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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Nether Parts of the Earth.

(2013)

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But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Nether Parts of the Earth.

Topics.

- Nether parts of the earth and Pharaoh king of Egypt (Ezek. 31:14-18).
 - Nether parts of the earth (Ezek. 32:18).
 - Nether parts of the earth (Ezek. 32:24).
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NOTE: the purpose of this document is not to do an in depth study on each topic, but simply to focus on the expression, "The nether parts of the earth" and discover if it is linked to eternal torment.

Nether Parts of the Earth and Pharaoh King of Egypt.

Ezekiel in the following verses is comparing the glory of Pharaoh the king of Egypt to the glory of trees that grow by the water. In the beginning of this chapter the LORD tells Ezekiel to tell Pharaoh King of Egypt and his multitude that the Assyrian was a cedar in Lebanon with branches so high that the Assyrians height was exalted above all the trees of the field and there was no tree in the garden of God like unto him in his beauty. (Ezekiel 31:1-13).

- The cedar tree symbolises the Assyrians.
- The trees in the field symbolises all the surrounding nations.
- Trees that grow by water flourish and grow to great heights they symbolise God's blessing and God's favour.

Ezekiel tells Pharaoh king of Egypt because the Assyrians heart was lifted up in extreme pride the LORD brought him to ruin and delivered him to the: -

- *Nether parts of the earth* (to the world below in the ESV) in the midst of the children of men, with them that go down to the *pit* (Ezek. 31:1-15)

And now in the following verses Ezekiel speaks as the voice of the LORD to Pharaoh king of Egypt saying: -

Ezekiel 31:15-17 ----- ¹⁵Thus saith the Lord God; In the day when he (the Assyrian) went down to the *grave* I (God) caused a mourning: I covered the *deep* for him and I restrained the floods thereof, and the great waters were stayed: and I caused Lebanon to mourn for him and all the trees of the field fainted for him ¹⁶I made the nations to shake at the sound of his (the Assyrian) fall, when I cast him down to *hell* with them that descend into the *pit* and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, shall be comforted in the *nether parts of the earth* (to the world below in the ESV). ¹⁷They also went down into *hell* with him (the Assyrian) unto them that be slain with the sword; and they that were his arm, that dwelt under his shadow in the midst of the heathen.

Now the LORD shifts His focus from the Assyrian to Pharaoh King of Egypt: -

Ezekiel 31:18 ----- ¹⁸To whom art thou (Pharaoh King of Egypt) thus like in glory and in greatness among the trees of Eden? Yet shalt thou be brought down with the trees of Eden unto the *nether parts of the earth* (to the world below in the ESV) thou shalt lie in the midst of the uncircumcised with them that be slain by the sword.

Nether: from Strong's Concordance means the lowermost, in this context it carries the idea of the lower parts of the earth or depths of the earth which refers to the grave. The grave in certain verses is sometimes called: -

- The nether parts of the earth and the earth beneath.
- The world below and the deep.
- The depth of the earth, the pit and hell.

All these are different titles for the grave. Ezekiel in this chapter is saying that all those slain by the sword will be brought down to the nether parts of the earth meaning down to the grave the abode of the dead. Trees that grow by the water grow into awesome glorious creations, but no matter how glorious the tree grows, in the end it dies and ends up in the nether parts of the earth with everything else that has decayed and died. Trees in this context are symbols of glory, but in the end they die and go down to the nether parts of the earth meaning they rot and decay away. It does not matter how glorious the tree is, it still goes down to the nether parts of the earth with everything else that has died.

These verses are teaching that no-matter how great, famous or powerful a man is, without God they will ultimately end up in the nether parts of the earth with the wicked. The nether parts of the earth is the same place as the deep, hell, sheol and hades the pit, and the world below, they are all titles for the same place; which is the grave the abode of the dead.

