

THE HADES REALM FOR THE WICKED

By Keith Greer

Many books have been written by men about "after death" experiences. What happens after death? Let us examine the answer concerning the "**wicked dead**."

Able to recognize and remember. "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'. 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.'" {Luke 16:24-25} God's word tells us that the wicked will be able to know where they are and remember the past. Sadly, they will probably remember the opportunities they had to obey God - but did not!

Torment. According to the preceding verses the wicked will be in a state of torment. Exactly what this torment will be we are not told. Surely it will be a place of no comfort and much anguish. Still, this is not hell, but a small preview of eternal punishment that waits. Whatever this torment encompasses is really immaterial. Why? Just a place of much unpleasantness and no rest, surely this would be enough information to discourage anyone from wanting to end up there.

State is fixed and hopeless. "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." {Luke 16:26} One's condition at the time of death remains fixed. Nothing can be done after death to change the choices we made or didn't make in our lives on earth. The wicked cannot hope for a pardon or reprieve from his fate. No second chances after death. All that awaits the wicked is the knowledge that his sentence when he stands before Christ will be eternal punishment!

Yes, we do not have much information concerning the events following our death and awaiting the final resurrection and judgment. Can we say we have enough understanding to know it's a place one would not desire to go? Seems to me one would do well to avoid such a fate. One can if we make the proper preparations now to avoid such a fate. Dear readers, what kind of preparations are you making for your departure from this life or the Lord's return? Consider carefully! ***