

textual reading is not *Hades*, but *Thanatos* (Θάνατος). Thus the better reading would translate "Where, O death, is your victory; where, O death, is your sting?" Thus this reference does not provide us with information on *Hades*.

Revelation 1:18 -- "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen, and have the keys of *Hades* and death."

This could be a reference to the idea expressed in Rev. 3:7, that it is Christ "who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens." Or it could imply that Christ locks the wicked into *Hades* and opens the gates of death at the resurrection; or it could simply refer to the keys as a symbol of Christ's authority over *Hades* and death. The last of the three would seem to pose the fewest problems.

Revelation 6:8 -- "And I looked, and behold, a pale horse, and his name that sat on him was Death, and *Hades* followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth."

Death is personified here, and *Hades* seems also to be personified. Death and *Hades* are able to overpower one-fourth of the inhabitants of the earth during this period when a temporal expression of the wrath of God is poured out upon mankind.

However, since Death and *Hades* are personified here, this usage would not seem to tell us much about the Intermediate State, unless one takes this in connection with Matthew 16:18, in which case one could say that those who are overpowered by the gates of *Hades* in this instance are wicked persons, since those gates cannot prevail over the members of Christ's Church.

Revelation 20:13-14 -- "And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and *Hades* delivered up the dead that were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and *Hades* were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire."

This passage, together with its context, gives us some useful information. Those who are judged at this "great white throne" judgment are the wicked dead, and their names are not found written in the book of life.