

A. Nature of Eschatology:

1. Definition: study of εσχάτος/ον = last = end of what?
 - a) individual = end of personal life (present and intermediate state)
 - b) general/cosmic eschatology = end of human history & final state focus
- a. OT: ushers in the Day of the Lord, Restoration of Israel, New Covenant, Holy Spirit, New Heavens and Earth, Messiah, Kingdom of God
= all in one moment = concentrated esch. = compression
- b. NT: Still have present age but the “End Time” stretched out and bordered by the comings of Christ. Old age not yet gone, new age (Age to Come) already here = tension...

Therefore = multifaceted fulfillment of coming of Messiah = at least dual fulfillment of coming of Messiah, or separate phases, or grow to fruition...

Matt 12:22ff. = if (lit. since) I cast them out by the Spirit of God, then the **kingdom is upon you...** yet “may it come” ...also Matt 4 = it is near

HC 123 = 2nd request, rule us by word and submit, **more and more**

Oscar Culman: V-Day, D-day.

2. What is the starting point?

Hoekema only in redemption: p.4 = expectation of redeemer = Gen 3:15; = hope vs.

Could it begin in creation: movement from garden to city, Sabbath to eternal Sabbath, tree of life = probation to higher state

= movement from posse non peccare; non posse peccare = not possible to sin

= redemption does not just move us back to creation, but higher creation....

Gen 1,2 hints that we were created for more...

In New Order = not just first creational intents, but also fulfillment of redemption...fulness of both;

B. Individual Eschatology

1. Immortality:

- a. **Platonic View:** inherent indestructibility of the soul; Before and after life in body because it is part of over-soul.
- b. **Biblical View:** ἀθανασία used 17x, 7x in 1 Cor 15 (people here);

When: the great resurrection

What: its not immortality of the soul that is conferred, but immortality of body (Hoekema) and soul = whole person = new mode of existence ... (not saying that soul isn't intermediate state)

Who: the dead of whom Paul is speaking...

Belgic Confessions 37: the wicked ones made immortal but only to be tormented = eternal change need for eternal punishment

What is lost in the Fall: Original possibility not to die... and we will receive non posse mori, our immortality (full-orbed), only in the End.

Bavinck: In Scripture life is never merely ongoing existence and extinction; on the contrary, life includes communion with God and death means the loss of his grace and blessing.

C. Intermediate State: The abode of all the dead disembodied souls/spirits upon physical death. Much of this is exegeted out of Wisdom Literature, and Hebrew cosmology neither purely literal, nor merely symbolic. A real place described in images. Progressive Rev of Sheol = growing clarity.

a.

Early OT

Late OT (=ve aspects applied)

Land of the Living
+ve aspects of living stressed

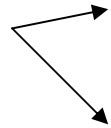


Life in service of Θ

Life in service of sin

vs. (contrast makes it neg.)

Realm of the dead (sheol)
-ve aspects of death



Life in service of Θ = hope of deliverance introduce

Life in service of sin = perishing

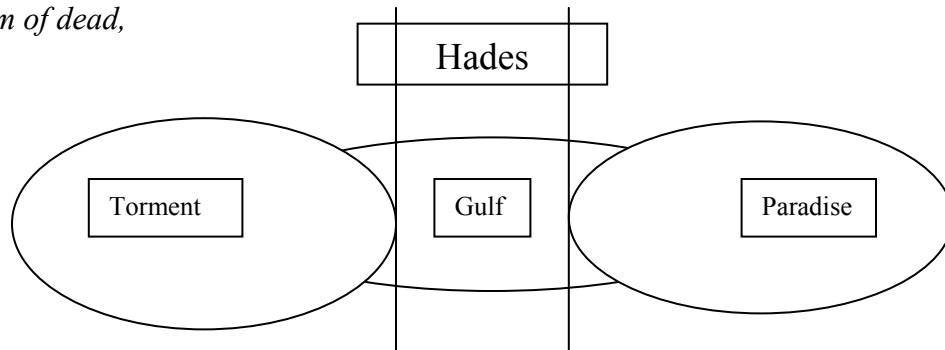
b. Inter-testamental

Sheol: divided into geographic sections: *greater distinction of those perishing & hope!*

c. NT:

