

## Revelation Ch. 9

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### INTRODUCTION:

- Thus far as the 7<sup>th</sup> seal is opened and the trumpet judgments have progressed through the first 4, they seem to have directly affected the Earth itself. Water, trees, fish, etc. have been the target; mankind has thus far been collateral damage of sorts, being affected indirectly.
- Now however this changes with the 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet, mankind is now the specific target of God's wrath.
- Angels, which are created beings, were given the job of ministering to us - the heirs of Salvation.

**Hebrews 1:14** "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"

- Fallen angels, as part of Satan's rebellion do the opposite of ministering to mankind.

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**V: 1** The fallen star is Satan.

**Isaiah 14:12** "How art thou fallen from Heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How are thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations."

**Luke 10:18** "... I beheld Satan as lightning fall from Heaven."

- Satan is the "star" being cast out of Heaven and opens the abyss - which God allows him to do.
- Distinction: Angel = aggelos, star = aster (falling star).
- Up till now Satan has had access to Heaven to be our accuser, not so any longer!
- This is desperation time for Satan, as he is given the keys to Hell by Jesus, he knows that time is short and he'll be working hard at what he does.

**Revelation 1:18** "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

- The bottomless pit - the abyss (abussos) - is literally a "bottomless" shaft that leads to Hell / Hades. Once at the pit of Hell, everywhere is "up" due to the Earth's rotation, as fallen as one can get.

- There are different compartments in Hell, Abraham's bosom, which is now vacant, then Hades / Sheol and Tartarus. (**2 Peter 2:4**)
- Hebrew: Sheol – translated at various times as: “hell”, “grave”, and “pit”.
- The NASB & RSV use “Sheol” almost exclusively, while the NIV intentionally avoids the term Sheol; using “grave”.
- In the NT, there are three Greek words that are often translated “hell” – “Hades”, Ghenna, and Tartarus.
  1. Hades was the name of the Greek god of the underworld, and of the underworld itself.
  2. Ghenna is the Greek translation of two Hebrew words: Ge-Henna, meaning the valley of Hinnom, referring to the valley on the south side of Jerusalem where pagan deities were worshipped. Eventually the same place became a garbage dump where the fires were never extinguished, burning continually.
  3. Tartarus is only used once to describe the place where fallen angels are kept. (**2 Peter 2:4**)

Lake of fire (Matthew 8); Outer darkness (Revelation)

**V: 2** Satan opens the door to the fiery furnace and smoke pours forth.

- When Mt. St. Helens blew, the smoke and dust darkened the sky and spread ash and dust over the entire planet, this will be worse I think.
- Satan is given the keys to a portion of Hell; he's not allowed to set everyone loose – he wouldn't do that anyway. Just those demons contained in one section.
- God allows - uses - Satan to accomplish His purpose against a world that has rejected His son Jesus.

**V: 3** The first time we see "smoke" (4X's) in the Bible is in the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah in **Genesis 19:28**.

**Genesis 19:28** “And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.”

- There are a number of similarities between the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the coming judgments upon man.
- Demonic, locust like creatures, like scorpions come out of the abyss. Considering the source, it wasn't gonna be good.

- God also used locusts as one of the plagues against Egypt and Pharaoh.

**Exodus 10:4** "Else, if thou refuse to let my people go, behold, tomorrow will I bring the locusts into thy coast:"

- They are given power for a purpose.
- God sent insects to drive out Israel's enemies before.

**Exodus 23:28; Deuteronomy 7:20; Joshua 24:12.**

- The sting of the middle eastern scorpion is the most painful sting or bite known to mankind, affecting the entire nervous system from head to toe.

**V: 4** This demonic horde is limited in what they are allowed to do, whom they can harm.

1. They aren't allowed to further harm the grass or trees, or any green thing, which is their natural food.
2. They're not allowed to harm or torment God's chosen or anointed. The 144,000.

**Psalms 105:15** "Saying, touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm."

- This discernment demonstrates that these creatures have intelligence, and that they too must obey God in a direct sense.

**V: 5** The locusts can't kill anyone; only inflict severe torment and pain.

**1 Corinthians 15:55** "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory."

- During this time, men will wish they could die, but cannot.
- This is limited to a 5-month period of time, the normal life span of a locust.
- Grace (5) in the midst of judgment? It could go on longer...
- During the flood of Noah the waters prevailed upon the Earth 150 days, 5 months. (**Genesis 7:24**)
- The waters of judgment also came from the deep. It was also during this time men who were not appointed by God perished. God's anointed were set aside from judgment.

**V: 6** The severity of the torment drives these evil men to seek death, much more so than before.

- Many have ruthlessly sought immortality, now they get what they want... sort of.
- If they have survived up to this point they will have survived through many trials - it appears that many will have hit their limit but would rather die than accept Jesus.
- Some mistakenly see this "preservation" as being directed by Satan as he attempts to preserve his army to fight the Lord.
- God has absolute control over who lives and who dies - as He always has, and we'll all die on time.
- God is the power that withholds death. Possibly preserving them for judgment, perhaps giving them a taste of hell, torment without death. Another chance at repentance, or simply being forced to face the full consequences of their rebellion.
- Maybe the 5 months is God's grace, giving these rebels another chance to repent and accept Jesus, if they haven't already received the mark of the beast.

