

THE ABYSS, HELL, HADES & THE LAKE OF FIRE

I. The Bottomless Pit (The Abyss)

A. Various Names

1. The Abyss

Scripture Luke 8:31 (ESV)

And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.

2. Prison

Scripture 1 Peter 3:19 (ESV)

in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison,

3. Chains Under Darkness

Scripture 2 Peter 2:4 (ESV)

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

- The word “hell” is translated from “tartarus,” which means a prison of custody or gloomy dungeons.

4. The Bottomless Pit

Scripture Revelation 9:1-5 (ESV)

¹ And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. ² He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft. ³ Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. ⁴ They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵ They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone.

B. The Purpose

- It refers to the prison of disobedient or fallen angels.
- The demons have a great dread of being sent to the Abyss.
- It is full of smoke and fire.
- During the Tribulation, the demons will be released by Satan to torment humanity.
- During the millennial reign of Jesus, Satan will be bound with a chain and cast into it.

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Scripture Revelation 20:1-3

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. ² And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, ³ and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

II. Hades (Hell)

A. Various Names

1. Hades (Hell)

- The word "Hades" is the Greek word for the realm of the dead.

2. The Deep (Abyss)

Scripture Romans 10:7 (ESV)

“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

- The phrase “the deep” or “the abyss” refers to the grave or Hades. It literally means the “Place of the Dead.”
- It should not be confused with the “Bottomless Pit” or “the Abyss,” which is the prison for fallen angels.

3. Sheol (The Grave)

- The Hebrew word "Sheol" that is used in the Old Testament to describe the place of the dead.

B. Purpose

- It is not the final punishment of the wicked.
- It is not purgatory as taught in Roman Catholicism.
- In the story of the rich man and Lazarus, it is described as having two parts.

Scripture Luke 16:22-23 (ESV)

²² The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

- It will give up its dead to stand in judgment before the Great White Throne.

Scripture Revelation 20:13-14 (ESV)

¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in

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them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

- Hades or Hell and death will be thrown into the Lake of Fire.

III. The Lake of Fire

- The Lake of Fire is only mentioned in the Book of Revelation.

Scripture Revelation 20:14-15 (ESV)

¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- It is the place of eternal punishment for all unrepentant rebels, both angelic and human.

Scripture Matthew 25:41 (ESV)

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

- It is described as a place of burning sulfur, and those in it experience eternal, unspeakable agony of an unrelenting nature.
- It is also called the Second Death.