

Hades (not Hell) to which our Lord descended is referred to in Zachariah as "the pit." "As for thee also by the blood of thy covenant, I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water." Zach. ix. 11. When Christ died He descended into the place of departed spirits, and despoiled Satan of the keys of death and Hades, and swept triumphantly through the prison gates with His redeemed people, and the way into the Holiest being opened up by His death, Christ's people go no more to Hades, but direct to the Lord Himself. Hence Paul's comforting statement, that when "absent from the body" we are "present with the Lord."

We know full well from Scripture, that Christ is not now in Hades, and we know also, on the same sure and certain authority, that for one of Christ's people to die now is to go to where He is and be with Him, and can it be doubted that Christ has His Old Testament Saints also with Him?—"The spirits of just men made perfect." Imperfect in their condition before, but now consequent upon accomplished redemption made perfect. Christ holds the keys of death and Hades and when He despoiled Satan it was not, we may rest assured, to turn the key of Hades again upon His Old Testament people, but to lead out a multitude of captives.

Until the death of Christ, Satan had the power of death (Goliath of Gath held the sword) but we see from Heb. ii. 14, that Christ died, "that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the Devil," (Goliath's weapon was taken from him,) and the despoiling of Satan is referred to by the Lord in the 11th of Luke, where He