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Bottomless Pit

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

The Bottomless Pit.

- The meaning of the bottomless pit.
- A key and the bottomless pit.
- Smoke and the bottomless pit.
- Human nature and the bottomless pit.
- Massive pits and mass graves.

THE MEANING OF THE BOTTOMLESS PIT

- **Revelation 9:1:** 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 (abyss in KJV).

The bottomless pit: also called the Abyss which comes from the Greek word, (*abussos*) and (*buthos*) Abussos means depthless, (i.e., a deep bottomless pit), while *buthos*, means depth and by implication the deep of the sea. Figuratively it can carry the idea of a mystery.

When a person is bound in chains and thrown into a dark deep bottomless pit all the power, strength and might they may have had, is no longer of any benefit to them. Satan being cast into the bottomless pit carries the idea that all the power that he had over the world is now restrained.

- **Revelation 9:11:** They (locusts like horses prepared for battle) have as king over them, the angel of the bottomless pit (abyss in KJV). His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon..

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The word Abaddon, is of Hebrew origin (*'abaddown*) and means a destroying angel. It carries the idea of perishing, destruction and refers to the grave. In this context, the bottomless pit literally refers to the grave in the sense that there is no rising up out of it. It is personified as having its own angel of destruction over it, another name for this angel would be death because it brings about completed destruction to those who go down to the grave in rebellion against God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Revelation 11:7:** When they (the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord) have finished their testimony, the beast (the great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns) (Rev. 12:3) that rises from the bottomless pit (abyss in KJV) will make war on them and conquer them and kill them.

Nothing in this verse can be taken literally, everything is symbolic. The bottomless pit here is personified as having a beast rise-up out of it. Here biblical lofty language is used to highlight the enormous evil of this beast and the destruction that it will bring about. The idea is that good comes down from heaven, and in contrast evil comes up from the earth, therefore coming up from a bottomless pit that goes deep into the earth is a perfect symbol to highlight the enormity of evil of the one coming up out of such a pit, in contrast to this is Christ coming down from heaven highlights the holiness and goodness of his character and nature.

- **Revelation 17:8:** The beast that you saw was, and is not, (i.e., the prostitute woman, and the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her), and is about to rise from the bottomless pit (abyss in KJV). and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.

Here the bottomless pit is personified as a massive tunnel that goes deep into the earth and is so large that the prostitute woman clothed in scarlet (signifying the Roman Papal Church) and at least ten ungodly antichristian beast kings/Rulers and their nations can arise-up out of it. Clearly, this is not a literal hole in the ground, but is used to symbolise the evil of false religion and of the ten antichristian beast nations.

- **Revelation 20:1-3:** I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit (abyss in KJV). and a great chain. ²And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, ³and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him.

The angel coming down from heaven is acting on God's behalf, the chain in his hand symbolises his superior power over the beast (the great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns and the prostitute women). Though this beast has had enormous power over the entire world it is no match for an angel descending from heaven with God's power. It is also very likely that this angel symbolizes Christ returning in glory to gather his elect to himself and with them defeating and restraining all antichristian powers and establishing God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice joy and peace on earth.

- **Luke 8:31:** They (demons possessing a man from the city) begged him (Jesus) not to command them to depart into the abyss (the deep in KJV).

Here the bottomless pit signifies a deep dark hole that once cast into it there is no escape, it symbolises utter darkness and destruction (i.e., complete, and total extinction). For greater detail concerning this man see the title: "A man named legion in (Luke 8:26--39) in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

- **Romans 10:6-7:** The righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (That is, to bring Christ down) ⁷or 'Who will descend into the abyss (deep in KJV)?" (That is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

Here the bottomless pit symbolises the grave. For greater detail concerning this verse see (Rom. 10:6--7 in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Following is the only five times the bottomless pit is mentioned in Scripture:

1. The bottomless pit is opened and smoke darkens the sun and the air, and those who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads are tormented as if stung by a scorpion. (Rev. 9:1-2).
2. A king named Apollyon (meaning destruction) arises from the bottomless pit. (Rev. 9:11).
3. A beast arises from the bottomless pit and makes war on God's witnesses and conquers and kills them. (Rev. 11:7).
4. A beast arises from the bottomless pit and goes into destruction. (Rev. 17:8).
5. The dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, is bound in the bottomless pit. (Rev. 20:1).

