

**REVELATION 9:1-12**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Revelation chapter 9 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

Look at what we have seen so far as the judgment of God has been poured out upon a Christ rejecting world!

The first set of judgments that God poured out were the seal judgments. And we have seen that in the four of the seven seal judgments  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the earth's population was destroyed, over 2 billion people!

We also saw that the seventh seal judgment contained the seven trumpet judgments, and they were unleashed upon the earth!

And in Revelation chapter 8 we saw the devastating effects as four of those seven trumpet judgments came forth.

Those first four trumpet judgments affected the physical universe in some way.

We also saw that with these trumpet judgments the intensity of these judgments upon a Christ rejecting world is increasing. Kind of like labor pains, they increase in intensity and frequency as the birth of the child is getting closer.

Thus, with this period of time known as the Tribulation Period, as we get closer and closer to the return of Jesus to set up His Kingdom on this earth, the birth of the Kingdom Age we might say, the intensity and frequency of these judgments will take place!

Remember what we saw in the first four trumpet judgments. We saw that 1/3 of the vegetation will be destroyed; 1/3 of the oceans will be destroyed; 1/3 of the fresh water supply will be destroyed; and 1/3 of the sun, moon and stars will be struck, causing a 33% reduction in sunlight or darkness for 16 hours and light for just 8 hours.

That was just in the first four trumpet judgments!

Now I want you to listen carefully to how Revelation chapter 8 closes and this verse is what we closed with last time in our study. In Revelation 8:13 we are told, **“And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, ‘Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!’”**

We see this angel flying through heaven and saying *“Woe!”* to the inhabitants of the earth and not just one woe, or two woes’ but three times he says this, *“Woe, woe, woe!”*

This is not only a judgment from God that this angel is warning the inhabitants of the earth about, but this is a severe judgment, one that has never happened before and it is going to be demonic in nature, as we will see.

Let me share with you what Warren Wiersbe wrote regarding these next two judgments and then I will expound on this. He wrote,

The late Dr. Wilbur M. Smith, who made the Book of Revelation his special study, once wrote: “It is probable that, apart from the exact identification of Babylon in Rev 17 and 18, the meaning of the two judgments in this chapter represents the most difficult major problem in the Revelation” (Wycliffe Bible Commentary, p. 1509). Rev 9 describes two frightening armies that are liberated at just the right time and permitted to judge mankind.

Are they difficult to understand?

Yes and no!

What do I mean by that?

I mean that these judgments are hard to imagine but I think the Scriptures speak about these demonic creatures that are unleashed upon the inhabitants of the earth, and we will see that in our study this evening with this fifth trumpet judgment.

Now let me bring this point out because some may be confused when I say, “**Inhabitants of the earth.**”

As we read that we may be thinking, “*Hey, we all live on the earth and thus, we are all inhabitants of the earth, right?*”

No, that is not what John is speaking of here. Let me explain.

That phrase, “**inhabitants of the earth**” or “**them that dwell on the earth**” or “**earth dwellers**” is used some twelve times in the book of Revelation! (Revelation 3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10 [twice]; 12:12; 13:8, 12, 14; 14:6; 17:2, 8)

The point I want to make, and I want you to understand is that this is a reference to a specific kind of people, those that are living upon the earth during this period of time.

These are earth dwellers or those who have rejected Jesus Christ. This is their home. And for those who have rejected Christ today, that is the same thought. This is their home.

Again, you might be thinking that I am crazy here because this is our home and it is home for all the inhabitants of the earth, even Christians!

That is not exactly true. We are here on this earth, but this is not our home. We are just passing through. Our home, our citizenship is heaven.

And if you struggle with this, listen to what Paul said in Philippians 3:18-21. He wrote, **“For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame - who set their mind on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”**

This first group of people that Paul is speaking of are unbelievers and specifically here he is speaking of the characteristics of all false teachers, false Christians - unbelievers. They are consumed and preoccupied with earthly things and not heavenly things.

William MacDonald put it like this, *“They were occupied with earthly things. For them, the important things in life were food, clothing, honor, comfort, and pleasure. Eternal issues and heavenly things did not disturb their groveling in the muck of this world. They carried on as if they were going to live on earth forever.”*

Why are so many Christians today so focused on the things of this world?

