

## ~KEY (847)

### .. Figurative Use

### .. How Did Peter Use The Keys Of The Kingdom

### .. Key Of The Abyss

- An instrument used to lock or unlock doors and gates. Key is used both literally and figuratively in the Bible.
- The key of Biblical times was often a flat piece of wood having pins that corresponded to holes in a bolt that was inside the door of a home.
- Such a key served to push the bar or bolt inside the door, instead of being turned in the lock as is the modern key. The key was often carried in the girdle or was fastened to some other object and carried over the shoulder.
- And I will put the **key** of the house of David upon his shoulder, and he must open without anyone's shutting, and he must shut without anyone's opening. ([Isaiah 22:22](#))
- Egyptian **keys** of bronze or iron have been found, consisting of a straight shank approximately 13 centimeters (5 inches) long, with three or more projecting teeth at the end.
- The Romans also used metal keys, including some of the type made to turn in locks. **Keys** of bronze have been discovered in Palestine.
- Moabite King Eglon used a lock and **key** for the door of his roof chamber.
- And the sons of Israel began to call to Yehowah for aid. So Yehowah raised up for them a savior, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a left-handed man. In time the sons of Israel sent tribute by his hand to Eglon the king of Moab. ([Judges 3:15](#))
- Meanwhile Ehud made a sword for himself, and it had two edges, its length being a cubit. Then he girded it underneath his garment upon his right thigh. ([Judges 3:16](#))
- And he proceeded to present the tribute to Eglon the king of

**Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man. (Judges 3:17)**

- **And he proceeded to present the tribute to Eglon the king of Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man. (Judges 3:17)**
- **And it came about that when he had finished presenting the tribute, he at once sent the people away, the bearers of the tribute. (Judges 3:18)**
- **And he himself turned back at the quarries that were at Gilgal, and he proceeded to say; I have a secret word for you, O king. So he said; Keep silence! With that all those who were standing by him went on out from him. (Judges 3:19)**
- **And Ehud came to him as he was sitting in his cool roof chamber that he had to himself. And Ehud went on to say; A word of God I have for you. At that he rose up from his throne. (Judges 3:20)**
- **Then Ehud thrust in his left hand and took the sword off his right thigh and plunged it into his belly. (Judges 3:21)**
- **And the handle kept going in also after the blade so that the fat closed in over the blade, for he did not draw the sword out of his belly, and the fecal matter began to come out. (Judges 3:22)**
- **Certain postexilic Levites were entrusted with temple guard service, being placed in charge of the **key**, even to open up from morning to morning.**
- **For in office of trust there were four mighty men of the gatekeepers. They were Levites, and they proved to be in charge of the dining rooms and of the treasures of the house of the true God. (1 Chronicles 9:26)**
- **And all around the house of the true God they would spend the night, for guard service was upon them, and they were in charge of the **key**, even to open up from morning to morning. (1 Chronicles 9:27)**

## **.. Figurative Use**

- **In the figurative vein the Bible uses the term **key** to symbolize authority, government, and power. Eliakim, elevated to a position of**

trust and honor, had the **key** of the house of David, put upon his shoulder.

- And it must occur in that day that I will call my servant, namely, Eliakim the son of Hilkiah. (**Isaiah 22:20**)
- And I will clothe him with your robe, and your sash I shall firmly bind about him, and your dominion I shall give into his hand, and he must become a father to the inhabitant of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. (**Isaiah 22:21**)
- And I will put the **key** of the house of David upon his shoulder, and he must open without anyone's shutting, and he must shut without anyone's opening. (**Isaiah 22:22**)
- In the Middle East, in more recent times, a large **key** upon a man's shoulder identified him as a person of consequence or importance. Anciently, a king's adviser, entrusted with the power of the keys, might have general supervision of the royal chambers and might also decide on any candidates for the king's service.
- In the angelic message to the congregation in Philadelphia the exalted Jesus Christ is said to have the **key** of David, and he is the one who opens so that no one will shut, and shuts so that no one opens.
- And to the angel of the congregation in Philadelphia write: These are the things he says who is holy, who is true, who has the **key** of David, who opens so that no one will shut, and shuts so that no one opens. (**Revelation 3:7**)
- I know your deeds, look! I have set before you an opened door, which no one can shut, that you have a little power, and you kept my word and did not prove false to my name. (**Revelation 3:8**)
- As the Heir of the covenant made with David for the Kingdom, Jesus Christ has committed to him the government of the household of faith and the headship of Spiritual Israel.
- This one will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and Yehowah God will give him the throne of David his father. (**Luke 1:32**)
- And he will rule as king over the house of Jacob forever, and there will be no end of his kingdom. (**Luke 1:33**)

