

## Christ Descended to the Place of the Dead

As soon as Jesus died on the cross,  
His body was buried, and  
His Spirit went to Hades.

Hades is the place of the dead.

In the Old Testament, it is called *Sheol* (Hebrew);  
in the New Testament, *Hades* (Greek).

Scripture pictures it as a place of darkness.

Before Jesus, the spirits of all those who died went there, both  
righteous and  
wicked.

Before Him, all the dead remained there.

Since Jesus was human,  
He went there as well.

But the Father did not leave Him there:

*You will not abandon my soul to Sheol;*

*You will not allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.* (Psalm 16:10, NASB).

On the third day,  
Jesus' Spirit rose from Hades  
and His body from the grave.

He defeated death and the devil.

He shattered Hades and its hold on  
Him and  
all those who trust in Him.

Thus Jesus' word to us is:

*"Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead,  
and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades."*  
(Revelation 1:17b-18, NASB)

Not all Bible-believing Christians agree on  
all that Jesus did there and  
to whom He spoke.

But 1 Peter seems to indicate that  
He spoke to all the souls held there.

Those who believed His message  
were released from Hades and  
ascended with Him.

*Christ also suffered for sins once for all time, the just for the unjust, so that He  
might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in*

*the spirit; in which He also went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison. (1 Peter 3:18-19, NASB)*

*They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as people, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God. (1 Peter 4:5-6, NASB)*

To me, the scripture seems clear on the following points:

Wherever Jesus goes, He is the  
sovereign,  
all-powerful,  
gracious,  
life-giving Word of God.

That's who He is.

Wherever Jesus goes,

He frees captives.

*"I am the Lord, I have called You in righteousness,  
I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You,  
And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people,  
As a light to the nations,  
To open blind eyes,  
To bring out prisoners from the dungeon  
And those who dwell in darkness from the prison."* (Isaiah 42:6-7, NASB)

*"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
Because the Lord anointed me  
To bring good news to the humble;  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim release to captives  
And freedom to prisoners."* (Isaiah 61:1, NASB)

That's why He came here.

That's who He is.

That's what He does:

Jesus frees completely  
all those who trust in Him.

**Hymn: [Christ Descended and Ascended](#)**

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