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## The Unbeliever's Intermediate State

Psalm 49:13-15

### Sheol

The term Sheol basically means underworld, which can refer to the realm of the dead, with an emphasis on punishment, or to the grave. The context of the word must determine its meaning.

#### Punishment for the Wicked

- Deuteronomy 32:21-22
- Psalm 9:17
- Psalm 55:15

#### The Grave

- Genesis 37:35
- Genesis 44:29
- 1 Samuel 2:6

### Hades

- Acts 2:27
- Matthew 11:23
- Luke 16:22-24
- Revelation 1:17-18; 6:7-8; and 20:13-14

## The Believer's Intermediate State

- 1 Corinthians 15:26
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13



- 1 Corinthians 15:56-57

### **Conscious Existence in the Presence of the Lord**

- Psalm 16:10-11
- Luke 16:22a
- Luke 16:43
- Revelation 6:9-11
- 2 Corinthians 5:1-8

### **Purgatory**

In Roman Catholic theology you go to Purgatory to finish the punishment for your sins.

The process of becoming completely righteous is completed in Purgatory.

There is absolutely no biblical support for Purgatory, either the place itself or its supposed function.

### **Other Views of the Intermediate State**

#### **No Pain or Pleasure**

All people, wicked or righteous, go to the same place when they die, and this place is not a place of torment or bliss.

#### **Divided Sheol/Hades**

All people go to Hades, but Hades is divided into two regions, one for the wicked and one for the righteous.

1. It is dangerous to develop doctrine from parables.
2. Nowhere does the Scripture present a divided Sheol or Hades.
  - a. Psalm 9:17
  - b. Proverbs 15:24
3. When Jesus died he liberated the Old Testament saints from their region of Sheol and now that Christ has been raised from the dead, those that die go to be with Christ.
  - a. Psalm 49:10-15



- b. The psalmist is saying is he will not see Sheol at all because he will be with the Lord.

The argument that during the Old Testament period that Sheol was divided into two regions is not persuasive.

## Intermediate State of Infants

We know infants, small children, and others that are older with significant physical and/or mental disabilities are in sin.

1. We know infants are sinful because they die.
2. The bible says infants are sinful. Psalm 51:5, Romans 5:12-14

We must remember that, if infants are in heaven, it is only due to God's grace and the application of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Every single person deserves God's wrath.

## Age of Accountability

Many Christians believe that infants and children are in a state of innocence until they reach what is called the "age of accountability." Deuteronomy 1:39, Isaiah 7:15-16

## All Infants Are Elect

All infants and very young children are part of the elect of God.

1. All persons are born with original sin.
2. God sovereignly elects unto salvation.
3. Salvation is found only in Christ.
4. We face judgment for sinful actions performed while alive. 2 Corinthians 5:10
5. Children cannot commit willful sins until they know the difference between good and evil (the age of accountability).
6. Therefore, since there are no willful sins to judge, all who die before knowing the difference between good and evil cannot be judged so they must be elect unto salvation.

- Ephesians 2:3
- Revelation 20:11-15

See Al Mohler and Danny Akin's article "The Salvation of the 'Little Ones': Do Infants who Die Go to Heaven?"<sup>1</sup>

## All Infants of Believers are Elect

Only children of believers that die in infancy are part of the elect.

- 1 Corinthians 7:14

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<sup>1</sup> Mohler, R. Albert, Jr. and Akin, Daniel L. "The Salvation of the 'Little Ones': Do Infants who Die Go to Heaven?" *Albert Mohler*, <http://www.albertmohler.com/2009/07/16/the-salvation-of-the-little-ones-do-infants-who-die-go-to-heaven>.



- 1 Corinthians 7:16

## Rest in God

Deuteronomy 32:4

We can be certain that the judge of all the earth will do what is right. We may not always know for sure what “right” is, but we can rest in our sovereign God knowing “just and upright is he.” No person will be in hell that does not deserve it, and no one will be in heaven apart from God’s mercy.