

Doctrine of Tartaros

1. This doctrine will answer the question. "To which spirits did our Lord preach in hell?"

2. The Doctrine of **Tartaros** is a study of a special coterie of fallen angels confined in a place called **Tartaros** and translated in 1Pe 2:4 "hell."

2Pe 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell (**Tartaros**), putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment;

3. Let's start at the beginning with Satan's plan to corrupt civilization and abrogate God's grace plan of salvation.

Gen 6:1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

Gen 6:2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

3.1 Some number of fallen angels elected to leave their first estate, i.e., their angelic form and take on that of man. This was done for the purpose of cohabiting with the fair ladies of earth in order to impregnate them. The result would be a half angel and half man. Ergo a hybrid would be incapable of salvation. Given our knowledge of Satan's table of organization we must conclude these fallen angels, like all fallen angels were under the authority of Satan.

Gen 6:3 And the LORD said My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

3.2 These sordid events took place 120 years before the flood.

Gen 6:4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

3.3 It is here mythology comes to our aid. There are many myths handed down from generation to generation of super creatures like Hercules, Apollo, Jupiter, Jason, etc. These creatures were capable of super human feats. Could these creatures have been real, or were they mythology?

Gen 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Gen 6:6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

Gen 6:7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

Gen 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

3.4 God clearly took note of Satan's nefarious plan to corrupt civilization.

Gen 6:9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

3.5 Noah was said to be a just man and perfect in his generation says Gen 6:9. A better translation would be "Noah was ... perfect in his genetic make-up." He and his family had not been corrupted by Satan's insidious plan.

Gen 6:10 And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Gen 6:11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

Gen 6:12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

Gen 6:13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

3.6 God, after seeing the work of Satan and his subalterns, decided: "the earth will be destroyed by water and Noah and his family will be instructed to build an ark. It will soon rain for the very first time. The enormous band of water surrounding Planet Earth would soon descend in torrents."

Gen 6:14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

Gen 6:15 And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.

4. Noah in 2Pe 2:5 was said to be "a preacher of righteousness." His preaching was not to evangelize but to announce "there would soon be rain." Noah made clear in his preaching just what was about to take place and that he was following God's orders.

2Pe 2:5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

5. Just what will become of the fallen angels who sinned just before the flood can only be ascertained by an analysis of several related New Testament Scriptures.

6. Let's begin our search by defining the word **Tartaros**. Zondervan in his lexicon has written "**Tartaros**, translated in the Latin '*Tartarus*,' which in the mythology of the ancients was that part of Hades, where the wicked were confined and tormented ..."

7. Paul needed a word to describe the place of punishment selected for the demons, who left their first estate, in order to impregnate the women of Planet Earth. Satan had devised what he thought was a perfect plan. “A hybrid creature could not be saved.”

8. Satan did not foresee the faithfulness of Noah and his family—eight people perfect in their generations. We can only conjecture the pressure they must have been under.

9. The best way to continue our analysis of where the demons would be placed and what ramifications their imprisonment would have on future events is best determined by a review of several New Testament passages and a couple of charts.

2Pe 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell (**Tartaros**), and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;
2Pe 2:5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

10. Clearly, these two verses give us insight as to the timing of the acts of angelic infamy. Clearly, these events took place just before the flood.

1Pe 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:
1Pe 3:19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;
1Pe 3:20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

11. Christ is said to be empowered by the Holy Spirit for His trip to **Tartaros**, where He preached to the evil spirits imprisoned in a place of darkness until the judgment day. Apparently these demons will be released during God’s judgment of earth. We will see more of these events later. The time of their release will take place during the Tribulation.

Jude 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

12. Let’s review what we know about the acts of Christ during His three days in the grave.

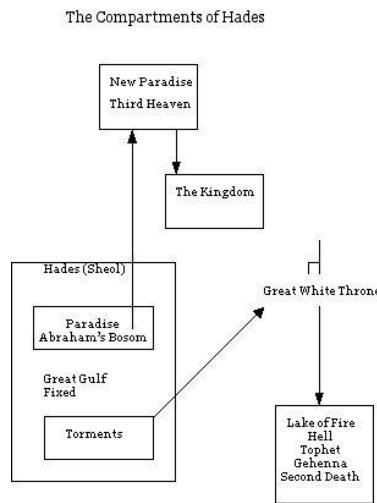
Eph 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Eph 4:9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

Eph 4:10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

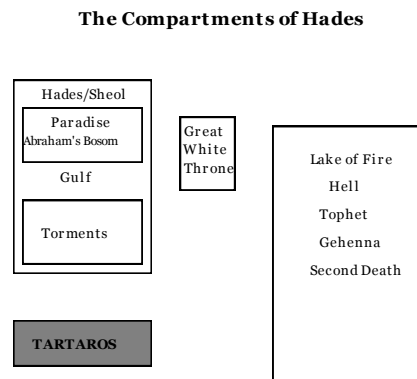
13. During the three days in the grave Christ made two trips. He went to **Sheol**, or **Hades** as it is also called, to transport the souls of the believers from paradise to heaven. He also went to **Tartaros** to let the “Genesis Six Gang” (those who had attempted to corrupt civilization) know that His victory was complete.

