



Death and Hell Followed Him

(Rev 6:8) And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell 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.

Last month, in the January 2013 Artios Letter, I introduced the word thanatos, which means, the state of death. Today's topic comes to us from Revelation 6:8 and again refers to this same Greek word. Also, the Greek word haides is used, and, both together, show us the exact meaning of each.



Just who is riding on this pale horse?

Death rode upon this pale horse. More aptly put, 'the state of death' rode upon this pale horse. As we read further, we see that power was given unto this rider (and others with him) to kill with sword, hunger, thanatos—the state of death, and with the beasts of the earth. This reference to death is specifically to the state of it.

The state of death can be brought on by many things, including the sword, hunger, death itself, and

beasts.

What I found fantastically interesting was how the word 'hell' was coupled with this in the same verse. The state of death rode on a pale horse, and hell followed. What does this mean? Hell is translated from haides, a Greek word meaning, 'the grave.' Can you imagine this? If you were watching this procession, you would first see the state of death riding towards you on a pale horse. Then, just behind, you would see the grave following it. First, the people will die; second, they will be placed in graves.

There are five verses in the Bible which contain both words,

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thanatos and haides, together.

(1 Cor 15:55) O death [thanatos], where is thy sting? O grave [haides], where is thy victory?

Let's translate these words with their true meanings. "O state of death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" First, the state of death appears. Then, the grave follows.

We are already familiar with the next verse, which contains both Greek words.

(Rev 1:18) I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell [the grave] and of death [the state of death].

The third time these two words appear together is in the theme verse of today's study.

(Rev 6:8) And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death [the state of death], and Hell [the grave] 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 [the state of death], and with the beasts of the earth.

Here, the state of death comes first, and then, the grave.

(Rev 20:13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death [thanatos – the state of death] and hell [haides – the grave] delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

I hope the differences between the state of death and the grave (location of the dead body) are becoming clear. When God uses

such words like this together, it seems apparent that he wants us to understand them.

The sea, often used for burial, will give up its dead. The state of death and the graves, world over, will deliver up their dead. Death, in every form, will not exist at this particular time, thus allowing the judgment.

Finally, the last time both Greek words appear together.

(Rev 20:14) And death [thanatos – the state of death] and hell [haides – the grave] were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

To me, this is one of the most beautiful verses in the entire Bible. Here, we find that, both, the state of death, and the grave will forever be destroyed. This is called the second death. They shall never again wield their

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power over man or beast or plant, or living being. Can you imagine?

(Rev 6:8) And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell 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.

Let's review this verse with the literal substitution for the words we are studying. "And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was the state of death, and the grave 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 the state of death, and with the beasts of the earth."

Today's study took us into a seldom discussed topic of God's Word. While we were initially working to determine if there was a hell, we learned some great truths about death and the grave. I'm sorry that I wasn't able to expose a place to you such as hell, but I simply can't find it in God's Word. I really tried though. What I was able to show you was that there is an entity called death – the state of death; and a place called the grave – where bodies are placed after they die. The book of Revelation is highly interesting. Fortunately, we won't have to experience the trauma of the state of death riding upon a pale horse with the grave following for we will already be with Christ, seated in the heavenlies, looking down on this world. Isn't it great that we made him our lord?!

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown