

Christ's Victory in Death and Resurrection

Understanding "He Descended into Hell" in Light of Scripture

Theme Verse:

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"
(John 14:6, NKJV)

1. Where Did Old Testament Believers Go?

- The Old Testament describes the place of the dead as **Sheol**.
 - Sheol had two divisions (Luke 16:19–31):
 - **Paradise / Abraham's bosom** – a place of comfort for those who died in faith.
 - **Torments** – a place of suffering for the unbelieving.
 - A great gulf separated the two.
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2. What Happened When Jesus Died?

- Jesus truly died and went to Sheol—not as a captive, but as the **Conqueror**.
 - He declared victory as the promised Messiah.
 - Scripture says He holds *"the keys of Hades and of Death"* (Revelation 1:18).
 - He "led captivity captive" (Ephesians 4:8–10), bringing the faithful into God's presence.
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3. The Sacrificial System Fulfilled

- Old Testament sacrifices (lambs, bulls, goats) only covered sins temporarily.
 - Jesus offered Himself *once for all* (Hebrews 10:10–12).
 - After His sacrifice, He sat down—signifying the work was finished.
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4. Resurrection Power

- At His death, graves opened; after His resurrection, saints appeared in Jerusalem (Matthew 27:51–53).
 - Jesus is the **firstfruits of resurrection** (1 Corinthians 15:20–22).
 - His resurrection guarantees ours if we belong to Him.
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Key Takeaway

Jesus' descent into Sheol was not defeat but **victory**. He fulfilled God's plan, freed the faithful, and secured eternal life for all who believe in Him.