- By his authority, symbolized by the **key** of David, he can open or shut figurative doors, or opportunities and privileges.
- For a large door that leads to activity has been opened to me, but there are many opposers. (**1 Corinthians 16:9**)
- Now when I arrived in Troas to declare the Good News about the Christ, and a door was opened to me in the Lord. (**2 Corinthians 2:12**)
- I got no relief in my spirit on account of not finding Titus my brother, but I said good-bye to them and departed for Macedonia. (**2 Corinthians 2:13**)

## •• How Did Peter Use The Keys Of The Kingdom

- Jesus said to Peter;
- I will give you the **keys** of the kingdom of the heavens, and whatever you may bind on earth will be the thing bound in the heavens, and whatever you may loose on earth will be the thing loosed in the heavens. (**Matthew 16:19**)
- The identification of these **keys** logically must be based on other Scriptural information. Jesus made another reference to the subject of keys when he said to the religious leaders, versed in the Law.
- Woe to you who are versed in the Law, because you took away the **key of knowledge**. You yourselves did not go in, and those going in you hindered! (**Luke 11:52**)
- A comparison of this text with
- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you shut up the kingdom of the heavens before men, for you yourselves do not go in, neither do you permit those on their way in to go in. (**Matthew 23:13**)
- Indicates that the going in referred to is with regard to entrance into the kingdom of the heavens. Thus, the use of the word **key** in Jesus statement to Peter indicated that Peter would have the privilege of initiating a program of instruction that would open up special opportunities with respect to the Kingdom of the heavens.

- Different from the hypocritical religious leaders of that time, Peter clearly did use divinely provided knowledge to help persons to enter into the kingdom, notably on three occasions.
- One was on the day of **Pentecost 33 C.E**, when Peter, under inspiration, revealed to a gathered multitude that Yehowah God had resurrected Jesus and exalted him to His own right hand in the heavens and that Jesus, in that royal position, had poured out Holy Spirit on his assembled disciples.
- As a result of this knowledge and acting upon Peter's exhortation, Repent, and let each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the free gift of the Holy Spirit, about 3,000 Jews, and Jewish converts, took the step that led to their becoming prospective members of the kingdom of the heavens. Other Jews subsequently followed their example.
- Now while the day of the festival of Pentecost was in progress they were all together at the same place. (**Acts of Apostles 2:1**)
- And suddenly there occurred from heaven a noise just like that of a rushing stiff breeze, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting. (**Acts of Apostles 2:2**)
- And tongues as if of fire became visible to them and were distributed about, and one sat upon each one of them. (**Acts of Apostles 2:3**)
- And they all became filled with Holy Spirit and started to speak with different tongues, just as the spirit was granting them to make utterance. (**Acts of Apostles 2:4**)
- As it was, there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, reverent men, from every nation of those under heaven. (**Acts of Apostles 2:5**)
- So, when this sound occurred, the multitude came together and were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. (**Acts of Apostles 2:6**)
- Indeed, they were astonished and began to wonder and say; See here, all these who are speaking are Galileans, are they not? (**Acts of Apostles 2:7**)

