

# PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Newsletter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. ([2 Peter 1:12 KJV](#))

Volume 4, Issue 2

February 2006

## Spiritual War Series

### The Kingdom of Darkness Part 4

Art Nelson

#### Previously

In our last issue we began to discuss the location and habitat of the fallen beings that are a part of the kingdom of darkness. We determined that their headquarters is in the heavenlies and it comprises the principalities and powers that we struggle against (Eph. 6:12). It is from this position that spiritual wickedness is coordinated against the purposes of God. We determined that the “foot soldiers” that harass us are the demons (these are not fallen angels) and that they tend to operate through people. Our response to an encounter with them in people is to cast them out.

We discussed the words for sheol, hades, and hell along with its history and current state. We commented that there was a third word that translated “hell” once and that it would be discussed later. We begin with that in this issue.

#### The Abyss

The Greek word “*tartaroo*” is only used once in the Scriptures and that is in 2 Peter 2:4 where it is translated as “hell”. However, it comes from the word, *tartaros*, which, according to Strong/Thayer means “the deepest abyss of hell”. It appears to have a different function from the “hell” that we discussed in the last issue. Some consider Tartaros to be a deeper part of hell and some consider it a different place. I think that Peter was using it to mean “the abyss” or “bottomless pit”.

The normal word for “abyss” is “*abussos*” and means bottomless, depthless abyss or pit. The King James Bible normal translates it as “bottomless pit” while the New American Standard Bible simply uses “abyss”. So, it would make sense for Peter to use the common Greek word for “deepest abyss of hell” to mean the abyss as opposed to hades.

Since the abyss appears to be distinct from hades or hell, who occupies it? There appears to be a

number of types of creatures but it doesn't appear that any of them are men.

One type of occupant for which the abyss was designed is apparently demons as revealed in Jesus' encounter with the Gadarene demoniac.

#### Luke 8:30-31 NASB

(30) And Jesus asked him, "**What is your name?**" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him.

(31) They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.

The demons recognized that they should be in the abyss. They didn't want to be there and were begging Jesus not to send them there. For the sake of the man, Jesus allowed the demons to enter a herd of pigs, who immediately ran off a cliff and were drowned in the sea.

In Revelation chapter nine, a fallen angel (a star fallen from heaven to earth) is given the key to the "bottomless pit", literally, "the abyss". He opens the abyss and creatures are released. These are demonic in appearance and as plenteous as a swarm of locusts and they torment men.

#### Revelation 9:11 NASB

(11) They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.

The creatures of the abyss have a king over them who is a fallen angel and he is important enough that his name is recorded and it means "destroyer". Since he is a king over the creatures, he apparently is confined in the abyss along with them and can't get out until the angel with the key unlocks it.

In Revelation 11:7 it says that "the beast that comes up out of the abyss" will make war, overcome and kill the two witnesses. Could this be the angel of the abyss mentioned above?

**NOTE:** This is not the place to discuss it, but, there are three "beasts" mentioned in Revelation and there is spiritual significance to each:

- 1) the beast from out of the abyss, Rev. 9:11
- 2) the beast from out of the sea, Rev. 13:1
- 3) the beast from out of the earth, Rev. 13:11

When the millennial kingdom is set up, Satan, himself, will become a resident prisoner of the abyss for a thousand years and then he will be released for a short time.

#### Revelation 20:1-3 NASB

(1) Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

(2) And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

(3) and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

So, we see that the abyss contains an assortment of creatures, which eventually include the Devil. There appear to be a number of fallen angels amongst the abyss prisoners also. Besides the angel

king mentioned above, Peter says that there are others.

## 2 Peter 2:4 NASB

(4) For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

Peter says that there are angels that God has committed (imprisoned) in pits of darkness where they wait for judgment.

## Angels that Sinned

Peter says in the scripture above that God has imprisoned the angels that sinned in the abyss. Yet, we know that not all fallen angels are imprisoned because we struggle against them.

## Ephesians 6:12 NASB

(12) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

## Revelation 12:7-9 NASB

(7) And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,

(8) and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

(9) And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Since not all fallen angels are imprisoned, then the “angels that sinned” must refer to something more than rebellion. God is no respecter of persons. If the sin of the “angels that sinned” was only rebellion then all fallen angels would be imprisoned in the abyss. Since not all are, what type of sin did these angels commit that caused them to be imprisoned by God? Jude sheds some light on the subject.

## Jude 1:6-7 NASB

(6) And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

(7) just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

Verse 6 tells us that the angels who are bound in darkness waiting on judgment did two things that caused them to be imprisoned.

