



Teaching Moments

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Comparing English Translations

~ Original Languages Have Subtle Nuances We Can Potentially Miss In Translations ~

~ Old Testament (Hebrew) ~

Psalm 16:10 (KJV)

For thou wilt not leave my soul in **hell**;
Neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Psalm 16:10 (NIV)

because you will not abandon me to the **realm of the dead**,
nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

Psalm 16:10 (ESV)

For you will not abandon my soul to **Sheol**,
or let your holy one see corruption.

~ New Testament (Greek) ~

Acts 2:27 (KJV)

Because thou wilt not leave my soul in **hell**,
neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Acts 2:27 (NIV)

because you will not abandon me to the **realm of the dead**,
you will not let your holy one see decay.

Acts 2:27 (ESV)

For you will not abandon my soul to **Hades**,
or let your Holy One see corruption.

When studying passages about “hell” in the Bible it is important to notice that multiple words in Greek and Hebrew that can be translated as “hell”. These words include *Sheol*, *Hades*, and *Gehenna*. Studying the background and context of these words can be informative for our understanding of “hell”. Furthermore, there are synonyms for the word “hell” in scripture like the “lake of fire”.

Exploring Bible Passages

~ Some Key Observations Regarding How The Bible Talks About Hell ~

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

- “Sheol” ≈ “Hades” – commonly referencing the location where dead people are gathered (Ps 16:10; Acts 2:27)
- “Hades” will be thrown into the “lake of fire” (Rev 20:14)
- The ultimate destination we commonly refer to as “hell” is the referenced as the “lake of fire” (Rev 20:10, 15)
- Hell is a place of eternal punishment (Matt 25:41, 46; Rev 20:10)
- The word “Gehenna” is frequently translated in English as “hell” (Matt 10:28)
- “Gehenna” is based on the real physical location called “Valley of Hinnom” outside Jerusalem (Jer 7:31, 19:2-6)
- “Gehenna” ≈ “lake of fire” – both receive similar descriptions as places of eternal fire (Mk 9:43-48)
- “Gehenna” is a location associated with idolatry, wickedness, sin, and fire (Jer 7:31, 19:2-6)
- Rebellious people create a hellish physical place called “Gehenna” on the earth (Jer 7:31, 19:2-6; Jam 3:6)
- The “lake of fire” will be eternally quarantined and distanced from God’s presence (1 Thess 1:9; Rev 21:22-27, 22:14-15)