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far as their spirits were concerned, are suffering the pains of eternal fire. The message of Revelation, then, is that the souls in Hades are in torment, "suffering," "in prison," under restraint, and that fire, eternal fire is the instrument of their torture.

But some will ask: "What is this fire?" I do not know, and thank God, through Jesus Christ, I never will know. Some tell us that the Hadean fire is a symbol. So be it. Let us remember that the symbol is never greater than the reality. The seed thrown broadcast in the earth is not greater than the word of the kingdom, the vehicle of the divine life to the human soul. The four different kinds of soil are not greater than the four different kinds of human hearts, set forth by them. The tares among the wheat, and bad fish in the dragnet are not greater than the counterfeit Christians represented by them. The lion of the jungle is not greater than the Lion of the tribe of Judah. The sign, the symbol, is always less than the thing signified. The figurative language of Holy Writ is always a representation, on a greatly reduced scale, of a fact, a reality, that cannot be described by words.