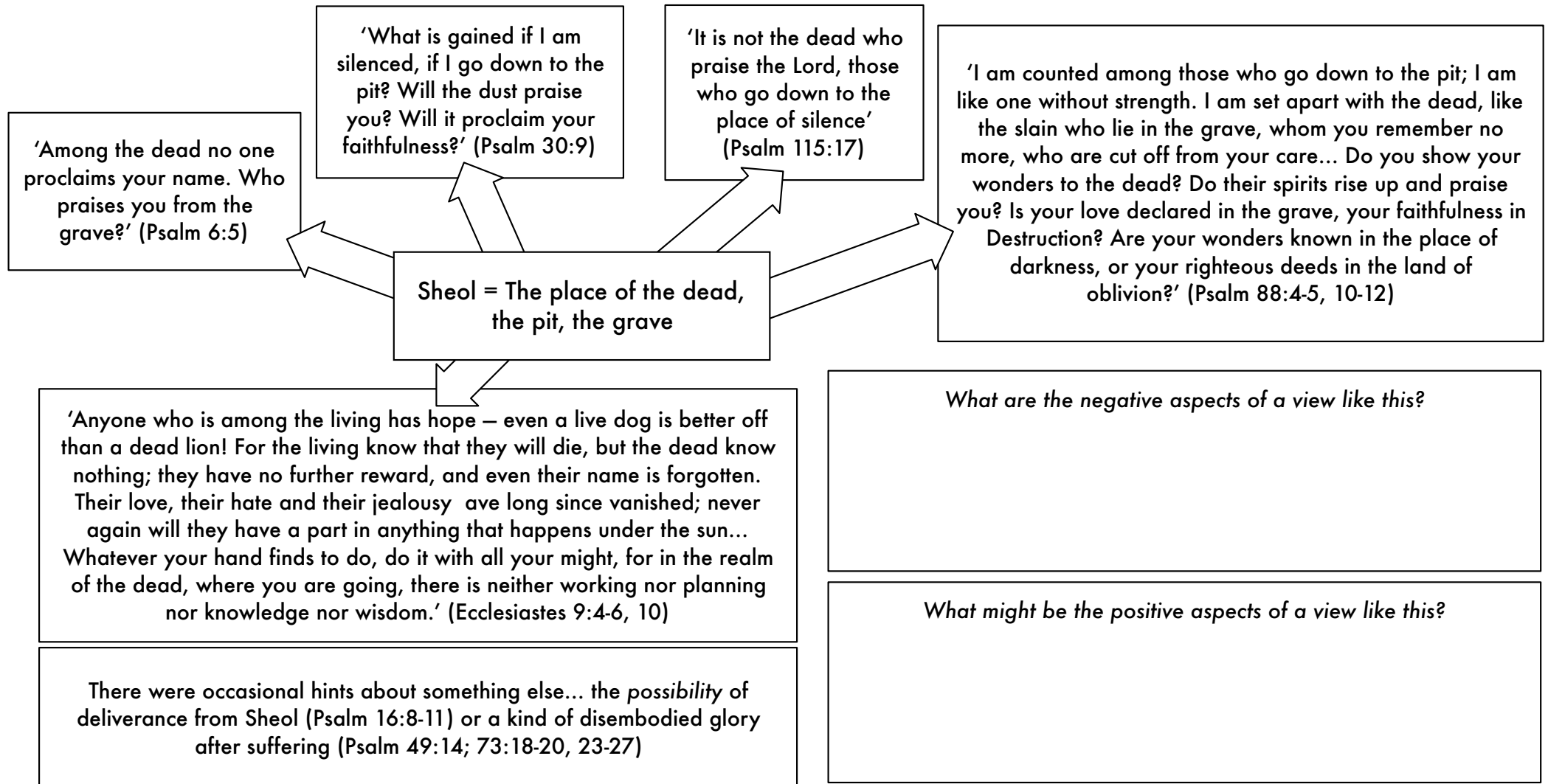


Session 2: Resurrection and Judgment

In this second session, we consider how the Old Testament prophets thought about salvation, the eternal destination of humanity, and the fate of the world. In particular, we look at some of the difficult passages that talk about resurrection and judgment.

Resurrection and Judgment

What does the Old Testament teach about life after death?



Resurrection and Judgment

Hints of resurrection...

'On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare
a feast of rich food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine—
the best of meats and the finest of wines.

On this mountain he will destroy
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears
from all faces;

he will remove his people's disgrace
from all the earth.

The Lord has spoken.

In that day they will say,

"Surely this is our God;

we trusted in him, and he saved us.

