

Revelation Chapter 9

9:1-12 The Sounding of the trumpets continues

“And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. 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. One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.”

A. From the message of the flying angel in chapter 8:13 we are to understand that these last three trumpet judgments are worse than the first four.

B. A star falls from heaven. This is not a literal star such as the ones in chapter 6:13 and 8:10.

This is a personage. We know this because it is called a “him”, “he is given a key”, and “he opens the pit”. Angels in the bible are called stars, Job 38:7. And this star is an angel. But is it a good angel of a wicked angel? It seems clear that this is a wicked angel. It is said to fall from heaven, verse 1. I’d think a good angel would descend, John 1:51. This unholy angel is given the key to the bottomless pit and is allowed to open it, verses 1 and 2. This place called the bottomless pit in the center of the earth and the same as hell, compare Isaiah 14:15. Since the earth is circular and so is it’s center, and since the earth has a gravitational pull toward

it’s center, it would have no bottom, no solid resting place. I believe this star is Satan himself, compare Isaiah 14:12-14, Luke 10:18.

C. This fallen star is permitted to bring terror upon the world of lost souls, compare Revelation 12:12. Satan is no friend to his followers. He is permitted to open the doorway of hell and allow its demoniac forces temporary freedom. When hell is opened a smog like smoke comes out and fills the atmosphere and the air is darkened with the smoke from the pit.

D. The smoke was not the only thing turned loose upon earth, there came out of the smoke locust upon the earth and they are given power as the scorpions of the earth have power. The scorpions of the earth have a poisonous and painful power, these demoniac locust from hell have a far greater and more poisonous and painful power. These are not ordinary locust. Notice:

1. Fire and smoke would either kill or drive ordinary locust away. But these locust are right at home in this hellish smog.

2. These locust are given power as scorpions to sting and hurt men for five months. They do not damage the grass and greenery of earth as ordinary locust would, compare Exodus 10:4-5.

3. These locust look like horses prepared to do battle. They wear crowns like gold, have faces like men, hair like women, teeth like lions, breastplates of iron, tails like scorpions, and they have stings in the ends of their tails. And they sound like the chariots of many horses running to battle, verses 7-10.

4. These locust have a king over them. Ordinary locust do not, Proverbs 30:27. Their king is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name is Abaddon and Apollyon. Satan is the angel of the bottomless pit. He enters the body of Antichrist during the midst of the tribulation, Revelation 13:3, as does a spirit from hell, Revelation 11:7, and is the leader of these hordes from hell. It seems that there is somewhere on earth a shaft that leads down into hell with a locked door. And it seems that the Antichrist will know its location and open the door, releasing multitudes of demoniac forces which invade the earth.

5. During these five months these demons will inflict untold anguish on the human race.

So much so that people will want to die in an attempt to escape the pain but they will not be able to die. It is an unspeakable horror to consider that regardless of what people do to themselves they cannot commit suicide.

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E. The only people exempt from the torture of these demons are the Jewish servants of God who are sealed in chapter 7:3. Possibly and hopefully the others who will turn to God through their message will be too. But this is not stated.

F. In verse 12 we are told that one, the first, woe is now past but there are two more just as horrible still to come.

9:13-19 The Sixth angel sounds his trumpet

“And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great River Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke and brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.”

A. When the sixth angel sounds his trumpet there's an unidentified voice that comes from the four horns of the golden altar. The horns of the altar were projections at each of the four comers of the altar. This is evidently the one from which Moses designed the ones on earth, Hebrews 8-5, Exodus 27:1-8, 30:1-7. Regardless of how one would identify this voice, in the final analysis the authority behind it is God.

B. This herald of heaven gives command to this sixth angel that just sounded his trumpet to loose the four angels which are bound in the great River Euphrates. These are fallen angels that have been bound in the depths of this river for centuries. It could be that they were incarcerated at the same time as those mentioned in Jude 6. For purposes of God's own, he dealt with the fallen angels in different ways. It seems that initially, when Satan's attempt to take over heaven failed, he and his followers were simply cast out of and down from God's heaven and left to roam the universe as defeated foes of God. However, they have been guilty of heinous crimes against God and man ever since and God has dealt with each situation as he sees fit. When the fallen angels took human women for sexual purposes,

and produced giants, which they did on more than one occasion, Genesis 6:4, they were captured and put in chains in a dark place where they are reserved until the judgement of the great day, Jude 6. These that are bound in the depths of the Euphrates may have been incarcerated at the same time and for the same sin. But whatever the case with them is, it was the decision of God that during the tribulation they be loosed at a particular year, month, day, and hour, and that they lead armies of destruction to kill one-third of an already reduced human race, chapter 6:3-8, 8:11.

C. The size of this great army of destruction is given. There are two hundred thousand thousand, Some have figured that this army of two hundred million would be some one mile wide and eighty-seven miles long.

D. The description of this army is given. The demons have breastplates of fire and jacinth, (a dark dull bluish or orange color,) and brimstone. And they are riding demon horses that have heads like lions and mouths that issue fire and smoke and brimstone out of them. And they have huge tails like serpents with a serpent's heads at the end of them with which to bite and hurt people. These horrible creatures are demons of death from hell. And they kill one-third of this planet's already reduced population. These are fire breathing dragons from hell, compare Job 41:18-21. And you may safely ignore any suggestion that this is only descriptive of modern day warfare. This is a warfare alright and an invasion alright, but it is an invasion of demons from hell.

9:20-21 The Sinners remain unrepentant

“And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood; which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

A. This is perhaps the most vivid description of the sinful nature of man in all the bible. For in the midst of the sorest of judgements sent by God, mankind still will not repent and turn to God. They hold sin to dear to give it up. And by the way, this is the simple reason as to why multitudes will not get saved today. They simply love sin to much to give it up!

B. The sins mentioned here are easily compared with the sin that people embrace and hold dear today. Human works, evil works, devil worship, idolatry, murder, sorcery, thefts, and then of course sexual sin.