It makes no sense to me because Paul says that this is not our home.

Our citizenship is in heaven, and I love this. Our glorification is not *“maybe”* or *“might be”* or *“I think so”* but it is a done deal for we are citizens of heaven because we have been adopted into the family of God through Christ!

Let’s face it, when you go on vacation it is great, you have a wonderful time. But you long to be home and I think that is the idea here. We are so blessed in this country but as great as it was and is, even though things are changing, we long to be home with our Lord!

One paraphrase puts this verse like this, *“We have our home in heaven, and here on earth we are a colony of heaven’s citizens.”*

May we never forget that fact, that this is not our home, we are aliens and strangers in this land, we are just passing through and one day we will be home with our Lord!

William Barclay put it like this, *“Just as the Roman colonists never forgot that they belong to Rome, you must never forget that you are citizens of heaven; and your conduct must match your citizenship.”* Absolutely!

The Living Bible puts Philippians 3:20-21 like this, **“But our homeland is in heaven, where our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, is; and we are looking forward to his return from there. When he comes back, he will take these dying bodies of ours and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same mighty power that he will use to conquer all else everywhere.”**

So this judgment of God is not for believers, for the Church, for the Bride of Christ because we will be home, we will be in heaven with the Lord prior to the start of the Tribulation Period!

This judgment is for the earth dwellers or those who have rejected Christ! Thus, these trumpet judgments are going to be bad, No one has seen anything like this ever before.

We look at the news now and we think it is bad, well, hold on to your seats because what we will see tonight will send shivers down your spine, and I am not exaggerating on that. This is horrible and yet, many refuses to repent and get right with God!

Tonight we are going to look at the fifth trumpet judgment and we will finish up this chapter next week looking at the sixth trumpet judgment.

I want to take our time going through this so you understand what is happening here, because there seems to be some confusion on what these judgments are all about.

But keep in mind that this is demonic in nature, and it is hard to even imagine all that is going to take place when these judgments are unleashed upon the earth dwellers!

Also, keep in mind what rebellious man cried out as they refused to come to Christ, “**For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?**” Revelation 6:17.

As you will see, outside of Christ there is death and destruction, and no one can stand.

With that said, let’s begin reading in Revelation chapter 9, beginning in verse 1 and let’s see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

## **REVELATION 9**

### **VERSE 1**

As the fifth trumpet judgment sounds, John sees a star that has already fallen from heaven. Again, this has happened, this star has fallen.

Who or what is this star?

Some feel that it is some kind of celestial object, but that makes no sense when you read what is spoken of here. This fallen star opens the bottomless pit. So this is not a comet or some kind of celestial object.

Some feel that this is just a symbolic picture. At least that is what Torrance tells us. He wrote, *“St. John’s vision likens the Word of God to a star that falls out of heaven and opens the bottomless pit of human nature. . . . Preach the Gospel and keep on preaching it, and either men are ashamed and converted or the bottomless pit is opened. Surely this is what has happened in the Western world, in civilized Europe, as well as in the land of the Mau Mau, for example. The cross of Jesus Christ has provoked such a reaction against it that all the latent evil in men has been pushed to the surface in unbelievable wickedness and bloodshed. The very bottomless pit has been opened in our midst, so that heaven and earth have been darkened with the fumes and the whole atmosphere of the world has been poisoned.”*

Now, that may be very true, we see that as the Gospel is rejected by people what is manifested in their lives seems to grow more and more evil.

We see that played out in Romans chapter 1 as Paul describes those that reject God and God keeps giving them over to evil things. In other words, He gives to them what they want.

Let me show you what I mean. In Romans 1, as man rejects God, knowing that there is a God, we are told starting in verse 24, **“Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all**

**unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.**” Romans 1:24-32.

Again, that is true, but it does not fit what John is saying here, the context is not right.

Just look at what is being said and I think you can see it doesn't fit what Torrance had to say.

Then what do I think is being said?

I'm glad you asked!

First of all, we see the personal pronoun “**he**” is being used.

Secondly, John speaks of this person's fall in the past tense and thus, it is something that has happened already.

Who is this person?

Folks, I believe this fallen star is Lucifer or Satan.

