

# **PERSONAL ESCHATOLOGY**

January 2025

## **INTRODUCTION**

What is meant by “**Personal Eschatology**”?

- **Personal** — The word “personal” signifies that the focus is on an individual rather than all of humanity, or God’s plan for the world.
- **Eschatology** — The word “eschatology” signifies that the focus is on what the ultimate end or destiny is of individuals.

## **KEY WORDS**

### **I. DEATH**

#### **A. The Meaning Of Death.**

##### **1. The Biblical Words for Death.**

- a) Old Testament, Hebrew: Verb — *muth*: to die, to be killed. Nouns — *maweth*: death; *mōth*: death. Together 1033 times.
- b) New Testament, Greek: (1) *teleutā* (Mt 2:15); (2) *anaireō* (24x abolish; kill; put to death; take away); (3) *thanatos* (*noun*, 120x, death, the extinction of life); (4) *thanatoō* (*verb*, 11x, kill; put to death); (5) *apokteinō* (*verb*, 74x, kill; put to death.); (6) *eschatōs* (*adj*, 1x, to be in the last extremity).

##### **2. The Concept of Death in the Ancient World** — Not extinction; various concept of “death.”

##### **3. The Biblical Idea of Death.** (See the next point)

#### **B. The Three Aspects Of Death: Physical, Spiritual, And Eternal.**

1. Physical — separation of the body and the spirit or soul.
2. Spiritual — separation between man and God.
3. Eternal — 2nd death; permanent.

### **II. ETERNAL LIFE**

#### **A. What It Is Not** — not continual existence of the spirit; A state or condition of a spirit.

#### **B. Eternal.**

1. This is a tricky word because of how it is used so imprecisely.
2. Old Testament (Hebrew) — two main words: ‘OLĀM (439x), and QEḂEM (61x).
  - a) ‘**olam** — ancient; eternal; everlasting; forever.
  - b) **qedem** — ancient; east; long ago.
3. New Testament (Greek) — aiōnios (*adj*, 71x) indeterminate as to duration, eternal, everlasting → eternal.
  - a) (1) **Fire** — Mt 18:8; 25:41, 46; Jud 7; (2) **Life** — Mt 19:16, 29; 25:46; Mk 10:17; Lk 10:25; 18:18, 30; Jn 3:15, 16, 36; 4:14, 36; 5:24, 39; 6:27, 40, 47, 54, 68; 10:28; 12:25, 50; 17:2, 3; Acts 13:46, 48; Rom 2:7; 5:21; 6:22, 23; Gal 6:8; 1Tm 1:16; 6:12, 19; Tit 1:2; 3:7; 1Jn 1:2; 2:25; 3:15; 5:11, 13, 20; Jud 21; (3) **Condemnation/Judgment** — Mk 3:29; 10:30; Heb 6:2; (4) **Home** — Lk 16:9; (5) **Time** — Rom 16:25 (see Gk); 2Tm 1:9; (6) **God** — Rom 16:26; (7) **Weight of glory** — 2Cor 4:17; 2Tim 2:10 (*glory*); 1Pt 5:10 (*glory*); (8) **Things not seen** — 2Cor 4:18; (9) **Building from God** — 2Cor 5:1; (10) **Destruction** — 2Th 1:9; (11) **Consolation** — 2Th 2:16; (12) **Power** — 1Tm 6:16; (13) **Receive** — Phlm 15; (14) **Salvation** — Heb 5:9; (15) **Redemption** — Heb 9:12; (16) **Spirit** — Heb 9:14; (17) **Inheritance** — Heb 9:15; (18) **Covenant** — Heb 13:20; (19) **Kingdom** — 2Pt 1:11; (20) **Gospel** — Rev 14:6.
4. Summary of Eternal

#### **C. Life** — not existence; several different aspects.

#### **D. Summary**

### **III. THE INTERMEDIATE STATE**

#### **A. The Intermediate State Is That State Of Existence After Physical Death And One’s Final Destiny.**

#### **B. Terms “Hell” And “Heaven” In Relation To The Intermediate State.**

#### **C. Differences In The Intermediate State.**

#### IV. HEAVEN & HELL

##### A. Heaven

1. What Is Heaven?
  - a) Hebrew *SHAMAY* (421x); almost always plural, "heavens".
  - b) Greek *ouranos* (281x) — 94 plural, 76 of those are in the Gospels or Hebrews (Mt 56, Mk & Lk 10, Heb 10).
2. Heaven as the Abode of God.
3. Heaven Should Not Be Thought of as the Final Destination of the Believer.

##### B. Hell

1. Many Misconceptions About "Hell".
2. English Bible
3. Translations
  - a) Hebrew *SHE'OL*; Greek *geenna*, *gehenna* and *tartaroō*.
4. The Basic Sense in Which "Hell" Is Used:
  - a) **Judgment** (Dt. 32:22; Psa. 9:17; Psa. 55:15; Prov. 15:11; 23:14; 27:20; Ezek. 31:15, 16, 17; 32:21, 27; Matt. 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 12:5; James 3:6).
  - b) **Of death & the grave** (Ps 139:8; Prov 15:24; Isa 14:9; Hab 2:5).
  - c) **A wicked place** (Prov 5:5; 7:27; 9:18).
  - d) **Depths of the earth** (Amos 9:2)
  - e) **Holding place for the rebellious angels** (2Pt 2:4).

#### V. SHEOL

##### A. The Hebrew Word.

1. "Sheol" = "the realm of the dead".
2. **Used 65 times** — Gen 37:35; 42:38; 44:29, 31; Num 16:30, 33; Dt 32:22; 1Sam 2:6; 2Sam 22:6; 1Kgs 2:6, 9; Is 5:14; 14:9, 11, 15; 28:15, 18; 38:10, 18; 57:9; Ezk 31:15-17; 32:21, 27; Hos 13:14; Amos 9:2; Jonah 2:3; Hab 2:5; Psa 6:6; 9:18; 16:10; 18:6; 30:4; 31:18; 49:15-16; 55:16; 86:13; 88:4; 89:49; 116:3; 139:8; 141:7; Job 7:9; 11:8; 14:13; 17:13, 16; 21:13; 24:19; 26:6; Prov 1:12; 5:5; 7:27; 9:18; 15:11, 24; 23:14; 27:20; 30:16; Song 8:6; Eccl 9:10
3. **Distribution** — Gen 4, Num 2, Dt 1, 1Sam 1, 2Sam 1, 1Kgs 2, Isa 9, Ezk 5, Hos 2, Amo 1, Jon 1, Hab 1, Ps 16, Job 8, Pro 9, Song 1, Eccl 1.

##### B. Selected Passages

- |                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Gen 37:35           | 11. Psa. 30:3   |
| 2. Num. 16:30          | 12. Psa. 31:17  |
| 3. 2Sam. 22:6          | 13. Psa. 49:14  |
| 4. Is. 14:9            | 14. Psa. 55:15  |
| 5. Is. 57:9            | 15. Psa. 86:13  |
| 6. Ezek. 31:15, 16, 17 | 16. Psa. 139:8  |
| 7. Ezek. 32:21, 27     | 17. Job 24:19   |
| 8. Amos 9:2            | 18. Prov. 1:12  |
| 9. Jonah 2:2           | 19. Prov. 23:14 |
| 10. Psa. 16:10         |                 |