

אַבְדוֹן

Strong's Concordance

abaddon: (place of) destruction or ruin, Abaddon

Original Word: אַבְדוֹן

Part of Speech: Proper Name Location

Transliteration: abaddon

Phonetic Spelling: (ab-ad-done')

Short Definition: Abaddon
from abad

<http://biblehub.com/hebrew/11.htm>

אַבַּד

Strong's Concordance

abad: to perish

Original Word: אַבַּד

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: abad

Phonetic Spelling: (aw-bad')

Short Definition: perish

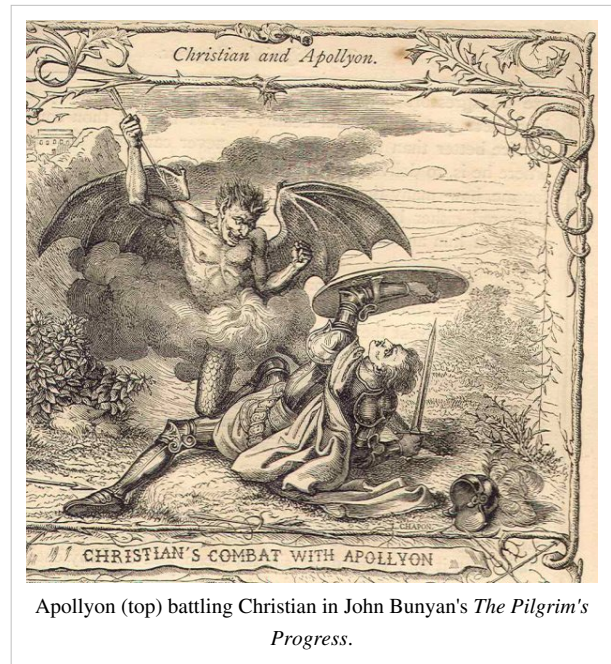
<http://biblehub.com/hebrew/6.htm>

Abaddon

"Apollyon" redirects here. For other uses, see Apollyon (disambiguation).

This article is about the Hebrew word. For other uses, see Abaddon (disambiguation).

The Hebrew term *Abaddon* (Hebrew: אַבְדּוֹן, *ʾĀḇaddōn*), and its Greek equivalent *Apollyon* (Greek: Ἀπολλύων, *Apollyon*), appear in the Bible as a place of destruction and an angel, respectively. In the Hebrew Bible, *abaddon* is used with reference to a bottomless pit, often appearing alongside the place שְׁאוֹל (*sheol*), meaning the land of the dead. In the New Testament Book of Revelation, an angel called Abaddon is written as the king of an army of locusts; his name is first transcribed in Greek (Revelation 9:11 – "whose name in Hebrew Abaddon" (Ἀβαδδὼν)), and then translated ("which in Greek means the Destroyer" (Ἀπολλύων, *Apollyon*)). The Latin Vulgate, as well as the Douay Rheims Bible, has an additional note (not present in the Greek text), "in Latin Exterminans", *exterminans* being the Latin word for "destroyer".



Judaism

Etymology

According to the Brown Driver Briggs lexicon, the Hebrew *abaddon* (Hebrew: אַבְדּוֹן; *avadon*) is an intensive form of the Semitic root and verb stem *abad* (אָבַד) "perish" (transitive "destroy"), which occurs 184 times in the Hebrew Bible. The Septuagint, an early Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible, renders "abaddon" as "ἀπόλλεια," while the Greek *Apollyon* comes from *apollumi* (ἀπόλλυμι) "to destroy."

Hebrew Bible

The term *abaddon* appears six times in the Masoretic text of the Hebrew Bible; *abaddon* means destruction or "place of destruction", or the realm of the dead, and is associated with Sheol.

