

SABBATH HEALINGS

“Out of the Pit”

Luke 14:1-6

- 1 One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.
- 2 There in front of him was a man suffering from **dropsy**.
- 3 Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?"
- 4 But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him away.
- 5 Then he asked them, "If one of you has **a son** or **an ox** that falls into a well [KJV **-pit**] on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull him out?"
- 6 And they had nothing to say. NIV

What is dropsy? I always thought it was a muscle malady, some weakness that caused the foot to drop or the arm to be limp. I thought “dropsy” “drop” or “droop.” I couldn’t have been more wrong. This proves that thinking you know is worse than knowing you don’t! Dropsy comes from hydrophy, which in the Greek is hudropikos. It means water retention. If it is heart or kidney related, it results in swollen limbs. If it is liver related, it results in a swollen abdomen. Liver related hydrophy was more common in the region because of the continual exposure to malaria. Malarial worms tend to attack the liver and damage it.

What follows is subjective and is based on a conjecture:

If the man’s malady was caused by liver problems, then in this passage in Luke we have liver, son, ox, and a pit. What if we could find another section of Scripture that mentions the same things in connection with each other?

Prov 7:22-27

- 22 All at once he followed her like an **ox** going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose
- 23 till an arrow pierces his **liver**, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life.
- 24 Now then, my **sons**, listen to me; pay attention to what I say.
- 25 Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths.
- 26 Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng.
- 27 Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death. NIV

The word “pit” or “well” in Luke 14:5 is the Greek word phrear, which basically means a hole in the ground. Aside from Luke, John is the only other New Testament writer to use this word.

John 4:10-14

- 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."
- 11 "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the **well** is deep. Where can you get this living water?"
- 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the **well** and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?"
- 13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,

14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." NIV

In John, we see "the pit" as a place of gathering water, a well. It should be obvious how appropriate it is to compare a man who is retaining water to a beast of burden fallen into a well!

Rev 9:1-2

- 1 Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless **pit**.
- 2 And he opened the bottomless **pit**, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the **pit**. NKJV

In Revelation, the pit is described by the adjective bottomless. Bottomless is the Greek word abussos, which means "abyss." This is exactly how the NIV translates it. Instead of using two words "bottomless pit", it uses the one word, Abyss.

Rev 9:11

And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the **bottomless pit** [Gr. *Abussos*], whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon. KJV

Rev 9:11

They had as king over them the angel of the **Abyss**, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon. NIV

The Abyss is a bottomless pit! (Hold on, this really is going somewhere.) Apollyon, the destroyer, satan is the king of the bottomless pit.

Rev 20:1-3

- 1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain.
- 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.
- 3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. NIV

The Abyss also happens to be the place of his incarceration. It is a place feared by demons.

Luke 8:30-31 NIV

- 30 Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him.
- 31 And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss [KJV – *the deep*].

The deep is the Abyss.

Rom 10:6-7

6 But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down)

7 "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). NIV

The Abyss is the deep and the deep is a place of the dead. These verses in Romans are a quote from Deuteronomy.

Deut 30:12-13

12 It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?"

13 Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" NIV

We have moved from the pit to the Abyss, from the Abyss to the deep, and now from the deep to the sea. Once in the sea, there are volumes of information on this place in the Old Testament.

Job 38:8-11 NIV

8 "Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb,

9 when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness,

10 when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place,

11 when I said, 'This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt'?

The Lord delights in showing His mastery over the sea. We see this in the earthly sojourn of our Lord Jesus Christ when He commanded the waves to be still and walked on the stormy sea. The sea, though, represents another spiritual dimension.

Job 38:16-18

16 "Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep?

17 Have the gates of death been shown to you? Have you seen the gates of the shadow of death?

18 Have you comprehended the vast expanses of the earth? Tell me, if you know all this. NIV

The gates of death and the gates of the shadow of death are in the recesses of the deep! In one sense, His walk on the water was a triumph march over death, for He is the Resurrection and the Life.

Ezek 28:6-10

6 "Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "Because you think you are wise, as wise as a god,

7 I am going to bring foreigners against you, the most ruthless of nations; they will draw their swords against your beauty and wisdom and pierce your shining splendor.

8 They will bring you down to the pit, and you will die a violent death in the heart of the seas.

9 Will you then say, "I am a god," in the presence of those who kill you? You will be but a man, not a god, in the hands of those who slay you.

10 You will die the death of the uncircumcised at the hands of foreigners. I have spoken, declares the Sovereign LORD." NIV

*Granted, Tyre was an island city. But Tyre, its king and kingdom, also stand for the devil and his kingdom. Verse 8 says, "They will bring you down to **the pit**, and you will die a violent death **in the heart of the seas.**"*

Amos 8:13-9:3

- 13 "In that day "the lovely young women and strong young men will faint because of thirst.
- 14 They who swear by the shame of Samaria, or say, 'As surely as your god lives, O Dan,' or, 'As surely as the god of Beersheba lives'- they will fall, never to rise again."
- 1 I saw the Lord standing by the altar, and he said: "Strike the tops of the pillars so that the thresholds shake. Bring them down on the heads of all the people; those who are left I will kill with the sword. Not one will get away, none will escape.
- 2 Though they dig down to the depths of the grave, from there my hand will take them. Though they climb up to the heavens, from there I will bring them down.
- 3 Though they hide themselves on the top of Carmel, there I will hunt them down and seize them. **Though they hide from me at the bottom of the sea, there I will command the serpent to bite them.** NIV

In Romans and Deuteronomy, we learned that to receive the word of salvation, we didn't have to climb to heaven or dive to the deep. The word of salvation is there, nigh to our heart and in our mouths, "Jesus, You are Lord! God has raised You from the dead!" In contrast, Amos speaks of idolaters who dig to the depths or climb the heavens seeking to avoid God. He makes it plain that even if they go to the bottom of the sea (the pit), He will command the serpent to bite them. This is the fate of idolaters.