In Isaiah 14:12-14 we are told, “**How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’**”

He rebelled against God because he wanted the attention, he wanted the worship, he wanted to be God!



Thus, he was cast out from his position in heaven even though he still has access to God, accusing us before Him.

But one day, during the Tribulation Period, he will be cast out of heaven, he will no longer have access to God and accuse us before Him! I believe this has happened, that Revelation chapter 12, those events have taken place prior to these judgements!

We see this in Revelation 12:7-9, where we are told, **“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”**

I believe we see that Jesus speaks of this event when Satan fell. He said, in Luke 10:18, **“... ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.’”**

Also note that here in Revelation 9:1 we see that this fallen star, Satan, is given the keys to the bottomless pit!

What is that all about?

We will see as we read on but if you take this literally, and I do, the only place this could be is the center of the earth. You see, there is no bottom in the center of the earth, everything goes upward no matter which direction you go!

The Greek word for this is ABUSSOS, (ab'-us-sos) from which we get our English word Abyss.

What is down there?

Let's read on and see!

VERSES 2-3

Before we dig into these verses let me share with you what I thought this meant, years ago, in my study of Revelation chapter 9.

As I read through these verses, Revelation 9:1-12, I put this into something physical, you might say. I thought John was just using words to describe something that was not invented yet.

The problem with that is I was not reading the text for what it was saying but I was trying to give an earthly explanation to this judgment.

What did I think these creatures were?

I envisioned them as helicopters coming over the land and destroying the inhabitants. They would fly over the mountains with a chariot-like sound as their engines roared.

In fact, it brought to mind the beach-head scene from the movie Apocalypse Now!

And I felt pretty secure with that interpretation of these so-called locusts until I read the book of Joel.

It was then that the Lord opened my eyes to what these creatures were all about, and we will see that as we go through these verses.

Again, my mistake was I tried to put John's description of these creatures into today's technology, and I believe that was the wrong way to approach this section.

And let me also say this.

Satan is not doing what he wants, God is allowing him to do what he wants to do. Please understand that. He cannot do this on his own no matter how much he wants to. God must allow it!

Secondly, this is a judgment of God upon a Christ rejecting world.

And as this pit is opened, we see this smoke come pouring out. This pit that has been closed for several thousand years is now opened and we see these demonic locust-like creatures come forth who will have a sting upon the earth's inhabitants like a scorpion!

Yes, these are demons that are unleashed from the bottomless pit!

Keep in mind that in Revelation chapter 12 we are told that when Lucifer or Satan rebelled against God, he took 1/3 of the angels with him.

Folks, I believe these fallen angels are nothing more than demons.

Does that mean that all the demons are locked up in this bottomless pit?

Absolutely not. Again, we need to understand this. Not all demons are locked in this pit, which is very obvious as you look at the work they are doing in this world right now!

But then, who are these angels that are locked up until this time of judgment?

In Jude 1:6-7 we are told, **“And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”**

I believe Jude is saying that these fallen angels violated the laws of God by not carefully guarding and maintaining their original position they were created for.

Yes, they did rebel against God and were punished for that, but there is something more going on here than just that. Specifically, these fallen angels invaded territory that was foreign to them and forbidden to them, namely the human race!

In fact, Jude likens their sins to that of Sodom and Gomorrah, who went after **“strange flesh.”**

The word “**strange**” in the Greek is HETEROS or different flesh.

What this saying is that the men in these cities, in Sodom and Gomorrah, were involved in homosexual relationships, which went against that which was natural, a relationship between a man and a woman!

That means that these angels invaded the realm of another nature, they co-habituated with women to pollute the human race and prevent the Messiah from being born of the seed of a woman!

Thus, God destroyed the world in a flood except for Noah and his family who were not affected by this!

It is as Peter tells us of these angels, “**For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.**” II Peter 2:4.

All the angels who rebelled against God sinned, but here something else is going on like I have said, and these angels who co-habituated with women are chained for this day spoken of here, *a day of judgment!*

Now where in the Bible do we see this take place or do we see it in the Bible?

I do believe we see this take place in Genesis chapter 6, where we are told, “**Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. . . . There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.**”

Genesis 6:1-2, 4.

