

examined according to its usage. First of all, it means the grave, the state of death, which includes the ideas of physical dissolution and destruction. Secondly, it means the place or state to which persons, without regard to their moral character, pass at death. And thirdly, it means the place or state to which wicked persons pass at death. Most of the usages appear to refer to death or the grave. Three representatives of this usage are Genesis 42:38, Psalm 49:14, and Hosea 13:14.

Genesis 42:38 tells us of Jacob's concern for his son Benjamin:

He said, "My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he is left alone. If mischief befall him by the way in which ye go, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to *Sheol*."

Psalm 49:14 speaks of that event which comes to the wise and foolish alike:

Like sheep they are laid in *Sheol*; death shall feed on them, and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in *Sheol* from their dwelling.

Hosea 13:14 predicts the ultimate restoration of Israel:

I will ransom them from the power of *Sheol*; I will redeem them from death. O death, I will be thy plagues; O *Sheol*, I will be thy destruction; repentance shall be hidden from mine eyes.

Examples of the third usage, the place or state to which wicked persons pass at death, are more difficult to find. Perhaps the following would fit this meaning:

Psalm 9:17 -- "The wicked shall be turned into *Sheol*, and all the nations that forget God."

Proverbs 15:24 -- "The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from *Sheol* beneath."