- And yet how is it we are hearing, each one of us, his own language in which we were born? ([Acts of Apostles 2:8](#))
- Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and the inhabitants of Mesopotamia, and Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and the district of Asia. ([Acts of Apostles 2:9](#))
- And Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya, which is toward Cyrene, and sojourners from Rome, both Jews and proselytes. ([Acts of Apostles 2:10](#))
- Cretans and Arabians, we hear them speaking in our tongues about the magnificent things of God. ([Acts of Apostles 2:11](#))
- Yes, they were all astonished and were in perplexity, saying one to another; What does this thing purport to be? ([Acts of Apostles 2:12](#))
- However, different ones mocked at them and began to say; They are full of sweet wine. ([Acts of Apostles 2:13](#))
- But Peter stood up with the eleven and raised his voice and made this utterance to them; Men of Judea and all you inhabitants of Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give ear to my sayings. ([Acts of Apostles 2:14](#))
- These people are, in fact, not drunk, as you suppose, for it is the third hour of the day. ([Acts of Apostles 2:15](#))
- On the contrary, this is what was said through the prophet Joel. ([Acts of Apostles 2:16](#))
- And in the last days, God says, I shall pour out some of my spirit upon every sort of flesh, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy and your young men will see visions and your old men will dream dreams. ([Acts of Apostles 2:17](#))
- And even upon my men slaves and upon my women slaves I will pour out some of my spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ([Acts of Apostles 2:18](#))
- And I will give portents in heaven above and signs on earth below, blood and fire and smoke mist. ([Acts of Apostles 2:19](#))

- The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and illustrious day of Yehowah arrives. ([Acts of Apostles 2:20](#))
- And everyone who calls on the name of Yehowah will be saved. ([Acts of Apostles 2:21](#))
- Men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus the Nazarene, a man publicly shown by God to you through powerful works and portents and signs that God did through him in your midst, just as you yourselves know. ([Acts of Apostles 2:22](#))
- This man, as one delivered up by the determined counsel and foreknowledge of God, you fastened to a stake by the hand of lawless men and did away with. ([Acts of Apostles 2:23](#))
- But God resurrected him by loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to continue to be held fast by it. ([Acts of Apostles 2:24](#))
- For David says respecting him, I had Yehowah constantly before my eyes, because he is at my right hand that I may never be shaken. ([Acts of Apostles 2:25](#))
- On this account my heart became cheerful and my tongue rejoiced greatly. Moreover, even my flesh will reside in hope. ([Acts of Apostles 2:26](#))
- Because you will not leave my soul in Hades, neither will you allow your loyal one to see corruption. ([Acts of Apostles 2:27](#))
- You have made life's ways known to me, you will fill me with good cheer with your face. ([Acts of Apostles 2:28](#))
- Men, brothers, it is allowable to speak with freeness of speech to you concerning the family head David, that he both deceased and was buried and his tomb is among us to this day. ([Acts of Apostles 2:29](#))
- Therefore, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath that he would seat one from the fruitage of his loins upon his throne. ([Acts of Apostles 2:30](#))

- He saw beforehand and spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he forsaken in Hades nor did his flesh see corruption. ([Acts of Apostles 2:31](#))
- This Jesus God resurrected, of which fact we are all witnesses. ([Acts of Apostles 2:32](#))
- Therefore because he was exalted to the right hand of God and received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father, he has poured out this which you see and hear. ([Acts of Apostles 2:33](#))
- Actually David did not ascend to the heavens, but he himself says, Yehowah said to my Lord; Sit at my right hand. ([Acts of Apostles 2:34](#))
- Until I place your enemies as a stool for your feet. ([Acts of Apostles 2:35](#))
- Therefore let all the house of Israel know for a certainty that God made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you impaled. ([Acts of Apostles 2:36](#))
- Now when they heard this they were stabbed to the heart, and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles; Men, brothers, what shall we do? ([Acts of Apostles 2:37](#))
- Peter said to them; Repent, and let each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the free gift of the Holy Spirit. ([Acts of Apostles 2:38](#))
- For the promise is to you and to your children and to all those afar off, just as many as Yehowah our God may call to him. ([Acts of Apostles 2:39](#))
- And with many other words he bore thorough witness and kept exhorting them, saying; Get saved from this crooked generation. ([Acts of Apostles 2:40](#))
- Therefore those who embraced his word heartily were baptized, and on that day about three thousand souls were added. ([Acts of Apostles 2:41](#))
- On another occasion Peter and John were sent to the Samaritans, who had not received the Holy Spirit even though they had been