Now some like to say that this is not speaking of angels here but that the godly line of Seth, being “**the sons of God**” married the ungodly line of Cain, being the “**daughters of men.**”

But the union of a believer and unbeliever does not produce some kind of mutation or strange manifestation – giants or Nephilim!

The classical use in the Old Testament of the phrase “**sons of God**” or BAR ELOHEM is that of angels. You can find that used that very way in Job 1:6 and Job 38:7.

And so these fallen angels or demons that are locked in chains in the center of the earth, in Tartarus, are those wickedest of angels who co-habituated with women, and there may be others that the Lord has placed there, but they are not all chained in this pit.

Satan can only be in one place at one time. He is not omnipresent like God is. Thus, he uses his demons to carry out his work for him!

I think John Phillips makes some interesting comments on these fallen angels as he wrote, “*Picture what the world would be like if we were to open the doors of all the penitentiaries of earth and set free the world’s most vicious and violent criminals, giving them full reign to practice their infamies upon mankind. Something worse than that lies in store for the world. Satan, cast out of heaven, is now permitted to summon to his aid the most diabolical fiends in the abyss to act as his agents in bringing mankind to the footstool of the Beast.*”

Also, in Revelation 20:1-3 we are told, “**Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.**”

This bottomless pit is the place where Satan will be bound for 1,000 years during the Millennial reign of Christ, and then, for a short time he will be released and then we are told, **“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”**

Revelation 20:10.

It is then that God will create a new heaven and a new earth for us to dwell with Him forever!

Now, just like a locust infestation, which blocks out the sunlight because of their vast numbers, so too do we see that with these demons. They cover the sky, and they have a sting like a scorpion.

I have never been bitten by a scorpion, but from what I hear, it is very painful. And if you think this is not such a big deal, you will see that it is. This judgment is worse than you can ever imagine!

And this is interesting to me, this darkness that these demons bring upon the earth. Remember in John 3:19 that Jesus said that men love the darkness rather than loving the light and the reason being is because their deeds are evil. Well, God is giving them what they want, this darkness and it is not going to be good. There will be so much pain that men will want to die, but they can't!

And we will get to that in a minute, but the next verse deals with what we were told back in Revelation chapter 7. Listen to what John writes here in the next verse.

VERSE 4

Remember what we read back in Revelation 7:1-4, **“After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, ‘Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.’ And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed.”**

And then we see listed the twelve tribes of Israel and how that 12,000 of each of these 12 tribes was sealed by God.

We saw with the first trumpet judgment how it affected the green grass, the trees and thus, these servants of God were sealed before that judgment was unleashed.

And I think the same thought is going on here. These 144,000 Jewish witnesses are sealed by God, protected from this judgment.

And as you read this you can clearly see that these are not normal locusts. They don't affect the vegetation, the grass or any green thing, or any tree, but they will bring pain and devastation upon man!

Man did not want God, who brings them life. Thus, He will give them what they want, what Satan has for them, destruction. Yes, this is a judgment of God, but He is allowing these demons who were waiting for this day of judgment to come so they can unleash their fury upon man!

VERSES 5-6

Make no mistake about it, the judgment of God is coming whether people believe it or not. And some have a misconception of what the next life is all about. They think that when you die, no matter what you have done in this life, it is going to be better than here. There is no judgment. They are wrong!

One writer put it like this, and it is an interesting perspective in regard to how the evilest people can rationalize away the judgment of God.

This is what he wrote,

The idea of death as an escape is a demonic deception. The infamous murderers of Littleton, Colorado made chilling home movies before their killing spree. Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold left behind a videotaped document spelling out their motivation.

In the last segment of tape, shot the morning of the murders, Harris and Klebold were dressed and said they were ready for “our little Judgement Day.”

Then Klebold, looking tense, said goodbye to his parents.

He concluded, “I didn’t like life too much. Just know I am going to a better place than here.”

It is a great and tragic deception to think – on the day you will murder many – that you will go to a better place. There was no escape in death for Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.

Now is the time of repentance, to escape from sin, and to be restored.

- David Guzik, Revelation 9

Now as you read these verses, especially Revelation 9:6, it is one of the most bizarre or maybe I should say eerie verses in the Bible.



You see, as these demons are unleashed, they sting people like a scorpion, inflicting so much pain that people will want to die.