14. **Sheol** is a duplex, where on one side we find the beggar Lazarus being comforted by Abraham, and on the other side we find the rich man in terrible pain and suffering, and begging for a return trip to earth to warn his brothers. Let’s first look at a chart describing the compartments of **Hades**, with comment.



15. The Scriptures teach us that Christ went to **Hades** to transport the believers, resident in **Sheol** in the bosom of Abraham, to the New Paradise. Whether Christ went first to **Hades** is not known. It is possible He went to **Tartaros** first and then **Hades**. What we do know, with a great deal of certainty, is that He did go to **Sheol** and **Tartaros** during His three days in the grave.

16. The trip to **Tartaros** was made to tell the “Genesis Six Gang” “the conflict is over and He is victorious.”



17. Now let’s see what future events await these special demons inhabiting **Tartaros**.

18. Recall Jude 6 where we learn the “Genesis Six Gang” is reserved in everlasting chains ... until or unto the judgment of the great day.”

Jude 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

19. Let’s look at Rev 9:1-11 by which some have concluded the “Genesis Six Gang” is part of Satan’s Tribulation force.

Rev 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

Rev 9:2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

Rev 9:3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Rev 9:4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

Rev 9:5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

Rev 9:6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

Rev 9:7 And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.

Rev 9:8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.

Rev 9:9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.

Rev 9:10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.

Rev 9:11 And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

20. The purpose of the locusts would seem to be to punish the earth. I have attempted to shed some light on their role by going to the *Revelation of John*.

21. The locusts are a visual presentation of demons running amok on Planet Earth. It has been written “they are uncanny denizens of the abyss, locusts of a hellish species, animated by devilish instincts and equipped with infernal powers.”

21.1 Another has written "... the locust army is a symbolic representation of judgment of a superhuman kind ... The locusts are commanded, probably by God not to hurt the grass of the earth or any green thing, or any tree, but only men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads."

22. It would seem the locusts here represent a divine judgment upon a wicked world. They torment men in a way comparable to the torment of a scorpion. All except the sealed of God are subject to their torment. The torment is rather a judgment upon those who reject Christ.

23. The graphic description of the torment is compared to that of a scorpion's sting. Scorpions in some places grow so large that their venom has been known not only to be painful but even fatal to infants, the aged and the infirm.

24. The torment is said to last five months; the best interpretation would seem to be a literal five months. Five months is said to be the time when the locusts commit their ravages. Five months may be symbolic of "a short time."

25. This is a horrible picture of a pervasive supremacy of demons to such an extent that men are dominated in agony of body. The natural plagues described by the first four trumpets are now joined by a torment of demons.

26. Rev 9:1-2--Scripture and comment

Rev 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

Rev 9:2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

26.1 John devotes more space to this "woe" than to all the preceding judgments combined.

26.2 The star falling from heaven, to whom was given the key of the pit of the abyss, is "a fallen angel, an instrument of carrying out God's purpose with reference to the ungodly world." Most agree the "evil angel" who opens the pit is Satan himself. This is pretty much a given and most grace scholars provide little argument otherwise. The abyss is a place, but what place is the question?

26.3 Could this be **Tartaros**, the place of confinement for the angels who sinned just before the flood or is it just a special abyss where reserve forces of Satan are made to reside until needed? I believe the coterie is in fact the "Genesis Six Gang."

26.4 Let's continue by looking at a description in summary fashion of what they do.

27. Rev 9:3-10--Scripture and comment

Rev 9:3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Rev 9:4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

Rev 9:5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

Rev 9:6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

Rev 9:7 And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.

Rev 9:8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.

Rev 9:9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.

Rev 9:10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.

27.1 From the abyss Satan releases creatures described as locusts (v 3) having great power; they are allowed to torment men (though not to kill them) for a period of five months (v 5).

27.2 So intense will be the suffering that men will seek death (v 6).

27.3 Locusts are used in the book of Joel as a symbol of an invading army.

Joe 2:25 "I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten -- the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and *the locust swarm -- my great army that I sent among you.*

Joe 2:26 You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed.

Joe 2:27 Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed.

27.4 Men are likened to locusts in Jdg 6:5. They are symbols of divine judgment in Deu 28:38.

Jdg 6:5 For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and *they came as grasshoppers (NIV-locusts)* for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it.