**baptized. However, the two apostles prayed for them and went laying their hands upon them, and they received Holy Spirit.**

- **When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they dispatched Peter and John to them. ([Acts of Apostles 8:14](#))**
- **And these went down and prayed for them to get Holy Spirit. ([Acts of Apostles 8:15](#))**
- **For it had not yet fallen upon any one of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ([Acts of Apostles 8:16](#))**
- **Then they went laying their hands upon them, and they began to receive Holy Spirit. ([Acts of Apostles 8:17](#))**
- **The third occasion of Peter's being used in a special way to introduce persons into privileges as Kingdom heirs was when he was sent to the home of the Gentile Cornelius, an Italian centurion.**
- **By divine revelation Peter recognized and declared God's impartiality as regards Jews and Gentiles and that people of the nations, if God fearing and doers of righteousness, were now as acceptable to God as their Jewish counterparts.**
- **While Peter was presenting this knowledge to his Gentile hearers, the heavenly gift of the Holy Spirit came upon them and they miraculously spoke in tongues. They were subsequently baptized and became the first prospective members of the kingdom of the heavens from among the Gentiles.**
- **The unlocked door of opportunity for Gentile believers to become members of the Christian congregation thereafter remained open.**
- **Now in Caesarea there was a certain man named Cornelius, an army officer of the Italian band, as it was called. ([Acts of Apostles 10:1](#))**
- **A devout man and one fearing God together with all his household, and he made many gifts of mercy to the people and made supplication to God continually. ([Acts of Apostles 10:2](#))**
- **Just about the ninth hour of the day he saw plainly in a vision an**

angel of God come in to him and say to him; Cornelius! ([Acts of Apostles 10:3](#))

- The man gazed at him and, becoming frightened, said; What is it, Lord? He said to him; Your prayers and gifts of mercy have ascended as a remembrance before God. ([Acts of Apostles 10:4](#))
- So now send men to Joppa and summon a certain Simon who is surnamed Peter. ([Acts of Apostles 10:5](#))
- This man is being entertained by a certain Simon, a tanner, who has a house by the sea. ([Acts of Apostles 10:6](#))
- As soon as the angel that spoke to him had left, he called two of his house servants and a devout soldier from among those who were in constant attendance upon him. ([Acts of Apostles 10:7](#))
- And he related everything to them and dispatched them to Joppa. ([Acts of Apostles 10:8](#))
- The next day as they were pursuing their journey and were approaching the city, Peter went up to the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. ([Acts of Apostles 10:9](#))
- But he became very hungry and wanted to eat. While they were preparing, he fell into a trance ([Acts of Apostles 10:10](#))
- And beheld heaven opened and some sort of vessel descending like a great linen sheet being let down by its four extremities upon the earth. ([Acts of Apostles 10:11](#))
- And in it there were all sorts of four-footed creatures and creeping things of the earth and birds of heaven. ([Acts of Apostles 10:12](#))
- And a voice came to him; Rise, Peter, slaughter and eat! ([Acts of Apostles 10:13](#))
- But Peter said; Not at all, Lord, because never have I eaten anything defiled and unclean. ([Acts of Apostles 10:14](#))
- And the voice spoke again to him, the second time; You stop calling defiled the things God has cleansed. ([Acts of Apostles 10:15](#))

