



## “He Descended into Hell”

**14 Reasons Creeds Are Important:** (7) Christians do not believe in \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (emotions alone).

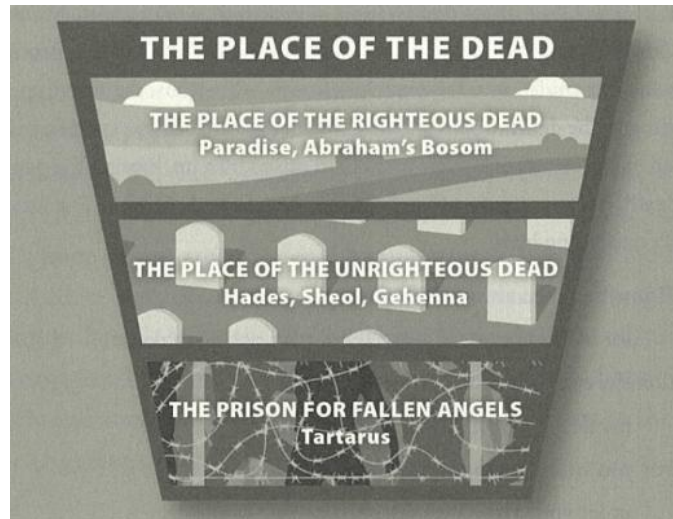
“In a world increasingly inclined to radical subjectivism, creeds and confessions represent a clear assertion of objective reality ... Emotions do play a part in what it means to be a moral person. If I see someone being physically attacked on the street and feel no outrage, then it would be fair to say that there is something morally problematic about me. Yet feelings cannot be the sole guide to morality.” (Carl Trueman, *Crisis of Confidence*)

### History, Vocabulary, and Confusion

“The descent clause of the Apostles’ and Athanasian creeds – ‘he descended into hell’ – has come under fire over the last two decades, primarily from within American evangelicalism.” (Matthew Emerson, *He Descended to the Dead*)

- There are \_\_\_\_\_ questions about when the descent clause was added to the Creed.
- There are \_\_\_\_\_ questions about Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and English terminology.

“The English is misleading, for ‘hell’ has changed its sense since the English form of the Creed was fixed. Originally ‘hell’ meant the place of the departed as such, corresponding to the Greek *Hades* and the Hebrew *Sheol* ... But since the seventeenth century ‘hell’ has been used to signify only the state of final retribution for the godless, for which the New Testament name is *Gehenna*. What the Creed means, however, is that Jesus entered not *Gehenna*, but *Hades* – that is, that he really died.” (JI Packer, *Affirming the Apostles’ Creed*)



- The descent clause does not refer to the “harrowing of hell” – the \_\_\_\_\_ of hell.
- The descent clause does not refer to Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ in hell at the hands of the devil.

### The New Testament

“After Jesus died on the cross and his body was buried in the tomb, where was he? This short statement in the creed reminds us that Jesus, having truly died, was in what both the Old and New Testaments describe as the realm of the dead. The Hebrew word from the Old Testament is *sheol*, and the Greek word from the New Testament is *hades*. In both cases this refers to the temporary realm of the dead who are awaiting final judgment.” (Albert Mohler, *The Apostles’ Creed*)

- The New Testament tells us that after his death and before his resurrection, Jesus’ physical body was buried and his soul went to the \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 16:19-31, Acts 2:22-31 (Psalm 16:8-11), Romans 10:7, Ephesians 4:7-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22, 4:6, 2 Peter 2:4 (Jude 1:6), Revelation 1:18).
- Jesus proclaimed \_\_\_\_\_ to the righteous dead, the unrighteous dead, and the spirits being kept in chains (1 Peter 3:18-4:6, Philippians 2:10).
- Jesus transformed “Abraham’s bosom” from a place of waiting to a place of experiencing Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 5:6-8, Ephesians 4:7, Philippians 1:23).

### Application (Matthew Emerson, *He Descended to the Dead*)

- The descent and \_\_\_\_\_.
- The descent and \_\_\_\_\_.