Jdg 6:6 And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.

Deu 28:38 You will sow much seed in the field but you will harvest little, because *locusts will devour it.*

Deu 28:39 You will plant vineyards and cultivate them but you will not drink the wine or gather the grapes, because worms will eat them.

27.5 It is not possible here to examine each descriptive phrase, but we must come to some conclusion as to what these creatures represent.

28. Rev 9:11--Scripture and comment

Rev 9:11 And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit (NIV-Abyss), whose name in the Hebrew tongue is **Abaddon**, but in the Greek tongue hath his name **Apollyon**.

28.1 Etymology may help us identify the one who falls and those who are released to do the will of God.

28.2 We need to see what we have for **Abyss**, **Abaddon** and **Apollyon**. **Abyss** is **Abussos** in the Greek and can be found nine times whereas **Abaddon** and **Apollyon** are hapax legomena, i.e., they only appear once in the New Testament.

29. Etymology

29.1 The Greek **Abussos** is a word for “without depth” or “infernal abyss.” It comes from the Greek **Buthos** or **Bathos** meaning “depth” or “sea.” I want to review three uses of **Abussos**.

Rev 11:7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the **bottomless pit** shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them (*a reincarnated Elijah and Moses*).

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the **bottomless pit** and a great chain in his hand.

Rev 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

Rev 20:3 And cast him into the **bottomless pit**, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

29.2 With a great deal of certainty we can conclude Satan, when Christ returns at the Second Advent, will be placed in **Tartaros** with his “Genesis Six Gang”--this from a literal reading of Rev 20:1-3.

29.3 The Greek **Abaddon** is of Hebrew origin meaning a destroying angel. The Greek **Apollyon** means a destroyer and it comes from the Greek verb **Apollumi** meaning to destroy fully.

30. We are told in Rev 9:11 that over the creatures in the bottomless pit is the angel of the abyss, called in the Hebrew, **Abaddon**, and in the Greek, **Apollyon**. Both mean “the destroyer,” a fitting description of Satan.”

30.1 Satan and his gang are released at the end of the Tribulation for one last try at defeating a reigning Jesus.

31. Now let’s see what Walvoord has to say in his book *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*.

31.1 “The star here mentioned ... seems to refer to a person ... The word fall in the perfect tense signifies completed action ... it would seem the person referred to in this fall is none other than Satan ...”

31.2 The pit of the abyss is none other than the place of detention of his wicked angels (the Genesis Six Gang). It is here that Satan himself is confined for 1,000 years during the reign of Christ on earth (Rev 20:1-3).

31.3 Walvoord does go on to write when speaking of the abyss as the abode of demons, “Rom 10:7 implies hypothetically that Christ descended in the spirit world between His death and resurrection. From these references, (*earlier he mentions Rev 9:1, 2, 11; 11:7 and Rev 17:8; 20:1 and 3*) it may be concluded that the pit of the abyss is none other than a place of detention of wicked angels ...”

Rom 10:7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

32. To what conclusion or lack of conclusion do we come?

32.1 There is the possibility Satan does go to **Tartaros** and release these willful and especially evil angels who once cohabited with all but four women of the world. Dr. Henry M. Morris of the *Institute for Creation Studies* is in support of this view.

32.2 Dr. Morris in his *Defender’s Study Bible* has the following footnote: “This pit is ... the lowest compartment of Hades ... it probably refers to the lowest hell where ‘the angels that sinned’ (2Pe 2:4) are confined in ‘chains of darkness’ awaiting their final judgment. It is probably these that will temporarily be released by **Abaddon** from the bottomless pit.”

33. There is the possibility Satan goes to a place where there are special angels confined by God as Satan's reserves.

33.1 This would indicate they were placed there specifically for this purpose and such thought is not out of keeping with that which we know concerning Satan and his having a table of organization.

33.2 It is also possible from the etymology that the abyss is merely the ultimate place of punishment, the lake of fire and not **Tartaros** since the New Testament does use abyss in this way. (Rev 17:8; 20:1 and 3)

34. One last point concerning **Tartaros** being the abyss: These angels were punished because they stepped out of line and left their first estate, therefore "would they be permitted to leave and work again or is there finality in their judgment since they left their first estate?"

35. In researching this question I also consulted who I consider the master of eschatology, Dr. Dwight Pentecost. Dr. Pentecost does not in his book, *THINGS TO COME* provide an answer concerning the identification of either the abyss or the "demons."

36. The phrase in Jude 6 "he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day" certainly leaves open the possibility that the demons coming out of the abyss are in fact "The Genesis Six Gang" led by Satan himself.

Jude 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

37. For several reasons set forth in this doctrine, I am of the opinion that Satan is the one who opens the abyss and that those who come forth as locusts are in fact the "Genesis Six Gang."