after death to wait for the resurrection.

When, yeshua was on the cross he committed his spirit in the hands of his father.

Luke 23:46 CJB

(46) Crying out with a loud voice, Yeshua said, "**Father! Into your hands I commit my spirit.**" With these words he gave up his **spirit.**

Spirit -G4151 pneuma [pnyoo'-mah]

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Thayer Greek dictionary Defines **Spirit** as **the soul**, the **rational spirit**, the power by which the human being feels, thinks, decides.

Strong's Hebrew and Greek dictionary Defines **Spirit** as the **rational soul**, *vital principle, mental disposition, etc.*

Yeshua's **body** died that day. But his **soul** was in his father care. His father placed that soul back into yeshua **immortal** body and brought him out of the tomb on the third day.

Romans 8:11 TLV

(11) And if the Ruach of the One who **raised Yeshua from the dead** dwells in you, the One who raised Messiah Yeshua from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Ruach who dwells in you.

Before his resurrection, Peter said Yeshua went and preached to the spirits of those who died during the flood in Noah time.

1 Peter 3:18-20 TLV

(18) For Messiah once suffered for sins also—the righteous for the unrighteous—in order to bring you to God [Elohim]. He was **put to death in the flesh**, but made **alive by the Ruach**.

(19) Through the Ruach **He also went and preached to the spirits in prison**.

(20) Long ago they **disobeyed** while God [Elohim] kept waiting patiently, in the days of Noah as the ark was being built. In that ark a few (that is, eight souls) were brought safely through water.

However, there **are** people who believe, these spirits were the **angels** that was being held in captivity because they sinned by marrying human women.

One such person is David H Sterns in his JNT commentary. He wrote the following comments about 1 Peter 3:19-20 TLV:

*"Instead of trying to weigh critically the many interpretations of this difficult passage, I present one approach. The **imprisoned spirits** are the "angels who sinned" (2 Pe_2:4) and "abandoned their proper sphere" (Jud_1:6). That is, they are the b'nei-ha'elohim ("sons of God" or "sons of the angels"), also called nefilim ("fallen ones"), who fell to earth from their proper sphere, heaven, and "came in to the daughters of men" **in the days of Noah** (Gen_6:2-4)".*

2 Peter 2:4 TLV

(4) For [Elohim] God did not spare angels when they sinned, but threw them into **Sheol**. He put them in chains of gloomy darkness, to be held until the

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judgment.

Jude 1:6 TLV

(6) And the angels—who did not keep their own position of authority but deserted their proper place—He has kept in everlasting shackles under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great Day.

Genesis 6:2 TS2009

(2) that the sons of Elohim saw the daughters of men, that they were good. And they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

However, whether they were the **fallen angels** or **souls of men who died during the flood**, yeshua went there and spoke to them while **his body** lay in the tomb.

Another example of souls being alive is found in Revelation chapter 6.

Revelation 6:9-11 CJB

(9) When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar **the souls** of those who had been put to death for proclaiming the Word of God [Elohim], that is, for bearing witness.

(10) **They cried out in a loud voice**, "Sovereign Ruler, HaKadosh [Holy One], the True One, how long will it be before you judge the people living on earth and avenge our blood?"

(11) Each of them was given a white robe; and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow-servants should be reached, of their brothers who would be killed, just as they had been.

When we really think about it, **our souls** do not really sleep either. When we go to sleep, sometimes our souls are over the place. We dream and sometimes even have nightmares. Yah told Marian and Aharon that he speaks to the prophets through **dreams**.

Numbers 12:6 CJB

(6) He said, "Listen to what I say: when there is a prophet among you, I, Adonai [Yahweh], make myself known to him in a vision, **I speak with him in a dream**.

So, while the body sleeps, Yah can communicate with our soul or spirit. I have had dreams that happened.

So, there is strong scripture evidence that our souls continue to live. Continue to think and continue to communicate when it leaves the body and returns to the care of the father.

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So let us look **again** at what Solomon said in Ecclesiastes.

Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 CJB

(5) For the living know that they will die, but **the dead know nothing**; there is no longer any reward for them, because all memory of them is lost.

(6) What they loved, what they hated and what they envied all disappeared long ago, and they no longer have a share in anything done under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 TS2009

(7) and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to Elohim who gave it.

And what the psalmist said in psalms 146.

Psalms 146:3-4 CJB

(3) Don't put your trust in princes or in mortals, who cannot help.

(4) When they breathe their last, **they return to dust**; on that very day all their **plans are gone**.

A closer look at these verses indicates that even though these men were great, their knowledge was limited. They knew nothing about the resurrection. The apostle Paul said Yah kept the details of the resurrection **a secret** and revealed them to the apostles and prophets in his day. Yah kept other things a secret from Israel also. He did not tell them that his plans were for us to equally with Israel in the time of Elohim.