- Job 26:6: the grave (Sheol) is naked before Him, and destruction (Abaddon) has no covering.
- Job 28:22: destruction (Abaddon) and death say...
- Job 31:12: it is a fire that consumes to destruction (Abaddon)...
- Psalm 88:11: Shall thy loving kindness be declared in the grave (Sheol) or thy faithfulness in destruction (Abaddon)?
- Proverbs 15:11: Hell (Sheol) and Destruction (Abaddon) are before the LORD, how much more than the hearts of the children of men?
- Proverbs 27:20: Hell (Sheol) and Destruction (Abaddon) are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied. (KJV, 1611)

Second Temple era texts

The text of the Thanksgiving Hymns – which was found in the Dead Sea Scrolls – tells of "the Sheol of Abaddon" and of the "torrents of Belial [that] burst into Abaddon". The *Biblical Antiquities* (misattributed to Philo) mentions Abaddon as a place (*sheol*, hell), not as a spirit or demon or angel. Abaddon is also one of the compartments of Gehenna.^[1] By extension, it can mean an underworld abode of lost souls, or Hell.

Rabbinical literature

In some legends, Abaddon is identified as a realm where the damned lie in fire and snow, one of the places in Hell that Moses visited.

Christianity

Etymology

The Greek term "the Destroyer" (*Apollyon*, Ἀπολλύων) is the active participle of *apollumi* (ἀπόλλυμι) "to destroy". The term is not used as a name in classical Greek texts.

New Testament

The Christian scriptures contain the first known depiction of *Abaddon* as an individual entity instead of a place.

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. KJV, 1611

In Revelation 9:11, Abaddon is described as "The Destroyer", the angel of the abyss, and as the king of a plague of locusts resembling horses with crowned human faces, women's hair, lions' teeth, wings, iron breast-plates, and a tail with a scorpion's stinger that torments for five months anyone who does not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

Gnostic Texts

In the 3rd century Acts of Thomas, Abaddon is the name of a demon, or the Devil himself.

Abaddon is given particularly important roles in two sources, a homily entitled "The Enthronement of Abbaton" by pseudo-Timothy of Alexandria, and the Apocalypse of Bartholomew.^[2] In the homily by Timothy, Abbaton was first named *Muriel*, and had been given the task by God of collecting the earth which would be used in the creation of Adam. Upon completion of this task, the angel was then named to be guardian. Everyone, including the angels, demons, and corporeal entities, felt fear of him. Abbaton engaged in prayer and ultimately obtained the promise that any men who venerated him during their lifetime stood the chance of being saved. Abaddon is also said to have a prominent role in the Last Judgement, as the one who will take the souls to the Valley of Josaphat. He is described in the Apocalypse of Bartholomew as being present in the Tomb of Jesus at the moment of his resurrection.

Protestant commentators

The symbolism of Revelation 9:11 leaves the exact identification of Abaddon open for interpretation. Matthew Henry (1708) believed Abaddon to be the antichrist, while the Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary (1871) and Henry H. Halley (1922) identified the angel as Satan.^{[3][4]} In contrast, the Methodist publication *The Interpreter's Bible* states: "Abaddon, however, is an angel not of Satan but of God, performing his work of destruction at God's bidding."^[5]

Jehovah's Witnesses

Jehovah's Witnesses also hold that Abaddon is not satanic, but another name of the resurrected and enthroned Jesus Christ, noting that "at Revelation 20:1-3 the angel having "the key of the abyss" is shown to be God's representative from heaven, and rather than being "satanic," he binds and hurls Satan into the abyss."^[6]

Latter-Day Saints

Latter-Day Saints believe that "Abaddon" is a title of the devil.

References

- [1] Metzger & Coogan (1993) *Oxford Companion to the Bible*, p3.
- [2] Atiya, Aziz S. *The Coptic Encyclopedia*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1991. ISBN 0-02-897025-X
- [3] Halley (1922) *Halley's Bible Handbook with the New International Version*, p936.
- [4] William MacDonald (Christian author) (1995) *Believer's Bible Commentary*, p2366.
- [5] *The New Interpreter's Bible: Hebrews - Revelation (Volume 12)* by Fred B. Craddock, Leander E. Keck, Luke Timothy Johnson and Christopher Rowland. Abingdon Press, 1998. ISBN 0687278252
- [6] Watchtower, 1 December 1961, p. 719



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External links



Wikisource has the text of the 1911 *Encyclopædia Britannica* article *Abaddon*.

- *Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge* (http://www.cblibrary.org/schaff_h/aa/abaddon.htm), Abaddon
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