The meaning of hell: from the Strong's Concordance refers to the place where the wicked are sent it means the grave; the pit; the abode of the dead and a place of no return. Figuratively it carries the idea of extreme degradation in sin. The word hell in the Old Testament is the English translation of the Hebrew word sheol which means grave and in the New Testament hell is the English translation of the Greek word hades which also means the grave. Sadly because the Hebrew word sheol and the Greek word hades meaning the grave has been translated to the English word hell many have been taught that it means those outside of Christ will exist in some form of conscious spirit state and be painfully and cruelly tortured by eternal evil spirit creatures called demons in a place full of fiery flames which will forever burn their bodies for all eternity so that they will never be free of the most extreme agony. This is a gross misunderstanding of the Hebrew word sheol and the Greek word hades and a gross miss-representation of the nature and character of God.

Following are four reasons this theory of hell (the grave) may have come about: -

1. In the 325 A.D. when the Roman papal church had power over the state and certain bishops at the Council of Nicea determined what the official doctrines of the Christian faith would be they then set about aggressively enforcing them onto society by torturing, imprisoning and burning at the stake those who held a different view to the doctrines they had officially stamped to be the only true doctrines of the Christian faith. One of these doctrines is the traditional teaching of hell that many believe today (i.e., eternal torture in hell for all eternity).
2. This sadistic teaching of hell that proclaims all who die outside of Christ will in some form of conscious spirit state suffer eternal torture, pain and extreme agony in a place full of demons and fiery flames for all eternity may have been introduced to scare people into the church. It is almost certain this is one of the reasons it has continued throughout history and very rarely been questioned by ministers and leaders of certain churches.
3. Those who formed this inhuman brutal and extremely violent teaching of eternal agony in flaming fire not only had a total lack of the meaning of the Hebrew word sheol and the Greek word hades, but also had a total lack of understanding the nature and character of God.
4. When the bishops of the Roman papal church established the doctrine of eternal torment they were influenced by the teachings of pagan religions that existed amongst them at that time.

Whatever the reason and there are no-doubt many other possible scenarios both the Hebrew word sheol and the Greek word hades refer to mortal death in the grave.

When the word eternal is added to the word hell it carries the idea of eternal death (i.e., total extinction) for all who are cast into the Lake of Fire (a symbol of eternal death) also called the Second Death.

(Rev. 2:11) (Rev. 20:6) (Rev. 20:14) (Rev. 21:8).

For further information see the title: -

- Torment and Tormented in, Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Nether Parts of the Earth.

Ezekiel 32:18 ----- ¹⁸ Son of man, wail for the multitude of Egypt, and cast them down, even her, and the daughters of the famous nations, unto the *nether parts of the earth* (to the world below in the ESV) with them that *go down into the pit*.

Ezekiel is told that God is about to cast Egypt and her multitudes down to the nether parts of the earth meaning God is about to destroy Egypt and all the nations affiliated with them so there will be wars, battles and enormous death which shows that the expression, cast down to the nether parts of the earth means multitudes will be killed and go down to the grave. Nether parts of the earth is the same place as the deep, hell, sheol, hades, the pit, and the world below these are all titles for the same place (i.e., the abode of the dead the grave).

Nether Parts of the Earth.

Ezekiel 32:24 ----- ²⁴ There is Elam and all her multitude round about *her grave* all of them slain, fallen by the sword, which are gone down uncircumcised into the *nether parts of the earth* (to the world below in the ESV) which caused their terror in the land of the living; yet have they borne their shame with them that *go down to the pit*.

In certain Scriptures the pit, grave, hell and the nether parts of the earth are: -

- Personified as a person with a hungry mouth feeding off the dead.
- Personified as place where famous and powerful kings are waiting in excitement to receive other famous kings.
- The literal place (i.e., the grave) where every wicked person is buried.

Nether parts of the earth Old and New Testament means the lowest part or depths of the earth it is the same as the grave, the pit, hell, sheol and hades.

The focus of this study has been upon the expression, "The nether parts of the earth" and its purpose was to discover if it is linked to eternal torment. These are the only three verses that use the term the nether parts of the earth and not one of them is linked to eternal torment or even teaches or implies eternal torment.

For further information see the titles:-

- Lofty and Figurative Language of the Bible.
- Personification in the Old and New Testament.

Both titles are in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

End