**2 Peter 3:9** "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

**V: 7-10** Thus describing the locusts from the pit of Hell.

1. Shaped "like" horses prepared for battle. Armored plates / protection.
  2. Wearing crowns like gold, as opposed to crowns of righteousness.
  3. Faces like the men who brought this terrible judgment upon themselves.
  4. Hair like women's hair – long, possibly "permed"...
  5. Teeth like lions teeth, pointed, ferocious looking.
  6. Breastplates like iron, armor for battle.
  7. Loud wings, loud like chariots running to battle.
  8. Tails like scorpions, stingers.
- They were given 5 months to torment mankind, excluding the 144,000.
  - I take this literally to be some kind of creature created for this purpose - not symbolically as helicopters or machines of war.

- Being spirit beings they are not confined to conventional attacks, they can probably go right through fortress walls.
- Being a "spiritual battle" their only chance is spiritual weapons (**Eph. 6:12-18**) - but they don't want to use those, or they're permanently out of reach.

**2 Corinthians 10:4** "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."

**V: 11** These locusts have a leader, commander. This means there's direction, a mission.

- "The" fallen angel, also from the pit of Hell.
- Only one of those is named - Satan.
- Here he's given two titles.
  1. Hebrew - Abaddon: Destruction.
  2. Greek - Apollyon: Destroyer.
- In Ephesians 6, Paul describes the enemy forces in terms of rankings.

**Ephesians 6:12** "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of the world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

- These locusts are not normal locusts (no kidding!) because they have a leader.

**Proverbs 30:27** "The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;"

**V: 12** One down two to go.

**V: 13** The 6<sup>th</sup> angel sounds his trumpet.

- Then a voice from the four horns of the altar which is before God speaks.
- Is this voice Jesus, an angel, or actually the altar itself?
- Possibly the Lamb of God speaking upon the altar.
- The altar with 4 horns in the tabernacle and temple were a model of the heavenly altar that stands before the throne of God.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> trumpets judgments are similar, but distinct; they both describe separate demonic attacks upon mankind.

**V: 14** The voice says to the 6<sup>th</sup> angel with the trumpet.

- Turn loose the 4 angels who are bound in the Euphrates river. (Post or pre-diluvian?)
- Good angels don't need to be bound, bad ones do.

**Jude 6** "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

**2 Peter 2:4** "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to Hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment."

- The Euphrates river separates East from West.
- China's 2 million-man army is on the East side.
- There is a connection between the Euphrates and Babylon, Nimrod, idol worship, and bad things.
- Most false religions and satanic cults have their beginnings in Babylon, as does the Roman Catholic Church.
- Like Abraham, we are called to separate ourselves from these things.

**V: 15** These 4 angels are freed from their bonds and proceed to kill 1/3 of the men that are left on the Earth.

There are presently about 6 billion people on the earth.

- Revelation 6:4 The red horse & rider kill men, with no number given.
- Revelation 6:8 Pale horse & rider kill ¼ of population.  
6,000,000,000 – 1,500,000,000 = 4,500,000,000 left.
- Revelation 8:11 "many men" killed by the bitter waters.
- Revelation 9:15 1/3 of men killed. 4.5 billion – 1.5 billion = 3 billion left.
- ½ of the world's population has been killed up to this time.
- These angels were prepared for a specific set time – or...
- It's a set "hour"; these 4 terrible angels wipe out 1/3 of mankind in an hour!

**Isaiah 37:36** "Then the angel of the Lord went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses."

**V: 16** An army of horsemen – different from the “locusts”.

- This is a separate "woe" and a different group from the locusts who come out of the smoke from the pit of Hell.
- This army numbers 2 million.
- He either heard the number - like someone told him, or he upon hearing them counted them.
- The proceeding description seems to eliminate a "human" army.
- Led by the 4 angels of the Euphrates.

**V: 17** Horses are animals of war. (Job 39:19-25)

- The riders are wearing breastplates - battle armor.
- Breastplates of "fire" - red, and "Jacinth" - blue, and "brimstone" - yellow & orange.
- The head of the horses are like lions which breathed out fire, smoke, and brimstone.

**1 Peter 5:8** "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

- The same ingredients that were used in judgment against Sodom and Gomorrah, plus smoke. (**Genesis 19:24**)

**V: 18** Fire, smoke, and brimstone: a trinity of judgment kills 1/3 of the men that are remaining on the planet. This is the same 1/3 spoken of in verse 15.

- Again "1/3" speaks to direction and control, this is not random.

**Matthew 24:21-22** <sup>21</sup>For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. <sup>22</sup>And except those days be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

- There is no mention of the elect being exempted from this judgment.

**V: 19** Further describing the army of the horsemen.

- The power was in their mouth: fire - smoke - brimstone.
- The power is also in their tails, which were like serpents, heads included.
- These tails / serpents were also used as weapons, but are not further described.

**V: 20-21** The "survivors" still do not repent of their sins, namely:

1. Idol worship

**Psalm 115:4-8** <sup>4</sup>“Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. <sup>5</sup>They have mouths, but they speak not: eye have they, but they see not: <sup>6</sup>They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: <sup>7</sup>They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. <sup>8</sup>They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.”

2. Murders
3. Sorcery - Pharmakeion - pharmacy - drug abuse.
4. Fornication
5. Theft.

- All these things have been steadily on the rise, and unbelievably, will increase in the face of God's judgment.

## Romans 1:18-32

**1 Timothy 4:1-2** "Now the spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"

**John 3:19** "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

**2 Timothy 3:13** "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

- It is the goodness of God that brings men to repentance, not His judgments.

**Hebrews 10:31** "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."