Like I have said, a scorpion sting is very painful. In fact, some can even kill you.

But that is not what we are seeing here. As people get bit by these demonic creatures, the pain will be so bad that the people will want to die, and death takes a holiday for five months!

Interestingly enough, that is the life span of locusts, but again, these are demons.

And so, as much as people will want to die from the pain they have, they will not be able to, they will only suffer!

Why would God allow this?

Why would God allow people to suffer so much?

First of all, if you reject God then Satan and his demonic forces is the only other choice that is out there. And thus, God is giving them what they want!

God gives abundant life, Satan abundant destruction and that is what we see here!

Now let me also share this with you because you can come to an unbiblical picture of God as you read this.

Yes, death has taken a holiday for five months and these people bitten by these demons will writhe in pain, in agony and they will be so focused on dying that they may even try to take their own lives, but again – ***DEATH TAKES A HOLIDAY!***

I know, that still does not help. Why would God allow this or do this?

I believe He is showing them mercy!

Hang on, listen to what He is doing, and I think you will understand!

Even at this point God is trying to draw them to Him. And yes, God will use pain, agony to do that.

Now you might not think that is fair. You might not think that is right.

But let me ask you this.

Would you rather endure five months of pain on this earth and come to saving faith or would you want to be freed from that pain and spend eternity in Hell, with all its pain and torment?

Listen to what we are told in the last part of Isaiah 26:9, “**... For when Your judgments are in the earth, The inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.**”

I think that is the idea here. Even today God will reach out in love to people but if that does not work, sometimes we have to be brought low, in judgment you might say, before we look up and come to that saving faith.

You see, God is merciful, and what we see here in Revelation is that He is trying to get their attention, but we tragically read in Revelation 9:21, “**And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.**”

#### VERSES 7-10

This is a description of those demonic locusts that come from the bottomless pit. The ones that God allowed Satan to unleash upon the earth and for five months they are causing such pain upon people that they will want to die, but they can't!

One writer said this of these demonic locusts. He wrote,

Many attempts have been made to show that this is an accurate (though poetic) description of natural locusts. This approach misses the obvious demonic connection.

Why would God call them locusts if they are not literal locusts, but demonic spirits who swarm and destroy like locusts?

Among other reasons, because locusts are agents of God's judgment. This is a consistent Old Testament figure in passages like Exodus 10:4-14, Deuteronomy 28:38, 1 Kings 8:37, 2 Chronicles 7:13, Joel 1:4, and Amos 4:9.

- David Guzik, Revelation 9

This is not some description of a literal army, and the description is not to be taking literally.

What do I mean by that?

Please notice that John uses the word "like" 8 times here. They are not literal horses; they are like horses and so on!

One commentator put it like this. He said, *"The repetition of 'like' indicates something other than a literal description is intended; the total impact of this picture is one of unnatural, demonic horror."*

I would have to agree, these creatures, these demons are very scary, and they are here to inflict pain. This is a judgment of God!

Let me take a minute and talk about locusts and what they are like, because these demonic creatures are like locusts.

Locusts invade like an army whose numbers don't seem to end. They just keep coming and coming, getting into everything.

In fact, skies have been darkened as they swarm overhead, moving to their next feeding ground.

And they would devour everything in sight, even down to the roots of the plant and then move on.

The world's worst locust plague in modern times struck the Middle East in 1951 to 1952 when in Iran, Iraq, Jordan and Saudi Arabia every green and growing thing was devoured across hundreds of thousands of square miles.

Locusts eat grain, leaf, and stalk, right down to the bare ground. When a swarm arises and flies on its way, the green field is left a desert; barrenness and desolation stretch as far as the eye can see.

We are told that these demons have teeth like lions, and that too pictures what a locust is like.

You see, their teeth are like lion's teeth. They have a saw-tooth pattern, again, enabling them to eat right down to the roots.

In fact, stories have been told that at night, during these infestations, you can hear them chewing on the vegetation.

That is just creepy to me!

Also, their bodies are solid, covered with armor for protection. And as they fly, the noise they make can be deafening.

So these demonic creatures are going to be very scary and they will bring about great destruction upon mankind, inflicting much pain and suffering!

