

## **Briefing Document-The Fall of the World: Lesson 19**

**Sunday PM-July 12, 2026**

### **Executive Summary**

This briefing document analyzes the distinctions between various spiritual locations mentioned in biblical prophecy, including the Abyss, Hades, and the Lake of Fire. A central theme is the chronological progression of divine judgment and the occupants of these locations. Key findings include:

- **Distinct Locations:** The "Abyss" (a temporary prison for demons) is separate from the "Lake of Fire" (the final place of punishment).
- **The State of the Dead:** Since the resurrection of Christ, believers go directly to be with the Lord, while unbelievers reside in Hades—a place of spiritual torment—until the final judgment.
- **Human Depravity:** The Millennial Kingdom demonstrates that a perfect environment cannot change human nature. Despite a 1,000-year reign of peace under Christ, a final rebellion occurs when Satan is released, proving that only a relationship with Jesus can transform the human heart.
- **The Finality of Hell:** Hell (Gehenna) is a literal, physical place of eternal punishment for both the soul and the resurrected body.

### **The Geography of the Afterlife**

The source emphasizes the importance of distinguishing between various spiritual realms to understand the unfolding prophetic plan.

### **The Abyss (Abussos)**

- **Definition:** A place specifically designed for demons.
- **Occupants:** It is currently occupied by bound demons held in chains.
- **Future Use:** Satan will be imprisoned here for 1,000 years during the Millennial Kingdom before his final release and ultimate defeat.

### **Hades and Sheol**

- **Old Testament Context:** In the Old Testament, the place of the dead was called *Sheol*. It consisted of two compartments: a place of blessing (often called "Abraham's Bosom" or "Paradise") for believers and a place of torment for non-believers.
- **New Testament Context:** *Hades* is the Greek equivalent of *Sheol*.

- **The Transition:** Following His death, Jesus descended to the place of the dead to lead the godly captives to heaven. As the source notes, "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."
- **Current Status:** Today, there is no longer a "waiting place" for believers. To be *absent from the body is to be present with the Lord*. Consequently, *Hades* now only refers to the place where the souls of the unsaved wait in torment for the final judgment.

### **The Lake of Fire (Hell)**

- **Definition:** The final resting place for the damned, often referred to as the "final hell."
- **Gehenna:** The New Testament uses the word *Gehenna* to describe this location. The term refers to the Valley of Hinnom, a city dump outside Jerusalem where fires burned continuously and scavengers gathered. Jesus used this vivid imagery to describe a place where *their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched*.
- **Current Occupancy:** Currently, the Lake of Fire has no residents. It will receive its first occupants at the end of the Tribulation.

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### **The Chronology of Occupancy in the Lake of Fire**

The population of the Lake of Fire follows a specific sequence tied to the end-times timeline:

| Order         | Occupants                                    | Timing                                                            |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>First</b>  | The Beast (Antichrist) and the False Prophet | The beginning of the Millennial Kingdom (end of the Tribulation). |
| <b>Second</b> | The Devil (Satan)                            | The end of the Millennial Kingdom after the final rebellion.      |
| <b>Third</b>  | The Unsaved (Those not in the Book of Life)  | After the Great White Throne Judgment.                            |

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### **The Millennial Kingdom and the Final Rebellion**

The Millennium is a 1,000-year period (from the Latin *mille* for thousand and *annum* for year) where Christ rules the earth.

### **The Nature of the Kingdom**

- **Environment:** It is a "golden age" with a perfect environment, long life spans, and Christ ruling with a "rod of iron."

- **The Presence of Sin:** Even without Satan's influence, sin remains possible because humans still possess a "sin nature." The source argues that cleaning up an environment does not change a person's nature; it only changes the format of their disobedience.

### **The Release of Satan**

At the end of the 1,000 years, Satan is released from the Abyss for a short time.

- **The Purpose:** To expose the true character of those who merely conformed outwardly to Christ's rule but remained rebels at heart.
- **The Result:** Satan organizes a worldwide rebellion (Gog and Magog). The number of rebels is described as being *as the sand of the sea*.
- **The Conclusion:** This final batch of sinners is dealt with before the eternal kingdom begins.

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### **Key Biblical Insights and Warnings**

The source provides several critical perspectives on the reality of eternal judgment:

- **Conscious Awareness:** The story of the Rich Man and Lazarus in *Luke 16* illustrates that those in *Hades* are fully conscious, in pain, and aware of why they are being punished. The rich man pleaded, *"Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."*
- **Physical Resurrection:** The unsaved will eventually receive new bodies at the Great White Throne Judgment. These bodies are resurrected specifically to be cast into the Lake of Fire. Jesus warned, *"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell"* (*Matthew 10:28*).
- **The Role of God:** The source clarifies that God, not Satan, runs hell. It is a place of divine judgment, not a kingdom ruled by the devil.

## **Greek and Hebrew Terminology Guide**

| <b>Term</b>         | <b>Phonetic Pronunciation</b> | <b>Definition</b>                                                                                                |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Abusos</b> [^1]  | ah-BUE-soce                   | The Greek word for "Abyss"; a bottomless pit or prison for demons.                                               |
| <b>Hades</b> [^2]   | HAY-deez                      | The Greek term for the world of the dead; currently a place of spiritual torment for the unsaved.                |
| <b>Protos</b> [^3]  | PRO-toce                      | Meaning the first, leader, or preeminent one; used to describe Christ as the "firstborn" from the dead.          |
| <b>Gehenna</b> [^4] | geh-HEN-ah                    | A Greek term derived from the Hebrew <i>Ge-Hinnom</i> ; refers to the final, eternal place of punishment (Hell). |
| <b>Sheol</b> [^5]   | sheh-OLE                      | The Hebrew word for the world of the dead used in the Old Testament.                                             |
| <b>Topheth</b> [^6] | TOE-feth                      | A Hebrew term associated with the place of burning in the Valley of Hinnom.                                      |

[^1]: Used to describe the temporary prison for the demonic hierarchy and Satan. [^2]: Distinguished from the final Lake of Fire; it is a temporary holding place for souls. [^3]: Indicates Christ's status as the prototype for the resurrection of the godly. [^4]: Specifically used by Jesus to describe the physical and eternal reality of hell. [^5]: Described as having two compartments before the resurrection of Christ. [^6]: Noted as a Hebrew word for hell that requires a distinct pronunciation.