

Revelation 9

To this point we have seen the opening of the 7 seals, out of which the 7 trumpet judgments came, i.e., from the opening of the Seventh Seal. We have witnessed the destruction of all grass, 1/3 of all trees, ocean life, sea going vessels, fresh water, shortening of days but in Chapter Nine (9) is the beginning of the last three (3) trumpet judgments. These judgments will be more severe than any preceding them.

¹And 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 I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key to the bottomless pit.”

This star is not literal, as is evidenced by the personal pronoun, him.

Who is this star? MacArthur argues that it is Satan. Thus Satan is given the key to the bottomless pit in order to unleash the powers of hell upon humanity. Isaiah 14:12-17 speaks of Lucifer, a.k.a. Satan having fallen from heaven.

Who gave Satan the key?

We must remember that this is a judgment from God. God frequently used pagan kings in the O.T. to punish Israel or other countries. Thus, Satan will serve as an agent of God's judgment.

²And 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.

“The bottomless pit” comes from the Greek word, *Abyssos*, which is translated Abyss.

Chuck Swindoll observed:

In biblical writings, *abyssos* means “depth” or “underworld.” It can refer to the physical depths of the earth (Gen. 7:11) or to the dwelling place of departed spirits awaiting release or judgment (Rom. 10:7; cf. Eph. 4:8-10; 1 Pet. 3:19). Apparently, the abyss is also the place where certain demons have been kept in prison until judgment (Luke 8:30-31; cf. 2 Pet. 2:4).¹

“A smoke” represents judgment. Thus the entire world will be affected by this judgment.

¹ Chuck Swindoll, *Swindoll's New Testament Insights: Insights on Revelation*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011), 133-134.

³And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

In the biblical world, locusts were greatly feared because of the devastation they brought. A swarm of locusts could cover up to 400 square miles, stripping everything in their path, leaving the earth totally barren.

The locusts mentioned here are not ordinary locusts. Notice their power was given to them. The word power is *exousia* which means authority or permission. These “locusts” have the power of scorpions.

⁴And 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.

Note that these locusts are not normal locusts. They are demons.

Their abilities are limited to those who do not have the seal of God in their foreheads.

⁵And 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.

Note their limitation: 1) to the lost of Israel and the entire world.
2) They could not kill but only torment.

⁶And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

Note the effect upon Israel and the whole world: People will seek death but will not be able to die.

⁷And 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. ⁸And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as *the teeth* of lions. ⁹And 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. ¹⁰And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power *was* to hurt men five months.

The Locusts described.

1. Like unto horses. Symbolizes their power and stamina.
2. They appeared to have crowns. This means that they were victorious in their battles against humanity.

3. Faces resembled the faces of men. This indicates that they are intelligent.
4. They had hair like women. They will be seductive.
5. They had teeth like lions. This represents their ferocity.
6. They had breastplates resembling iron. They were undefeatable. They can't be defeated or destroyed.
7. Sound of their wings was terrifying.
8. They had tails like scorpions.
9. They had the power to hurt humanity for five months.

¹¹And 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.

Their Leader

“They had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name...is Abaddon, but in the Greek...Apollyon.

Real locusts do not have a leader. Each locust acts autonomously. The fact that these locust like creatures have a king makes it obvious that these are demons.

There is disagreement among Bible Scholars as to who this angel is. Some argue that it is none other than Satan; others believe it is another powerful evil angel.

Abaddon = Destruction Apollyon = Destroyer

Satan is associated with the bottomless pit only when he is cast into it. Scripture refers to him as the “prince of the power of the air. (Ephesians 2:2). Swindoll observed:

Though some scholars identify this demonic ruler of the abyss as Satan himself, this doesn't seem likely. Satan's abode is not in the abyss—at least not until he is cast into that bottomless pit at the end of the tribulation (Rev. 20:1-3). By contrast, this king's authority seems limited to the demonic hoard from the abyss itself. . . he's probably a high-ranking lieutenant of Satan who will do his dark lord's bidding.²

¹²One woe is past; *and*, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

¹³And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar, which is before God,

The Sixth Trumpet Judgment

Up to this point God has afforded humanity time to repent amid his judgments, but it appears that this is man's last opportunity. As MacArthur points out: “When this trumpet judgment occurs, the time for mercy will have passed; the altar of mercy will

² Ibid, 136.

become an altar of judgment. Sinful man will have finally and completely rejected God's gracious offer of salvation." (Vol. 1-11, p. 268).

"The sixth angel sounded..."

The four horns of the golden altar speaks of the prayers of God's saints. Thus, God is answering their prayers of Chapter 6.

¹⁴Saying to the sixth angel, which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

There are four angels which are bound at the Great River Euphrates.

The four angels which are bound, would appear to be demons. Nowhere in Scripture does one find a reference to God's angels being bound.

The Euphrates was on the Eastern boundary of Israel

¹⁵And 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.

At God's appointed time, he shall allow these powerful demons to unleash death upon the whole world in unparalleled proportions. Unlike the previous demonic forces which could only inflict suffering, these angels will absolutely devastate human society. **One third** of all people will be killed by these demonic forces.

Remember during the first series of judgments, the seal judgments, one-fourth of the world's population was destroyed. If one uses current global population statistics that would be 1.825 billion people; which would leave 5.475 billion people. One-third of that number would be another 1.825 billion people thus leaving a population of approximately 3.65 billion people.

Let's try to put this in perspective. Current estimated world populations of largest nations per www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/pc:

- China - 1.34 billion
- India - 1.18 billion
- U.S. - .31 billion
- Brazil - .19 billion

Should these judgments occur in 2015 it would be like China's, U.S.'s, and Brazil's population being destroyed. Or the total population of India, U.S. and Brazil, plus a small portion of China's population being destroyed. WOW!!!!

¹⁶And the number of the army of the horsemen *were* two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

If taken literally, the number would be 200 million. Some believe this is a figurative formula indicating an innumerable host.

¹⁷And 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.

The colors on the breastplates “of fire, jacinth and brimstone”, all speak of the colors of hell and the judgment that God has unleashed upon the earth upon unrepentant humanity.

¹⁸By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

This is how the demonic forces will decimate 1/3 of the world’s remaining population.

¹⁹For 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.

Notice that it is the horses that actually seem to be inflicting death.

²⁰And 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:
²¹Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

After all of this one would think that humanity would cry out to God for mercy and forgiveness, yet just the opposite occurs. Men and women continue to worship idols, demons and to practice their wicked ways. One might say that they were thumbing their nose in God’s face.

Let us take warning of that which is to come. Let us take comfort in knowing that our God has us in His hand. Let us go forth with the soul saving message of Jesus Christ so that others may hear and be delivered.

Respectfully,

Dr. Bill R. Scott, Pastor
July 1, 2015