

I want to return now to the main thread that I left off a couple of months ago about developing views of the afterlife in ancient Judaism and then in early Christianity.

I didn't actually leave that thread - I simply moved deeper into a specific aspect of it. If you'll recall, the broader thread is simply about where the modern notions of heaven and hell came from; the specific aspect I've been covering involved the "otherworldly journeys" that you find in pagan, Jewish, and Christian traditions. These journeys are of particular interest to me, since I am planning to write a scholarly discussion about them. And while I was thinking through how I wanted to frame my study, I decided to devote a number of posts to the issue. But enough of that! I'm ready to return to the main thread.

For that thread, here's the deal. In our own world ...

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