

Doctrine of the Bottomless Pit



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1. The first mention in Scripture of the bottomless pit is found in Revelation 9:1 where a “star” falls from heaven unto the earth to receive the key of the bottomless pit.
 - *Revelation 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.*

Special Note.

“Upon the sounding of this trumpet, the things to be observed are, First, a star falling from heaven to the earth. Some think this star represents some eminent bishop in the Christian church, some angel of the church; for, in the same way of speaking by which pastors are called stars, the church is called heaven; but who this is expositors do not agree. Some understand it of Boniface the third bishop of Rome [from February 19 to November 12, 607], who assumed the title of universal bishop, by the favor of the emperor Flavius Phocas [602-610 AD], who, being a usurper and tyrant in the state, allowed Boniface to be so in the church, as the reward of his flattery. Second, to this fallen star was given the key of the bottomless pit. Having now ceased to be a minister of Christ, he becomes the antichrist, the minister of the devil; and by the permission of Christ, who had taken from him the keys of the church, he becomes the devil’s turnkey, to let loose the powers of hell against the churches of Christ” (Matthew Henry).

Special Note.

The fallen “star” from heaven could also be a reference to Lucifer himself. In Latin, from which the English word is derived, *Lucifer* means "light-bearer" (from the words *lucem ferre*). The New Testament does not name the devil as Lucifer. Use of this name in reference to a fallen angel stems from an interpretation of a passage in Isaiah 14, that speaks of a particular Babylonian king, to whom it gives a title that refers to what in English is called the Day Star or Morning Star (in Latin, *lucifer*), as fallen or destined to fall from the heavens or sky (S. E. Murrell).

- *Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. 16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; 17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? 18 All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. 19 But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet. 20 Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned.*

2. Once the fallen “star” received the key of the bottomless pit, he opened the pit thereby releasing smoke out of the pit black enough to cover the sun and pollute the air.

- *Revelation 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.*

Special Note.

“Third, upon the opening of the bottomless pit there arose a great smoke, which darkened the sun and the air. The devils are the powers of darkness; hell is the place of darkness. The devil carries on his designs by blinding the eyes of men, by extinguishing light and knowledge, and promoting ignorance and error. He first deceives men, and then destroys them; wretched souls follow him in the dark, or they durst not follow him” (Matthew Henry).

3. In addition to black smoke from the bottomless pit came an army of locust with a king over them.

- *Revelation 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.*

Special Note.

“The king and commander of this hellish squadron is here described, [1.] As an angel; so he was by nature, an angel, once one of the angels of heaven. [2.] The angel of the bottomless pit; an angel still, but a fallen angel, fallen into the bottomless pit, vastly large, and out of which there is no recovery. [3.] In these infernal regions he is a sort of prince and governor, and has the powers of darkness under his rule and command. [4.] His true name is Abaddon, Apollyon—a destroyer, for that is his business, his design, and employment, to which he diligently attends, in which he is very successful, and takes a horrid hellish pleasure; it is about this destroying work that he sends out his emissaries and armies to destroy the souls of men. And now here we have the end of one woe; and where one ends another begins” (Matthew Henry).

4. The beast which comes out of the bottomless pit made war against two witnesses of God and seemed to prevail.
 - *Revelation 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.*
5. The beast that descended out of the bottomless pit shall go into perdition.
 - *Revelation 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.*
6. There is a key to the bottomless pit which speaks of Someone, even the Lord God, having authority over that sphere of existence.
 - *Revelation 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.*
7. The inhabitants of the bottomless pit includes the devil.
 - *Revelation 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.*