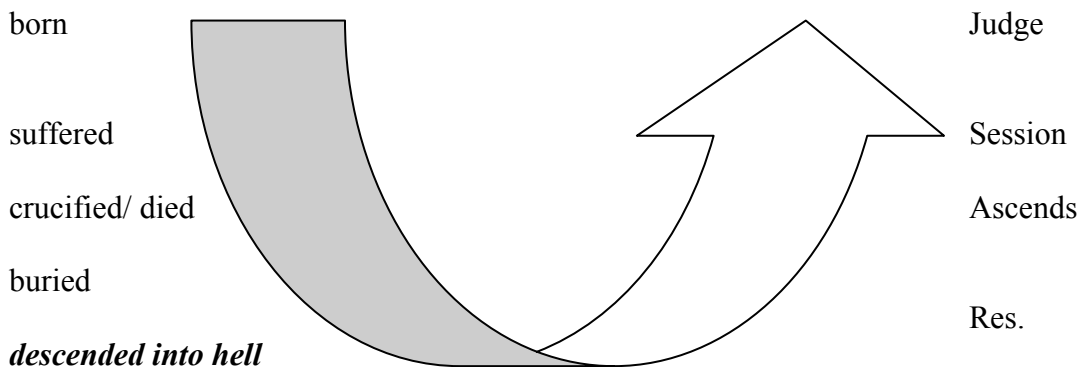
Realm of the dead described into distinct sections: torment region and the paradise region. Gulf dividing the regions.

Bavinck: provisional state of bliss with X in heaven, so too unbeliever, place of torment, but not gehenna yet because eternal torment; and not contradicting the fact that they are all in *realm of dead*,



So in the intermediate state (HADES) of overlap, not yet gehenna, and Xns not yet in new heavens and earth (= full presence when full humanity meets full divinity and God dwells with). Is heaven, but not new heaven.

d. X in Intermediate State: Apostles Creed Chronology of Hum/Exalt



HC Q44: Why is it added: "He descended into hell"?

A44: That in my greatest temptations I may be assured that Christ my Lord, by His inexpressible anguish, pains and terrors, *which He suffered in His soul on the cross* and before, has redeemed me from the anguish and torment of hell.[1]

The HC is Biblical but not historical. Historically the creed adds this because He descends into “inferna/os” = original Latin, translated Hades in Gk. Also Christ rose from “the dead” (region), not “he rose from death”. In the Bible Acts 2:25, quoting Ps 16: Still experiencing death until he comes out of Hades, “It is finished” was just end of earthly. Still going through death until resurrected... “ Enters presence of Father IN INTERMEDIATE STATE!!! He goes through IS for us!! He already died death of extreme gehenna before/ in death...in IS he is in paradise side of sheol...

C. Annihilationalism

Traditionalist	Annihilationist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sheep/goats parallel “eternal” = both same - why create image of God, - annhil...burden of proof - seriousness of sin - Satan, angels, false prophet, tormented day and night, why not those who followed - hell is just, eternal hell is then also just - biblical language of <i>απολυμι</i> does not seem to suggest concept of “non-being” ; but separation X suffered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - punishment not fit the crime - OT uses of eternal/everlasting - distinction between person and place - consumptive imagery - God all in all (final victory argument of Stott) - destruction and perishing in NT = consumed

D. General Eschatology:

Q. Mill. (only in Rev 20 (6X)) Before or after second coming?

1. **Pre-Mill** = prior to millenium is Christ's return: a) historic b) dispensational
 - a. Historic Premill: Christ returns (resurrects, transforms, raptures first believers) and establishes his reign on earth for a 1000y of history, and then the end will come (Satan defeated, 2nd resurrection of millenial converts)! Historic because it has earliest tradition in church history.
 - b. Dispensational Pre-mill: As above but with 7 year tribulation right after the rapture but before the millenial kingdom.

Difficulties for Pre-Mill.

- a) Boettners: still death and sin and evil, and the consequences of the fall in the millenium kingdom, mixture of transformed body and not, but Jesus lived with us 40 days...
- b) Millunium: *tertium quid*, biblical evidence is two ages. Is there a tweener stage? Only evidence is one interp of Rev. 20.
- c) Why need a thousand years of history after Christ returns, what purpose does this serve, Rev 19, and 20 are not necessarily historically sequential.

2. **Post-Mill** = after mill. Christ will return, this begins either in Christ's first coming or at some point in church history.

- a. Classic Postmill: very much like premill but before 2nd coming, but difference is Christ does reign from heaven now, though not physically.
- b. Amill: the rapture is about Christ, we're just the welcoming party going out to meet. The rapture focuses on Christ coming to earth (no U-turn rapture).