From these five verses, it becomes clear that, torment, destruction, war and the dragon, the serpent, the devil, and Satan are all associated with the bottomless pit. The idea is that evil comes up from the earth, symbolised in these verses by the bottomless pit, in contrast to this, good

and Christ are spoken of as coming down from heaven, which highlights the holiness and goodness of Jesus character and nature, and his good works, while wickedness and the evil one coming up from below highlights the evil and corrupt character of the wicked.

A KEY AND THE BOTTOMLESS PIT

- **Revelation 9:1:** 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 (abyss in KJV).

The bottomless pit: does not open itself, the key is always in the hands of some false powerful teacher, who entices multitudes to believe their false teachings and doctrines, it signifies deceptive and destructive doctrines that rather than led people to God led them away from God and to the lake of fire, a symbol of eternal death (i.e., utter annihilation and total extinction).

Given the key to the bottomless pit: this key to the bottomless pit was given to the star fallen from heaven. The star in this context refers to an enormously powerful ruler who had great influence over the world. He is referred to as a star fallen from heaven for the following two reasons:

1. His high and exalted position on earth.
2. The high adoration, exaltation, and great glory the inhabitants of the world gave him.

Referring to him as a fallen star, carries the idea he had enormous universal ungodly power and authority over a great majority of churches, religious organisations, and denominations and over their decrees and teachings, and imposed upon them his own ungodly laws and ecclesiastical teaching and obliged all to submit to his ungodly principles and practices. In past generations there have been many such rulers and emperors (especially Roman) that were given the keys to the bottomless pit of which two of the most obvious would be:

Mahomet: who may be regarded as the eastern antichrist, especially after the publishing his Koran, and obliging all his followers to receive it as the infallible word of God.

The Popes and Church of Rome: which has also influenced much of the world with many false teachings and doctrines, superstitious worship, and who regard their church to be the mother of all churches and the only church that teaches the true infallible word of God.

The ultimate wicked imposter, deceiver and most powerful of these fallen stars will be the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) with the final ten horned beast nations who will rise-up in the latter days with all the power of the dragon, the serpent, the devil, and Satan. (Rev. 12:9) (Rev. 20:2). He will not only deceive multitudes of nations into believing his lies, but will also gather the kings of the world to assemble against Christ for battle on the great day of God the Almighty at the place called Armageddon. (Rev. 16:13-16).

A heavenly angel with a key to the bottomless pit: in Revelation chapter twenty we read of a heavenly angel that descends from heaven with a key to the bottomless pit, but not to open it, but to shut it. This angel throws the dragon, the serpent, the devil, and Satan, into the bottomless pit, and shuts and locks it over him, so that he cannot deceive the nations any longer, until Christ's millennial reign on earth as King of kings and Lord of lords has ended. (Rev. 20:1-3).

- **Revelation 9:2:** 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.

The sun: signify the Gospel that brings light to the mind and heart.

The air: signifies those who receive the light of the Gospel.

Smoke: in this context can symbolise the following two things:

1. Thick smoke darkens the sun and the air, and hinders the eyes from seeing the light of the sun, which means, smoke coming up out of the bottomless pit signifies spiritual darkness, worldwide false doctrines deceptive teachings and false religion that blind the mind from understanding God's word and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and filling the earth with spiritual darkness and religious error.
2. Proudful, hypocritical false teachers who have a form of godliness and speak lies, and by skilful oratory and positive motivational speeches deceive the hearts of those seeking God and influence the world toward ignorance, error, superstitious worship, and wickedness. Powerful deceptive rulers and leaders will continue to increase from generation to generation, accumulating in the latter days in the ten horned beast nations, the false prophet and man of lawlessness.

Smoke and the destruction of Sodom: when Abraham beheld the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the smoke of the cities went up as the smoke of a furnace.

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- The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. ²⁴ Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven --- NOW GO TO VERSE TWENTY-SEVEN -- ²⁷ And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. ²⁸ And he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace. Gen. 19:23–28).

The destruction and devastation of Sodom and Gomorrah by fire and smoke was a result of God's wrath upon these enormously corrupt cities (Gen. 19:23-28). This same great displeasure of God is represented by the same figurative expressions of smoke and fire in the following verses:

- Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations also of the mountains trembled and quaked, because he was angry. ⁸ Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him. (Psalm 18:7–8).

