

~TARTARUS (244)
(Tar'ta-rus)[Greek, *tar-ta-ro'o*]

- **A prisonlike, abased condition into which God cast disobedient angels in Noah's day.**
- **This word is found but once in the inspired Scriptures, at;**
- **Certainly if God did not hold back from punishing the angels that sinned, but, by throwing them into **Tartarus**, delivered them to pits of dense darkness to be reserved for judgment. (2 Peter 2:4)**
- **The apostle writes. God did not hold back from punishing the angels that sinned, but, by throwing them into **Tartarus**, delivered them to pits of dense darkness to be reserved for judgment. The expression, throwing them into **Tartarus** is from the Greek verb *tar-ta-ro'o* and so includes within itself the word, **Tartarus**.**
- **A parallel text is found at;**
- **And the angels that did not keep their original position but forsook their own proper dwelling place he has reserved with eternal bonds under dense darkness for the judgment of the great day. (Jude 1:6)**
- **Showing when it was that these angels forsook their own proper dwelling place, Peter speaks of the spirits in prison, who had once been disobedient when the patience of God was waiting in Noah's days, while the ark was being constructed.**
- **In this state also he went his way and preached to the spirits in prison. (1 Peter 3:19)**
- **Who had once been disobedient when the patience of God was waiting in Noah's days, while the ark was being constructed, in which a few people, that is, eight souls, were carried safely through the water. (1 Peter 3:20)**
- **This directly links the matter to the account at;**
- **Now it came about that when men started to grow in numbers on the surface of the ground and daughters were born to them.**

(Genesis 6:1)

- Then the sons of the true God began to notice the daughters of men, that they were good-looking, and they went taking wives for themselves, namely, all whom they chose. **(Genesis 6:2)**
- After that Yehowah said; My spirit shall not act toward man indefinitely in that he is also flesh. Accordingly his days shall amount to a hundred and twenty years. **(Genesis 6:3)**
- The Nephilim proved to be in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of the true God continued to have relations with the daughters of men and they bore sons to them, they were the mighty ones who were of old, the men of fame. **(Genesis 6:4)**
- Concerning the sons of the true God who abandoned their heavenly abode to cohabit with women in pre-Flood times and produced children by them, such offspring being designated as Nephilim.

See Also NEPHILIM

See Also SON (S) OF GOD

- From these texts it is evident that **Tartarus** is a **condition** rather than a **particular location**, inasmuch as Peter, on the one hand, speaks of these disobedient spirits as being in pits of dense darkness, while Paul speaks of them as being in heavenly places from which they exercise a rule of darkness as wicked spirit forces.
- Certainly if God did not hold back from punishing the angels that sinned, but, by throwing them into **Tartarus**, delivered them to pits of dense darkness to be reserved for judgment. **(2 Peter 2:4)**
- Finally, go on acquiring power in the Lord and in the mightiness of his strength. **(Ephesians 6:10)**
- Put on the complete suit of armor from God that you may be able to stand firm against the machinations of the Devil. **(Ephesians 6:11)**
- Because we have a wrestling, not against blood and flesh, but against the governments, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces in

the heavenly places. (**Ephesians 6:12**)

- **The dense darkness** similarly is not literally a lack of light but results from their being **cut off from illumination by God** as renegades and outcasts from his family, with only a dark outlook as to their eternal destiny.
- **Tartarus** is, therefore, not the same as the Hebrew Sheol or the Greek Hades, both of which refer to the common earthly grave of mankind.
- This is evident from the fact that, while the apostle Peter shows that Jesus Christ preached to these spirits in prison, he also shows that Jesus did so, not during the three days while buried in Hades, or Sheol, but **after** his resurrection out of Hades.
- Why, even Christ died once for all time concerning sins, a righteous person for unrighteous ones, that he might lead you to God, he being put to death in the flesh, but being made alive in the spirit. (**1 Peter 3:18**)
- In this state also he went his way and preached to the spirits in prison. (**1 Peter 3:19**)
- Who had once been disobedient when the patience of God was waiting in Noah's days, while the ark was being constructed, in which a few people, that is, eight souls, were carried safely through the water. (**1 Peter 3:20**)
- Likewise the abased condition represented by **Tartarus** should not be confused with the abyss into which Satan and his demons are eventually to be cast for the thousand years of Christ's rule.
- 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**)

- **Apparently the disobedient angels were cast into **Tartarus** in **Noah's days**.**
- **Who had once been disobedient when the patience of God was waiting in Noah's days, while the ark was being constructed, in which a few people, that is, eight souls, were carried safely through the water. (1 Peter 3:20)**
- **But some 2,000 years later we find them entreating Jesus not to order them to go away into the abyss.**
- **And they put in to shore in the country of the Gerasenes, which is on the side opposite Galilee. (Luke 8:26)**
- **But as he got out onto land a certain man from the city who had demons met him. And for a considerable time he had not worn clothing, and he was staying, not at home, but among the tombs. (Luke 8:27)**
- **At the sight of Jesus he cried aloud and fell down before him, and with a loud voice he said; What have I to do with you, Jesus Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me. (Luke 8:28)**
- **For he had been ordering the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For over a long time it had held him fast, and he was repeatedly bound with chains and fetters under guard, but he would burst the bonds and be driven by the demon into the lonely places. (Luke 8:29)**
- **Jesus asked him; What is your name? He said; Legion, because many demons had entered into him. (Luke 8:30)**
- **And they kept entreating him not to order them to go away into the abyss. (Luke 8:31)**

See Also ABYSS

- **The word **Tartarus** is also used in pre-Christian heathen mythologies. In **Homer's Iliad** this mythological **Tartarus** is represented as an underground prison **as far below Hades as earth is below heaven**.**

- In it were imprisoned the lesser gods, Cronus and the other Titan spirits. As we have seen, the **Tartarus** of the Bible is not a place but a condition and, therefore, is **not the same** as this **Tartarus** of Greek mythology.
- However, it is worth noting that the mythological **Tartarus** was presented not as a place for human's but as a place for superhuman creatures. So, in that regard there is a similarity, since the Scriptural **Tartarus** is clearly not for the detention of human souls.
- And you, Capernaum, will you perhaps be exalted to heaven? Down to Hades you will come, because if the powerful works that took place in you had taken place in Sodom, it would have remained until this very day. (**Matthew 11:23**)
- But is only for wicked superhuman spirits who are rebels against God.
- The condition of utter debasement represented by **Tartarus** is a precursor of the abyssing that Satan and his demons are to experience prior to the start of the Thousand Year Reign of Christ.
- This, in turn, is to be followed after the end of the thousand years by their utter destruction in the second death.
- Then he will say, in turn, to those on his left; Be on your way from me, you who have been cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels. (**Matthew 25:41**)
- 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**)
- Now as soon as the thousand years have been ended, Satan will be let loose out of his prison. (**Revelation 20:7**)

- **And he will go out to mislead those nations in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war. The number of these is as the sand of the sea. (Revelation 20:8)**
- **And they advanced over the breadth of the earth and encircled the camp of the holy ones and the beloved city. But fire came down out of heaven and devoured them. (Revelation 20:9)**
- **And the Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulphur, where both the wild beast and the false prophet already were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Revelation 20:10)**
- **And death and Hades were hurled into the lake of fire. This means the second death, the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:14)**