Rom 12:1-2

- 1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship.
- 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will. NIV

We are to offer our bodies as living sacrifices. This is our spiritual act of worship. Now, lest we have forgotten, we are talking about a man who probably has a damaged liver from malaria causing him to suffer from dropsy. The liver was used in the Old Testament sacrificial system and represents worship.

Ex 29:13, 22

- 13 Then take all the fat around the inner parts, **the covering of the liver**, and both kidneys with the fat on them, and burn them on the altar.
- 22 "Take from this ram the fat, the fat tail, the fat around the inner parts, **the covering of the liver**, both kidneys with the fat on them, and the right thigh. (This is the ram for the ordination.) NIV

Read also Leviticus 3.

Jonah 2:2-10

- 2 He said: "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From the depths of the grave I called for help, and you listened to my cry.
- 3 You hurled me into the deep, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me.
- 4 I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.'
- 5 The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head.
- 6 To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you brought my life up from the pit, O LORD my God.
- 7 "When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple.
- 8 "Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.
- 9 But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD."
- 10 And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land. NIV

Jonah says that he called out to God from the depths of the grave. The Hebrew word for grave is sheol and is translated hell in the King James Version. We have gone from a pit to the abyss to the deep to the sea to sheol, hell or the grave.

Matt 12:40

For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. KJV

How was Jesus in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights? Dead, like Jonah was in the whale's belly.

Typical People Thrown into Pits-

Type

Joseph

Absalom

Korah's rebellion

Anti-type

Jesus

The devil

Apostate believers (outer darkness)

The pit is used poetically of the grave.

Ps 30:1-4

- 1 I will exalt you, O LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me.
- 2 O LORD my God, I called to you for help and you healed me.
- 3 O LORD, you brought me up from the grave; you spared me from going down into the pit.
- 4 Sing to the LORD, you saints of his; praise his holy name. NIV

Ps 28:1-7

- 1 To you I call, O LORD my Rock; do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you remain silent, I will be like those who have gone down to the pit.

- 2 Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place.
- 3 Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil, who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts.
- 4 Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work; repay them for what their hands have done and bring back upon them what they deserve.
- 5 Since they show no regard for the works of the LORD and what his hands have done, he will tear them down and never build them up again.
- 6 Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy.
- 7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song. NIV

Adultery and idolatry are bound together in the word of God. Those bound up in adultery in the physical are sure to be involved in idolatry in the spiritual. The converse is also true, those involved in spiritual idolatry will find themselves soon involved in sexual immorality.

Prov 23:26-27

- 26 My son, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways,
27 for **a prostitute is a deep pit** and a wayward wife is a narrow well. NIV

We need to keep the ways of the Father to avoid the deep pit of the prostitute! (Read Prov. 5, 7)

Song 4:12-15

- 12 A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.
13 Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with spikenard,
14 Spikenard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices:
15 A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon. KJV

In contrast to the narrow well of the wayward wife (adulteress) or the deep pit of the prostitute (strange woman), the bride of Christ is to be a well of living waters!

John 7:37-39

- 37 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.
38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."
39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. NIV

John 4:13-14

- 13 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,
14 but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." NIV

Amos spoke of the fate of those who had forsaken the covenant. Isaiah and Zechariah give us the contrasting fates for non-covenant and covenant keeping peoples.

Isa 24:17-23

- 17 Terror and pit and snare await you, O people of the earth.
18 Whoever flees at the sound of terror will fall into a pit; whoever climbs out of the pit will be caught in a snare. The floodgates of the heavens are opened, the foundations of the earth shake.
19 The earth is broken up, the earth is split asunder, the earth is thoroughly shaken.
20 The earth reels like a drunkard, it sways like a hut in the wind; so heavy upon it is the guilt of its rebellion that it falls--never to rise again. [Read also Haggai 2:6-8 and Heb 12:26-29.]
21 In that day the LORD will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below.
22 They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon; they will be shut up in prison and be punished after many days.
23 The moon will be abashed, the sun ashamed; for the LORD Almighty will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before its elders, gloriously. NIV

Those found outside of the covenant shall be bound up in a dungeon.

Zech 9:9-17

- 9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
10 I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.
11 **As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.**
12 Return to your fortress, O prisoners of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.
13 I will bend Judah as I bend my bow and fill it with Ephraim. I will rouse your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece, and make you like a warrior's sword.
14 Then the LORD will appear over them; his arrow will flash like lightning. The Sovereign LORD will sound the trumpet; he will march in the storms of the south,
15 and the LORD Almighty will shield them. They will destroy and overcome with slingstones. They will drink and roar as with wine; they will be full like a bowl used for sprinkling the corners of the altar.
16 The LORD their God will save them on that day as the flock of his people. They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown.
17 How attractive and beautiful they will be! Grain will make the young men thrive, and new wine the young women. NIV

Those found under the blood of the covenant will be set free from the waterless pit!

*The man in Luke 14 had dropsy. He had fallen into a well either of sorrow (Lam 2:11 KJV), adultery, or idolatry. The Lord drew this one out on the Sabbath day as He will liberate many from the waterless pit on **the** Sabbath day because of the blood of His covenant.*

So now the stage is set to look at how He tied these healings on the Sabbath day to the kingdom. But for now, we will close with Psalm 46:1-11.

Ps 46:1-11

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
- 3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Selah
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.
- 5 God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.
- 6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
- 7 The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah
- 8 Come and see the works of the LORD, the desolations he has brought on the earth.
- 9 He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire.
- 10 "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."
- 11 The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah NIV