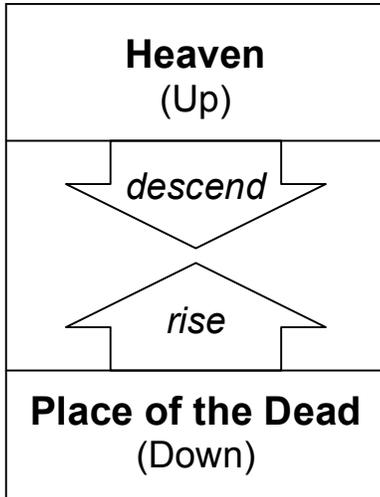


# "HEAVEN" VS. "THE PLACE OF THE DEAD" IN SCRIPTURE

TWO OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS: UP VS. DOWN

USED CONSISTENTLY IN : OLD TESTAMENT, NEW TESTAMENT, AND APOCRYPHA



## 1 Thessalonians 4:13, 16-18

(Jesus comes down from heaven, the dead rise up from earth)

"We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope ... For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will **descend** from heaven, and the dead in Christ will **rise** first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words."

## Psalms 30:3 (Going down in death, rising up in resurrection)

"O Lord, you brought **up** my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone **down** to the Pit."

## The Biblical Contrast of Up and Down - Opposite Directions

*(Heaven is always described as being "Up"; the Place of the Dead (Sheol/Hades) is always "Down")*

"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be **deep** as Sheol or **high** as heaven." (Isaiah 7:11)

"Though they **dig** into Sheol, from there shall my hand take them; though they **climb** up to heaven, from there I will bring them **down**." (Amos 9:2)

"Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty? It is **higher** than heaven – what can you do? **Deeper** than Sheol – what can you know?" (Job 11:7-8)

"The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings **down** to Sheol and raises **up**." (1 Samuel 2:6)

"As the cloud fades and vanishes, so those who go **down** to Sheol do not come **up**." (Job 7:9)

"For he afflicts, and he shows mercy; he leads **down** to Hades in the **lowest** regions of the earth, and he brings **up** from the great abyss, and there is nothing that can escape his hand." (Tobit 13:2)

"You have power over life and death; you lead mortals **down** to the gates of Hades and back again." (Wisdom 16:13)

"You **raised** a corpse from death and from Hades, by the word of the Most High." (Sirach 48:5)

"Perhaps you would have said to me, 'I never went **down** into the **deep**, nor as yet into Hades; neither did I ever **ascend** into heaven.'" (2 Esdras 4:8)

"You, Capernaum, will you be **exalted** to heaven? No, you will be brought **down** to Hades." (Mt. 11:23)

"The righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, 'Who will **ascend** into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ **down**) "or 'Who will **descend** into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ **up** from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you..." (Romans 10:8)

"When it says, "He **ascended**," what does it mean but that he had also **descended** into the **lower** parts of the earth? He who **descended** is the same one who **ascended** far **above** all the heavens, so that he might fill all things." (Ephesians 4:9-10)

"He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' This Jesus God **raised** up, and of that all of us are witnesses, being therefore **exalted** at the right hand of God... (Acts 2:31-33)

## The Height of Heaven: God's Dwelling Place

"When you look **up** to the heavens and see the sun, moon, and stars, all the host of heaven..." (Deut 4:19)

"It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go **up** to heaven for us ..." (Deut. 30:12)

"The cry of the city went **up** to heaven." (1 Samuel 5:12)

"If I am a man of God, let fire come **down** from heaven and consume you" (2 Kings 1:10)

"He looked **down** from his holy height, from heaven the LORD looked at the earth" (Psalm 102:19)

"Who has **ascended** to heaven and come **down**?" (Proverbs 30:4)

"Her judgment has reached **up** to heaven and has been lifted **up** even to the skies." (Jeremiah 51:9)

"Let us lift **up** our hearts as well as our hands to God in heaven." (Lamentations 3:41)

"**Under** the whole heaven there has not been done the like ... (Baruch 2:2)

"Who has gone **up** into heaven, and taken her, and brought her **down** from the clouds?" (Baruch 3:29)

"Glory to God in the **highest** heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" (Luke 2:14)

"Peace in heaven, and glory in the **highest** heaven!" (Luke 19:38)

"This happened three times; then everything was pulled **up** again to heaven." (Acts 11:10)

"I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught **up** to the third heaven" (2 Cor. 12:2)

"I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming **down** out of heaven from God" (Revelation 21:2)

## The Depth of Sheol/Hades: The Place of the Dead

"I shall go **down** to Sheol to my son, mourning." Thus his father bewailed him. (Genesis 37:35)

"If harm should come to him... you would bring **down** my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol." (Gen 42:38)

"A fire is kindled by my anger, and burns to the **depths** of Sheol" (Deuteronomy 32:22)

"Act according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go **down** to Sheol in peace." (1 Kings 2:6)

"Will it go **down** to the bars of Sheol? Shall we **descend** together into the dust?" (Job 17:16)

"Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol; Death shall be their shepherd; straight to the grave they **descend**, and their form shall waste away; Sheol shall be their home." (Psalm 49:14)

"Her house is the way to Sheol, going **down** to the chambers of death." (Proverbs 7:27)

"They do not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the **depths** of Sheol." (Proverbs 9:18)

"You are brought **down** to Sheol, to the **depths** of the Pit." (Isaiah 14:15)

"Mortals die, and are laid **low**; humans expire, and where are they? ... so mortals lie **down** and do not rise again; until the heavens are no more, they will not awake or be roused out of their sleep. O that you would hide me in Sheol" (Job 14:10-13)

"They have vanished and gone **down** to Hades, and others have arisen in their place." (Baruch 3:19)

"My soul drew near to death, and my life was on the brink of Hades **below**." (Sirach 51:6)

"The Lord himself will give them good counsel; but if he chooses otherwise, he casts **down** to **deepest** Hades." (Tobit 4:19)

"Jesus said to her, "Your brother will **rise** again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will **rise** again in the resurrection on the last day." (John 11:23-24)

"Sleeper, awake! **Rise** from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." (Ephesians 5:14)

"Death and Hades gave **up** the dead that were in them." (Revelation 20:13)

"Jesus said: 'Will you be **exalted** to heaven? No, you will be brought **down** to Hades. Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.'" (Luke 10:15-16)