1. They did not keep their own domain;
2. They abandoned their proper abode.

The word for “domain” is the word for chief ruler, principality, power. The word for “abode” means habitat or habitation and is the same word used by Paul in 2 Cor. 5:2 referring to our

resurrection or glorified bodies. So, when Jude says that they didn't keep their own domain but left their proper abode, he is saying that these angels left their heavenly principality (domain) and abandoned their spiritual habitats or bodies; in other words, they moved from the heavenly realm to the earthly. Why did they do this?

Verse 7 tells us what they did when they left their domain and proper abode. They committed a sin similar to Sodom and Gomorrah: gross immorality with “strange flesh”. Strange means different. So, these angels committed gross sexual sin that was outside the parameters that God had established. It was perverted. Since Jesus said that the angels don't marry; ie, engage in sexual relations with their spiritual bodies (we will be like them in our glorified bodies), they had to abandon their spiritual bodies and assume earthly bodies in order to engage in sexual perversion. (The Scriptures record a number of times where good angels appear to us in earthly bodies but they don't “abandon” their heavenly bodies.) When did this occur?

### Genesis 6:1-2 NASB

- (1) Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them,
- (2) that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.

There have been commentators of all sorts who have twisted and pounded these scriptures into some theory of their own to avoid believing the plain meaning of these verses. Men (the word is “adam”) increased on earth and produced some beautiful daughters. The sons of God (in the Old Testament this is always angels, an example is Job 1:6) saw the beautiful daughters of men and took them as wives, which means that they had sexual relations with them. This is exactly what Jude is talking about and is a violation of God's command that everything should reproduce “according to its own kind”.

The Scriptures tell us the outcome of this most unholy union of fallen angels and women.

### Genesis 6:4 NASB

- (4) The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore *children* to them. Those were the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

This verse clearly tells us that the children that came from the union of the sons of God (angels) and the daughters of men (women) were the Nephilim (KJV “giants”). These were the mighty men of old. I think that this is the source of most mythology of the various cultures like Greece and Rome. The “gods” in the myths are the fallen angels who are always quarreling among themselves and having children with women who become mighty men such as Hercules.

The Nephilim hybrids were produced on two different occasions. The first is “in those days”, which means prior to Noah's flood and the second is “and also afterward”, meaning after the flood. We know this to be true because the Promised Land was inhabited by the Nephilim.

### Numbers 13:33 NASB

- (33) "There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

Because the Nephilim were hybrids, they were an affront to God. That is one of the reasons that

the Children of Israel were to utterly destroy the inhabitants of the Promised Land (Deut. 7:1-2).

#### Deuteronomy 2:10-11 NASB

(10) (The Emim lived there formerly, a people as great, numerous, and tall as the Anakim.

(11) Like the Anakim, they are also regarded as Rephaim, but the Moabites call them Emim.

The various races of the Nephilim had tribal names such as the Anakim, which were the sons of Anak and the Rephaim among others. (In Hebrew, the way to make a word plural is to add “*im*” to the end.)

The Rephaim are mentioned a number of times as giants. But, the bible translators were not consistent when they translated “repha”. In the King James, it is variously rendered “giant”, “giants”, “dead” and “deceased”. It would have been better, I think, to have left it as a proper name, Repha. If you do that, there is an interesting verse in Isaiah.

#### Isaiah 26:14 NASB

(14) The dead will not live, the departed spirits [*Rapha*] will not rise; Therefore You have punished and destroyed them, And You have wiped out all remembrance of them.

The Rapha will not rise, that is, there is no resurrection for them; they will not live. Why? Because they are of the Nephilim and are hybrids, not men. God has destroyed them and has wiped away all remembrance of them.

I know this sounds like something out of a Hollywood movie, but the Word contains these references for a reason. This particular type of wickedness was rampant prior to the flood, in Noah's days, and, I believe, will be again before the Lord's return. (Its not by accident that Hollywood produces many movies depicting women having the offspring of angels or demons.) This is what Jesus said about that.

#### Luke 17:26 NASB

(26) "And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:

When we read these words of Jesus, we usually just consider general wickedness; but, in Noah's days it was even worse than we can imagine, even to the point of intercourse between fallen angels and women.

#### Genesis 6:5 NASB

(5) Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

In Romans 1:18-32 we have a description of their decadence; but, one interesting thing is that “...though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God...” (verse 21). If they knew God, how could they become so wicked?

This leads us into our next issue of “Present Truth”, which will deal with the origin of heathendom.

For comments or questions contact Art Nelson at this address:  
[artnelson@lifestreamteaching.com](mailto:artnelson@lifestreamteaching.com)

You have permission to copy and distribute these materials provided:  
1) no changes are made to the content, and, 2) they are not sold.

**Removal instructions:**

This is a free newsletter, without cost or obligation. If you have received this newsletter in error or if you desire not to receive "Present Truth" teaching newsletter please reply with "remove" in the subject area.