- This occurred a third time, and immediately the vessel was taken up into heaven. ([Acts of Apostles 10:16](#))
- Now while Peter was in great perplexity inwardly over what the vision he had seen might mean, look! The men dispatched by Cornelius had made inquiries for Simon's house and stood there at the gate. ([Acts of Apostles 10:17](#))
- And they called out and inquired whether Simon who was surnamed Peter was being entertained there. ([Acts of Apostles 10:18](#))
- As Peter was going over in his mind about the vision, the spirit said; Look! Three men are seeking you. ([Acts of Apostles 10:19](#))
- However, rise, go downstairs and be on your way with them, not doubting at all, because I have dispatched them. ([Acts of Apostles 10:20](#))
- So Peter went downstairs to the men and said; Look! I am the one you are seeking. What is the cause for which you are present? ([Acts of Apostles 10:21](#))
- They said; Cornelius, an army officer, a man righteous and fearing God and well reported by the whole nation of the Jews, was given divine instructions by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear the things you have to say. ([Acts of Apostles 10:22](#))
- Therefore he invited them in and entertained them. The next day he rose and went off with them, and some of the brothers that were from Joppa went with him. ([Acts of Apostles 10:23](#))
- On the day after that he entered into Caesarea. Cornelius, of course, was expecting them and had called together his relatives and intimate friends. ([Acts of Apostles 10:24](#))
- As Peter entered, Cornelius met him, fell down at his feet and did obeisance to him. ([Acts of Apostles 10:25](#))
- But Peter lifted him up, saying; Rise! I myself am also a man. ([Acts of Apostles 10:26](#))

- And as he conversed with him he went in and found many people assembled. ([Acts of Apostles 10:27](#))
- And he said to them; You well know how unlawful it is for a Jew to join himself to or approach a man of another race, and yet God has shown me I should call no man defiled or unclean. ([Acts of Apostles 10:28](#))
- Hence I came, really without objection, when I was sent for. Therefore I inquire the reason that you have sent for me. ([Acts of Apostles 10:29](#))
- Accordingly Cornelius said; Four days ago counting from this hour I was praying in my house at the ninth hour, when, look! A man in bright raiment stood before me ([Acts of Apostles 10:30](#))
- And said; Cornelius, your prayer has been favorably heard and your gifts of mercy have been remembered before God. ([Acts of Apostles 10:31](#))
- Send, therefore, to Joppa and call for Simon, who is surnamed Peter. This man is being entertained in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. ([Acts of Apostles 10:32](#))
- Therefore I at once sent to you, and you did well in coming here. And so at this time we are all present before God to hear all the things you have been commanded by Yehowah to say. ([Acts of Apostles 10:33](#))
- At this Peter opened his mouth and said; For a certainty I perceive that God is not partial. ([Acts of Apostles 10:34](#))
- But in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him. ([Acts of Apostles 10:35](#))
- He sent out the word to the sons of Israel to declare to them the Good News of peace through Jesus Christ, this One is Lord of all others. ([Acts of Apostles 10:36](#))
- You know the subject that was talked about throughout the whole of Judea, starting from Galilee after the baptism that John preached. ([Acts of Apostles 10:37](#))
- Namely, Jesus who was from Nazareth, how God anointed him

with Holy Spirit and power, and he went through the land doing good and healing all those oppressed by the Devil, because God was with him. ([Acts of Apostles 10:38](#))

- And we are witnesses of all the things he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem, but they also did away with him by hanging him on a stake. ([Acts of Apostles 10:39](#))
- God raised this One up on the third day and granted him to become manifest. ([Acts of Apostles 10:40](#))
- Not to all the people, but to witnesses appointed beforehand by God, to us, who ate and drank with him after his rising from the dead. ([Acts of Apostles 10:41](#))
- Also, he ordered us to preach to the people and to give a thorough witness that this is the One decreed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ([Acts of Apostles 10:42](#))
- To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone putting faith in him gets forgiveness of sins through his name. ([Acts of Apostles 10:43](#))
- While Peter was yet speaking about these matters the Holy Spirit fell upon all those hearing the word. ([Acts of Apostles 10:44](#))
- And the faithful ones that had come with Peter who were of those circumcised were amazed, because the free gift of the Holy Spirit was being poured out also upon people of the nations. ([Acts of Apostles 10:45](#))
- For they heard them speaking with tongues and magnifying God. Then Peter responded. ([Acts of Apostles 10:46](#))
- Can anyone forbid water so that these might not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit even as we have? ([Acts of Apostles 10:47](#))
- With that he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they requested him to remain for some days. ([Acts of Apostles 10:48](#))
- Now when much disputing had taken place, Peter rose and said to them; Men, brothers, you well know that from early days God

made the choice among you that through my mouth people of the nations should hear the word of the Good News and believe. **(Acts of Apostles 15:7)**