That is why it is not safe to develop a doctrine on one scripture verse [sometimes taken out of context] without comparing it with other scripture.

As it has been said: ***"the Old Testament is the New Testament concealed and the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed."***

The bible is one continuous story about Yahweh and his dealing with the peoples he created. It began in Genesis and is progressively unfolding even now. And will continue until the new Jerusalem comes to earth and Yah establishes his kingdom and his dwelling place here on earth with his people forever.

Lesson Six

Where Is Paradise?

Some writers in the Tanach, though that death is the end of man.

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When we look at what job said without the revelation of other parts of scripture, we would have no hope of a future in yah everlasting kingdom.

Job 7:7-9 CJB

(7) "Remember that **my life is but a breath**; my eyes will **never** again see good times.

(8) The eye that now sees me will see me no more; while your eyes are on me, I will be gone.

(9) Like a cloud **dissolving and disappearing**, so he who descends to Sh'ol **won't come back up**.

However, scripture does not teach that **death is the end**. Everyone will need to give an account of how they live before death. Yah is going to reward both the righteous and unrighteous dead after he bring them all back to life again at the coming of the messiah.

At the time of resurrection, the soul will be reunited with the body and the person will **either** enjoy eternity in the new Jerusalem which will come to earth from heaven or be cast into the lake of fire.

Yah will reside in the new Jerusalem here on earth with humanity.

Revelation 21:3 TS2009

(3) And I heard a loud voice from the heaven saying, "See, the Booth of Elohim is with men, and **He shall dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and Elohim Himself shall be with them and be their Elohim.**^b [Lev_26:11-12](#).

Yahweh promised israel that he would dwell with them and walk among them if they obeyed him.

Leviticus 26:11-12 TS2009

(11) 'And I shall set My Dwelling Place in your midst, and My being shall not reject you.

(12) 'And I shall walk in your midst, and shall be your Elohim, and you shall be My people.

Because there is a resurrection and because the soul does not die with the body, there is a lot of speculation as to where the souls **reside while** waiting for the resurrection.

Yah did not consider it necessary to inform us of the exact location of sheol/hades.

Atleast, I have not found it, and from reading other's material, they do not know

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either. However, we know it is located someplace.

In the Tanach it is spoken of as being **located under the earth**. Probably because that is where the dead bodies are placed at death.

Because we have so little information about the **location** of sheol there has been many speculations about its location.

Some people are teaching that the souls of those who were in the paradise section of sheol were taken to heaven with Yeshua when he ascended back into heaven.

Since this teaching is a **misinterpretation of scripture**, we must assume that both sections of sheol is still in place today.

Yeshua's illustration about Lazarus and the rich man is **based on Jewish belief that sheol is divided in two** sections. [Luke 16:23-24] Even though the purpose of the illustration is **not** to teach about **sheol** but about those who love earthly riches. Yeshua did not say that this illustration is a parable, therefore, we cannot discount it as not teaching a biblical truth.

Therefore, what we will do today is **to look more closely** to the definitions of sheol to try to determine that if the souls **are** in heaven which heaven are they residing in.

William Morford in his New Testament notes said Heavens is always **plural in Hebrew**. However, he noted that there are **seven levels of heaven**. Which only **three** are being occupied.

He suggested that the **third levels of occupied heaven** are probably where the apostle was taken [2 cor. 12:2-4]. Among **other things** he said, "**this third heaven is the storehouses of life, of peace and of blessing, where the spirits of the righteous, with which the Lord will hereafter revive the dead.**"

We cannot find any information about the **third heaven** to substantiate this claim or to dispute it.

However, the **third heaven** is also **believed** to be the place where the throne room of Elohim is located. The place where the temple is that yeshua is now ministering as high priest. The temple where yeshua took his own blood to atone for man's sin.

The place where john was taken in **revelation chapter 4** and saw the throne of Yahweh and many other strange creatures.

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Therefore, if we accept the teaching that the **third heaven** is also the place where **souls** are, we must consider the fact, that the **third heaven** is a huge place with **different sections** or communities.

That **within** the **third** section of heaven there is a **special place** for the **father's throne**. A place for **the angels**, and a place for **departed souls** who are waiting for the resurrection as well as **souls waiting to be born**.

We know that sheol/paradise **is a spiritual place**, and a **temporary place** because in the end it will be casted into the lake of fire.

That departed souls are **not in the same location** as the father Yahweh is obvious based on the definition of paradise **verses** the definition of heaven.

