

Would this make sense? This verse would then read “kept in unseen chains in utter darkness, locked up for the judgment of the great Day” or perhaps “kept in chains of Hades in utter darkness, locked up for the judgment of the great Day”. Either of these would make excellent sense.

The other verse where we find αἰδιος is Rom 1: 20 “For since the creation of the world his invisible attributes – his αἰδιος power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, because they are understood through what has been made.” His *eternal* power or his *unseen* power? There is no particular reason for speaking about God’s power being *eternal*, any more than any other of his attributes being eternal. But describing his power as *unseen* in the context of this verse makes perfect sense.

Thus in the only two occasions in the New Testament where αἰδιος occurs, translating it as *unseen* makes much better sense than translating it as *eternal*.

So my conclusion: contrary to several hundred years of Bible translation tradition, these angels are kept in *unseen* chains rather than *eternal* chains!

It’s interesting to note the parallel passage in 2 Peter 2: 4: “For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to Tartarus, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment”. In Greek mythology Tartarus was the lowest region of Hades, reserved for the especially wicked. To my mind this confirms that αἰδιος relates to Hades rather than meaning *eternal*.

Αἰδιος

Eternal Chains

or

Unseen Chains?

Αἰδιος

Eternal Chains or Unseen Chains?

You also know that the angels who did not keep within their proper domain but abandoned their own place of residence, he has kept in **eternal chains** in utter darkness, locked up for the judgment of the great day (Jude 1:6).

Does this verse make sense?

Would you lock up a turkey in an eternal coop for Thanksgiving Day (or whenever you eat turkeys)? No! You would look for secure, but temporary, accommodation for it until its appointed time came! Likewise keeping people in *eternal chains* until the Day of Judgment makes no sense.

“*Everlasting (or Eternal) destruction*” is a similar contradiction in terms. Destruction is immediate and final, not continuing for ever. I have explained this in [ολεθρος](#).

In both cases we have to turn to the Greek for solutions. For *eternal* chains in this verse we do not find the usual Greek word αἰωνιος (aionios) (traditionally translated *eternal*, but literally meaning *age-lasting*). Instead we find the word αἰδιος (aidios) which only occurs twice in the New Testament. When a word occurs so few times in ancient literature, it is difficult to be sure of its meaning. The dictionaries say that αἰδιος comes from the Greek word αἰ (ai) meaning *always* and so means *eternal*. Actually αἰδιος is much closer to the Greek word Αἰδης (aides) meaning *Hades*. It looks exactly like an adjective derived from its noun. Hades literally means the *unseen world*. Αἰδιος then would naturally mean *unseen* or *belonging to Hades*.

Bible quotations are taken from the NIV or retranslated