- And God, who knows the heart, bore witness by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us also. **(Acts of Apostles 15:8)**
- And he made no distinction at all between us and them, but purified their hearts by faith. **(Acts of Apostles 15:9)**
- I will give you the **keys** of the kingdom of the heavens, and whatever you may bind on earth will be the thing bound in the heavens, and whatever you may loose on earth will be the thing loosed in the heavens. **(Matthew 16:19)**
- May be rendered with grammatical correctness; **Whatever you may bind on earth will be the thing bound or, the thing already bound, in the heavens, and whatever you may loose on earth will be the thing loosed or, the thing already loosed in the heavens.**
- The translation by **Charles B. Williams** here reads: **Whatever you forbid on earth must be what is already forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth must be what is already permitted in heaven.**
- Greek scholar **Robert Young's** literal translation reads; **Whatever thou mayest bind upon the earth shall be having been bound in the heavens, and whatever thou mayest loose upon the earth shall be having been loosed in the heavens.**
- Since other texts make clear that the resurrected Jesus remained the one true Head over the Christian congregation, it is obvious that his promise to Peter did not mean Peter's dictating to heaven what should or should not be loosed but, rather, Peter's being used as heavens instrument in the unlocking, or loosing, of certain determined things.
- But I want you to know that the head of every man is the Christ, in turn the head of a woman is the man, in turn the head of the Christ is God. **(1 Corinthians 11:3)**
- But speaking the truth, let us by love grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ. **(Ephesians 4:15)**
- From him all the body, by being harmoniously joined together

and being made to cooperate through every joint that gives what is needed, according to the functioning of each respective member in due measure, makes for the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. (**Ephesians 4:16**)

- Because a husband is head of his wife as the Christ also is head of the congregation, he being a savior of this body. (**Ephesians 5:23**)
- Look out! Perhaps there may be someone who will carry you off as his prey through the philosophy and empty deception according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary things of the world and not according to Christ. (**Colossians 2:8**)
- Because it is in him that all the fullness of the divine quality dwells bodily. (**Colossians 2:9**)
- And so you are possessed of a fullness by means of him, who is the head of all government and authority. (**Colossians 2:10**)

#### ·· Key Of The Abyss

- And the fifth angel blew his trumpet. And I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to the earth, and the **key** of the pit of the abyss was given him. (**Revelation 9:1**)
- And he opened the pit of the abyss, and smoke ascended out of the pit as the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun was darkened, also the air, by the smoke of the pit. (**Revelation 9:2**)
- And out of the smoke locusts came forth upon the earth, and authority was given them, the same authority as the scorpions of the earth have. (**Revelation 9:3**)
- And they were told to harm no vegetation of the earth nor any green thing nor any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. (**Revelation 9:4**)
- And it was granted the locusts, not to kill them, but that these should be tormented five months, and the torment upon them was as torment by a scorpion when it strikes a man. (**Revelation 9:5**)
- And in those days the men will seek death but will by no means

find it, and they will desire to die but death keeps fleeing from them. (**Revelation 9:6**)