Sodom was utterly-destroyed and this vision, the foundations of the earth reeled and rocked; and the mountains trembled and quaked, which means, smoke rising-up out of the pit may also signify total-destruction and utter-annihilation of all things.

Smoke rose from the bottomless pit and darkened the sun: carries the idea, the light of God's word has been greatly obscured by extremely powerful, false, and deceptive rulers, of which the following two would be the most powerful:

1. **The Vatican and its Popes:** for they consider themselves to be the head of the global church, and to be the infallible interpreters of Scripture.
2. **Mahomet:** who represents Jesus only as a mere man and prophet, and exalted himself above Jesus, as a greater prophet.

By the false teaching of the Popes, and of Mahomet and the Koran, and the false teachings of many others, the light of the Gospel, and the teachings of Christ have been darkened as smoke darkens the light of the sun.

Overview of smoke: smoke signifies false lights of worldly power, worldly wisdom and the false light that comes through prideful, hypocritical false teachers of religion and all that is contrary to God, to Christ, to the Gospel and to his people.

NOTE: the faithful are assured that good will win over evil, and that the kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdoms of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Revelation 11:15:** The seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."

However, though the faithful are assured of victory, such a victory may not always be easy to see as they travel through the wilderness and darkness of this world toward their Heavenly City, made without human hands. The triumph of the faithful will at times, not only appear doubtful, but even appear to be in the hand of the enemy, but Christian faith disregards what the natural eye sees and sets its trust and hope upon what God promises. The beast kingdoms, the false prophet, and the man of lawlessness (man of sin in KJV) may have all the power of the bottomless pit available to them, but it is no match for Christ, for at the appointed time he will crush all evil and all powers hostile toward him and his heavenly Father and toward his people as easily as a boot crushes a toxic poisonous bug.

HUMAN NATURE AND THE BOTTOMLESS PIT

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Since there is no such thing as a literal bottomless pit, it can be taken to denote the depth of evil that dwells in the flesh (i.e., human nature) such as:

- Pride manifested in a lust for power, which results in all sorts of violence, murders, and wars.
- Greed for money, manifested in oppression of laborer's, especially the poor, and human trafficking, drugs and all sorts of crimes and thefts, etc.
- Sexual immorality, manifested in pedophilia, orgies, adultery, rape, brothels, pornography etc.

All of these can be spoken of as arising up out of the bottomless pit of the flesh (i.e., human nature) for the flesh is never satisfied, and in this sense, the bottomless pit is a fitting title for it.

MASSIVE PITS AND MASS GRAVES

The pit also refers to a massive hole dug in the ground in which a vast number of people are buried in. Sometimes a specific area within this massive pit is called, the grave. During the Old Testament era, it was common for twenty-thousand men to be killed on a battle field in one day. To prevent disease, wild animals and birds eating the decaying corpses they would be buried in a mass grave, this mass grave was called a pit. The same thing is done today when there is a plague or too many bodies

and not enough men to bury them in separate graves. When the Scripture speaks of the pit as a bad place it implies that it is only the ungodly that are buried there. The Bible talks a lot about those who have fought with weapons of war and powerful rulers and nations being in the pit (sometimes personified as being alive and walking around within it). In contrast to this, the faithful in Christ are referred to as sleeping in Christ (because their death is only temporary).

FINAL NOTE

There are many Scriptures that use the word pit and all refer to different aspects of a grave, and not one of them teach or even imply everlasting torment. Yet much of traditional Christianity claim that those who did not turn to Christ in repentance and faith will be cast into a place called hell, where they will be punished throughout all eternity, with different levels of cruel and painful torture, according to the lifestyle they lived. This means that those who have lived a good, kind, and compassionate life helping others, will suffer a lessor level of fiery flaming pain throughout eternity than murders, rapist, child abusers, the violent and those filled with malice etc. This erroneous and unbiblical doctrine raises the following two problems:

1. Pain is pain, it matters not if one arm is being burnt, or two arms, or if a foot is forced into burning coals or a finger, all whether good or bad will suffer extreme pain.
2. It means that those who had a heart toward the God of creation, but never had the privilege of hearing Christ's Gospel of grace or even hearing of Jesus Himself, and had they done so would have gladly embraced it, suffer the same cruel brutal torture as murders, rapist, child abusers, the violent and those filled with malice etc.

The Bible teaching is not eternal torment, but eternal death (i.e., total extinction), this is the goodness and mercy of God, we are all given the choice to choose, eternal life or eternal death.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.