This is the Lord, we trusted in him;

let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

(Isaiah 25:7-8)

Complaint:

'O Lord our God,
other lords besides you have ruled over us,
but your name alone we bring to remembrance.
They are dead, they will not live;
they are shades, they will not arise;
to that end you have visited them with destruction
and wiped out all remembrance of them...

Like a pregnant woman
who writhes and cries out in her pangs
when she is near to giving birth,
so were we because of you, O Lord;
we were pregnant, we writhed,
but we have given birth to wind.
We have accomplished no deliverance in the earth,
and the inhabitants of the world have not fallen.

Answer:

Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise.
You who dwell in the dust,
awake and sing for joy!
For your dew is a dew of light,
and the earth will give birth to the dead.'

(Isaiah 26:14, 17-18, 19)

'At that time your people shall be
delivered, everyone whose name shall be found
written in the book. And many of those who sleep
in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to
everlasting life, and some to shame and
everlasting contempt. And those who are
wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky
above; and those who turn many to
righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.'

(Daniel 12:1-3)

'See, I will create new heavens and a new earth.
The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind. But be glad and
rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will
create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a
joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take
delight in my people; the sound of weeping and
of crying will be heard in it no more.'

(Isaiah 65:17-19)

Resurrection and Judgment

Cosmic judgment and the coming of the Lord

'See, the day of the Lord is coming – a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger – to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it.

The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light...

I will make the heavens tremble; and the earth will shake from its place at the wrath of the Lord Almighty, in the day of his burning anger.' (Isaiah 13:9-10, 13)

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'All the stars in the sky will be dissolved and the heavens rolled up like a scroll; all the starry host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shrivelled figs from the fig tree.' (Isaiah 34:4)

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'Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail.' (Isaiah 51:6)

Exercise: Read Exodus 19 and write down all of the ways it talks about God coming in judgment. Note in particular dramatic imagery, and anything that explains the purpose or result of His judgment.

Resurrection and Judgment

Cosmic judgment is often for intrahistorical events

Exercise: Compare how 2 Samuel 22 and Psalm 18 portray the same event in differing ways.

Exercise: Compare how Exodus 14 and Exodus 15 portray the same event in differing ways.

Passage	Elements	Context
Isaiah 13	Noise, stars and sun darkened, heavens tremble, earth shakes,	Judgment upon Babylon
Isaiah 34	Stars dissolved and fall, heavens rolled up like a scroll, sword descends on Edom, streams turned to sulphur	Judgment upon the nations
Ezekiel 32	Heavens covered, sun, moon and stars darkened	Judgment upon Egypt
Amos 8	Sun fails, land darkened, famined in the land	Coming day of YHWH
Joel 1-2	Agriculture fails, noise, heaven and earth shake, sun moon and stars darkened, blood fire and smoke, moon turned to blood	Coming day of YHWH

Resurrection and Judgment

Cosmic judgment is for the healing of the world

Sun, Moon and Stars	Fire		
Examples: Isaiah 13:9-13; 34:4-5; 51:6 Jeremiah 4:23-28; Joel 2:30-31; 3:15-16; Ezekiel 32:7-8; Habakkuk 3:10-11, etc	Isaiah 1:	Zechariah 13:	Malachi 3-4:
Isaiah 24: v1-20 - Judgment on the Earth. Curse, desolation, shaking, split apart and staggering v21-23 - Corresponding judgment between heaven and earth. Personification of celestial beings.	v22 - Israel's silver became dross through injustice v25-27 - Removal of dross V31 - Destruction of evil(doers)	v1-2 - Fountain for cleansing. Removal of idols and uncleanness v9 - Refining by fire, leading to salvation.	3:2-3 - Refining the levitical priesthood 4:1-2 - Destruction of evil(doers) leading to salvation

Healing of the world		
Psalm 104: v1-30 - God's normative relationship to the Earth. It will never be moved (v5). v32-35 - Trembling and smoke - temporary shaking of creation to rid it of wickedness Psalm 96: V9-10 - Earth trembles but shall not be moved. V11-13 - Creation celebrates God's judgment	Haggai 2: V6 - God will shake the heavens, earth and sea. V21-22 - He will destroy kingdoms, chariots and armies. V7-9 - The result is that the temple will be filled with treasures, splendour and peace.	Isaiah 2: v1-4 - God's Temple Mount elevated above all other mountains. V12-16 - Judgment upon trees of Lebanon and ships of Tarshish Isaiah 60: Temple rebuilt with the trees of Lebanon (v13), Exiles return on ships of Tarshish (v9), Jerusalem filled with the wealth of nations (v5-6, 9, 11, 17)