- And the likenesses of the locusts resembled horses prepared for battle, and upon their heads were what seemed to be crowns like gold, and their faces were as men's faces. (**Revelation 9:7**)
- But they had hair as women's hair. And their teeth were as those of lions. (**Revelation 9:8**)
- And they had breastplates like iron breastplates. And the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running into battle. (**Revelation 9:9**)
- Also, they have tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails is their authority to hurt the men five months. (**Revelation 9:10**)
- They have over them a king, the angel of the abyss. In **Hebrew** his name is *Abaddon*, but in **Greek** he has the name *Apollyon*. (**Revelation 9:11**)
- The vision is presented **of a star** out of heaven to whom the **key** of the pit of the abyss is given and who opens that pit and releases a swarm of locusts, their king being the angel of the abyss. Since the abyss, as shown at;
- But the righteousness resulting from faith speaks in this manner; Do not say in your heart, Who will ascend into heaven? That is, to bring Christ down. (**Romans 10:6**)
- Or, Who will descend into the abyss? That is, to bring Christ up from the dead. (**Romans 10:7**)
- Evidently includes Hades, though it is not limited to Hades, it appears that, the **key** of the pit of the abyss includes, the **keys** of death and of Hades, possessed by the resurrected Jesus Christ, as stated at;
- And the living one, and I became dead, but, look! I am living forever and ever, and I have the **keys** of death and of Hades. (**Revelation 1:18**)
- These **keys** are undoubtedly symbolic of Jesus authority to free persons from a restraint that is beyond the power of anyone but God or his authorized representative.



- The **keys** therefore include authority to resurrect persons literally, freeing them from the confines of the grave, as well as to release persons from a figurative death state.
- Most truly I say to you, he that hears my word and believes him that sent me has everlasting life, and he does not come into judgment but has passed over from death to life. (**John 5:24**)
- Most truly I say to you, the hour is coming, and it is now, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who have given heed will live. (**John 5:25**)
- For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted also to the Son to have life in himself. (**John 5:26**)
- And he has given him authority to do judging, because Son of man he is. (**John 5:27**)
- Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice (**John 5:28**)
- And come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life, those who practiced vile things to a resurrection of judgment. (**John 5:29**)
- And I will cause my two witnesses to prophesy a thousand two hundred and sixty days dressed in sackcloth. (**Revelation 11:3**)
- These are symbolized by the two olive trees and the two lampstands and are standing before the Lord of the earth. (**Revelation 11:4**)
- And if anyone wants to harm them, fire issues forth from their mouths and devours their enemies, and if anyone should want to harm them, in this manner he must be killed. (**Revelation 11:5**)
- These have the authority to shut up heaven that no rain should fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have authority over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every sort of plague as often as they wish. (**Revelation 11:6**)
- And when they have finished their witnessing, the wild beast that ascends out of the abyss will make war with them and

conquer them and kill them. (**Revelation 11:7**)

- And their corpses will be on the broad way of the great city which is in a spiritual sense called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was also impaled. (**Revelation 11:8**)
- And those of the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their corpses for three and a half days, and they do not let their corpses be laid in a tomb. (**Revelation 11:9**)
- And those dwelling on the earth rejoice over them and enjoy themselves, and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those dwelling on the earth. (**Revelation 11:10**)
- And after the three and a half days spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet, and great fear fell upon those beholding them. (**Revelation 11:11**)
- And they heard a loud voice out of heaven say to them; Come on up here. And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies beheld them. (**Revelation 11:12**)
- The last-recorded use of the **key** of the abyss is at;
- And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven with the **key** of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. (**Revelation 20:1**)
- And he seized the dragon, the original serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. (**Revelation 20:2**)
- And he hurled him into the abyss and shut it and sealed it over him, that he might not mislead the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After these things he must be let loose for a little while. (**Revelation 20:3**)
- And I saw thrones, and there were those who sat down on them, and power of judging was given them. Yes, I saw the souls of those executed with the ax for the witness they bore to Jesus and for speaking about God, and those who had worshiped neither the wild beast nor its image and who had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand. And they came to life and ruled as kings with the Christ for a thousand

years. (**Revelation 20:4**)

- The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. (**Revelation 20:5**)
- Happy and holy is anyone having part in the first resurrection, over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of the Christ, and will rule as kings with him for the thousand years. (**Revelation 20:6**)
- Now as soon as the thousand years have been ended, Satan will be let loose out of his prison. (**Revelation 20:7**)
- Where the vision describes an angel with that **key** casting Satan into the abyss, shutting and sealing it over him for a thousand years. At the close of that period Satan is released from his prison, evidently by the use of the **key** of authority.

**See Also ABYSS**

**See Also DEATH [Change in spiritual state or condition]**