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petition for anything. (2.) To ask for the purpose of borrowing, or to solicit advice; and (3.) The general abode of the dead. In the last sense it is used sixty-six times in the Old Testament, thirty-two of which have been translated hell, thirty-one grave, and three pit. The first, meaning, to pray for, petition, or ask, has been supposed to have some reference to the state of the dead, "from the notion of demanding, since rapacious Orcus lays claim unsparingly to all; or, as others have fancifully construed it, the object of universal enquiry, the unknown mansion, concerning which all are anxiously inquisitive." But, however that may be, it is clear that there can be no mistake about the last of the three meanings. This region was, doubtless, shadowy and full of gloom, pervaded by darkness, its awful silence unbroken; and through its subterraneous domains flitted the unsubstantial *manes* of the dead; but it was a land of spirits notwithstanding, and formed the abode of all who passed from earth by death. Of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, Moses said that the earth should "open her mouth and swallow them up," and that they should "go down quick into the pit," *i.e.*, they should descend alive into *Sheol*.* In the rejoicing of Hannah at having given birth to a son, she exclaims, "The Lord killeth and maketh alive, he bringeth down to *Sheol* and bringeth up."† When David had handed over the government to his son Solomon, he informed him that he was about to die, and "go the way of all the earth;" and in charging him what to do, he desires him not to let the hoary head of Joab go down to *Sheol* in peace;‡ and to bring down the hoary head of Shimei to *Sheol* with blood.§ In Job the ways of God are declared to be as high as heaven and deeper than hell,|| *i.e.*, higher than the fretted canopy of stars, and deeper than *Sheol*, the innermost recesses of the earth. Job prays to God to hide him in *Sheol* till His wrath be past, in a most remarkable passage, since it seems to imply his belief in some kind of resurrection from the land of death.

* Numbers xvi., 30.

† 1 Samuel ii., 6.

‡ 1 Kings ii., 6.

§ 1 Kings ii., 9.

|| Job xi., 8.