

## The Apostles' Creed He Descended into Hell

Psalm 22:1-24 ❖ Mark 15:33-41



### Jesus Went Where?!

In the old red Presbyterian hymnbook, the words to the Creed are printed. There is an \_\_\_\_\_ after the phrase, "He descended into \_\_\_\_\_." The footnote reads: "Some churches \_\_\_\_\_ this."

This phrase wasn't in the Creed when it was first used in \_\_\_\_\_ A.D. though it was often mentioned in the writings of the early Church \_\_\_\_\_. It was added to the Creed by Christians in France around \_\_\_\_\_ A.D.

The Bible describes hell as: the lowest \_\_\_\_\_; the darkest \_\_\_\_\_; remembered by \_\_\_\_\_ no more; the heart of the \_\_\_\_\_.

Where was Jesus' spirit and what was He doing \_\_\_\_\_ the time He died on the cross and the moment of His resurrection? The early Christians searched the \_\_\_\_\_ for the answer.

### Biblical Evidence

- 1) "Jesus said, 'For as Jonah was \_\_\_\_\_ days and \_\_\_\_\_ nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be \_\_\_\_\_ days and \_\_\_\_\_ nights in the heart of the \_\_\_\_\_'" (Matthew 12:40).
- 2) "At the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a \_\_\_\_\_ voice, 'My God, My God, why have You \_\_\_\_\_ me?'" (Psalm 22:1, Mark 15:34)

- 3) "The LORD has \_\_\_\_\_ despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; He has \_\_\_\_\_ hidden His face from Him but has \_\_\_\_\_ to His cry for help" (Psalm 22:24).
- 4) "What does 'He ascended' mean except that He also \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_, earthly regions?" (Ephesians 4:9)
- 5) "Through His spirit Christ also went and \_\_\_\_\_ to the spirits in \_\_\_\_\_" (1 Peter 3:19).
- 6) "Jesus said, 'I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the \_\_\_\_\_ of death and \_\_\_\_\_'" (Revelation 1:18).

### Two Possibilities

- 1) Jesus literally went to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ from God for a time.

### What It Means for Us

"Jesus descent into hell was the first act of His \_\_\_\_\_, in which He vindicated His triumph over \_\_\_\_\_ - not only in our world but also in the world \_\_\_\_\_ ours." (Martin Luther)

"Surely no more terrible \_\_\_\_\_ can be conceived that to feel yourself forsaken and estranged from \_\_\_\_\_; and when you call upon Him, not to be \_\_\_\_\_." (John Calvin)

"We cannot fathom what it would be like to lose not just \_\_\_\_\_ love that had lasted many years, but also the love of the \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus had from all eternity." (Tim Keller)

"Jesus decided He would rather go to hell \_\_\_\_\_ you than to heaven \_\_\_\_\_ you." (Max Lucado)

### Takeaway

When Jesus cried out from the cross, "My God, My God, why have \_\_\_\_\_ forsaken \_\_\_\_\_?" the answer was so God would never forsake \_\_\_\_\_!