The **Hebrew** word for heaven, is **shâmayim [shaw-mah'-yim]**
H8064 BDB Definition:

Shâmayim means **heavens, sky, abode of the stars, Heaven** (as the abode of God)

Shâmayim is **not** the same word used for **paradise/Gan-Eden**. The word **paradise/Gan-Eden** means a delightful garden. A pleasant place where happiness reigns.

Paradise -G3857 - paradeisos

Thayer Greek dictionary Defines paradise as

- 1) a garden, pleasure ground, grove, park.
- 2) the part of Hades which was thought by the later Jews to be the abode of the **souls of pious** until the resurrection.
- 3) heaven

Webster dictionaries define Paradise -par'adise, as

- 3.** a place of bliss; a region of supreme felicity or delight.
- 4.** Heaven, the blissful seat of **sanctified souls** after death.

Therefore, we must consider that **sheol/paradise** is in a **different location** in heaven from where the **father's throne, the ministry of yeshua in the temple, the ministering angels and living creatures are**.

Remember, yeshua **did not say** to the thief on the cross you will be with me in the **shâmayim**. He said you will be with me in **paradise**. The place of departed spirits/souls.

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Yeshua did not go the **shâmayim** until **after his resurrection** when he went into the heavenly tabernacle to be ordained so he could take his blood into the most holy place to atone for our sins. And **forty days** later he ascended back to heaven and sat down at the right hand of the father.

Sometimes when we read things in scriptures, we make assumption based on things we have been taught without really understanding its meaning. One such scripture is

Revelation 6:9-11 CJB

(9) When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw **underneath the altar** the souls of those who had been put to death for proclaiming the Word of God, that is, for bearing witness.

(10) They cried out in a loud voice, "Sovereign Ruler, HaKadosh, the True One, how long will it be before you judge the people living on earth and avenge our blood?"

(11) Each of them was given a white robe; and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow-servants should be reached, of their brothers who would be killed, just as they had been.

I have always assumed that these souls were under the altar in heaven. However, nothing is said here about them being **in heaven**. But being **underneath the altar**, where the blood of sacrificed animals goes. Remember the life of the creature is in the blood. These are the soul who sacrificed themselves for the sake of the gospel.

What is the significant of their **being underneath the altar**?

The actual altar in the Temple in Jerusalem was a huge object, made of cut stone. When sacrifices were offered up to El, the **blood** of the sacrifice was either sprinkled or poured out at the **base** of the altar. Here there was a drain that took the **blood into an underground chamber**, and from there out a tunnel to the fields in the Kidron valley below.

So, when Revelation talks about the souls "beneath the altar," the picture they would get is of this underground chamber below the altar where the blood flowed.

There are two things we can learn from this incident. The souls are conscience after death, and the altar is not necessary in heaven, but is used to demonstrate the significance of the blood of the martyred for messiah's sake.

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So, is paradise in heaven? Perhaps it is, **based** on the apostle Paul's testimony. However, **if** it is in the third heaven it is not in the same section as the throne of the father, Yahweh.

Paul told timothy that the father dwell in **unapproachable light** that **no human** being has ever **seen or can see**—

1 Timothy 6:15-16 CJB

(15) His appearing will be brought about in its own time by the blessed and sole Sovereign, **who is King of kings and Lord of lords,**

(16) **who alone is immortal**, who dwells in **unapproachable light** that **no human** being has ever seen or can see—to him be honor and eternal power. Amen.

Psalm 115 tells us that heaven belongs to Yahweh.

Psalms 115:16 CJB

(16) Heaven belongs to Yahweh [Adonai], but the earth he has given to humankind.

Randy Alcorn in his book entitle "Heaven "call the place where souls go after life, an "intermediate heaven." Though he does not know its **exact location**, he does say that it is a temporary place of abode while waiting for the resurrection. Whether paradise is in heaven or under the earth, one thing is for sure. According to scripture it is a beautiful garden-like place where the spirit/souls of man go after the bodies dies to await the resurrection. It is not a place where souls are sleeping. The apostle Paul said he saw and **heard** things.

Therefore, the location of paradise is not so important. The important thing is to be sure we go there when our life on earth is over. The only way to be sure is to believe in the messiah, yeshua.

As John said.

John 3:16 CJB

""For (Elohim) God so loved the world that he gave his only and unique Son, so that everyone who trusts in him may have eternal life, instead of being utterly destroyed."

Acts 4:12 CJB

(12) There is salvation in **no one else!** For there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by whom we **must be saved!**"

2 Corinthians 5:17 TLV

(17) Therefore if anyone is in Messiah, he is a **new creation**. The old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Only the souls that have been renewed will **live forever**. Yeshua said Yahweh has the power to kill the **soul** in Gehenna. Gehenna is the destination of all whose names are not written in the lamb's [Yeshua] book of life.