But these are not normal locusts and the reason I can say that with such confidence is that they are released from the bottomless pit, and we are told that they are not to harm any green thing, any grass or any tree. That is what a normal locust would do but again, these demons, who are like locust, will not harm the vegetation!

There is a prophecy in Joel chapter 2 that has this section in Revelation chapter 9 in view. And as you read this, it truly is a terrifying look at what is coming upon the world, what John is speaking of here in Revelation chapter 9!

This is what Joel wrote in Joel 2:1-11, **“Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the Lord is coming, For it is at hand: A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations. A fire devours before them, And behind them a flame burns; The land is like the Garden of Eden before them, And behind them a desolate wilderness; Surely nothing shall escape them. Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like swift steeds, so they run. With a noise like chariots Over mountaintops they leap, Like the noise of a flaming fire that devours the stubble, Like a strong people set in battle array. Before them the people writhe in pain; All faces are drained of color. They run like mighty men, They climb the wall like men of war; Every one marches in formation, And they do not break ranks. They do not push one another; Every one marches in his own column. Though they lunge between the weapons, They are not cut down. They run to and fro in the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, They enter at the windows like a thief. The earth quakes before them, The heavens tremble; The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars diminish their brightness. The Lord gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?”**

Frist of all, this is a historical fact as this prophecy of Joel was fulfilled in Joel's day when the Southern Kingdom of Judah was besieged with natural locusts. And Joel spoke of this locust judgment in Joel chapter 1.

But now as we move into Joel chapter 2 the focus is a little different and I believe it is looking into the future judgment of God during the Tribulation Period, the one spoken of here in Revelation chapter 9 with these demons!

You see, here in chapter 2 the focus is not the past or even the present but a future day, the Day of the Lord!

And we know that this is not good because Joel says that they are to sound the alarm, prepare the people for the coming invasion, get ready for battle! And this tremendous judgment will be far worse than this locust judgment that had come upon them already.

Amos expounds on this day when he says, **“Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him! Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?”** Amos 5:18-20.

God wants us to understand that this is no game. His judgments are real. You may escape from one but the next one is worse. When you are in the safety of your home, think again. There is no place to rest or hide from His judgment.

And it is interesting as you look at the description of these locusts in Joel chapter 2, they are very similar to what John is saying here in revelation chapter 9. Again, I think John is speaking of what Joel talks about, this demonic locust infestation, these demons who were released from the bottomless pit!

As we read on we will see something that is different than a natural locust infestation and it is an important point.

### VERSE 11

Now if you are still struggling if these are some kind of mutant locust, I believe this verse will help clear that up.

This invading army has a King over them, a leader whom they will serve.

Folks, locusts do not have a King or leader over them.

How do I know that?

Because the Bible tells us that fact, that they have no King over them.

And this is so interesting to me. You see, tucked away in the book of Proverbs is one verse that really seems non-important.

Let me show you what I mean. In Proverbs 30:27 we are told, **“The locusts have no king, Yet they all advance in ranks.”**

Again, what is the big deal about that? Why do we need to know that?

This little golden nugget found here in Proverbs tells us that these locusts here in Revelation chapter 9 could not be real locusts but are demons that arise out of the bottomless pit to inflict pain upon mankind for five months because natural locusts do not have a King over them!

God has given us this insight in the book of Proverbs that helps us to understand what He is saying here in Revelation. I love how God works!

Listen again to this verse here in Revelation 9:11, “**And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.**”

Here we are told the name of this leader of this army of demonic locusts. And his name, in any language is – ***DESTRUCTION!***

In Hebrew it is ***ABADDON***, which means destruction.

In Greek it is ***APOLLYON***, which means destroyer.

And maybe the reason for using both Hebrew and Greek names is that John wants to make sure we understand that this judgment is coming upon both Jews and Gentiles!

In saying that, isn't that what Jesus said of Satan in John 10:10?

It absolutely is.

Listen to what Satan is all about as Jesus tells us that, “**The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. . . .**”

So who is this angel?

Is this Satan?

Some feel it is, and I did feel that way but as I read the text, I don't think it can be. Yes, what this demon brings about is destruction, he is the leader of this army, and what Satan does his followers, his demons do as well!

Let me share with you why this leader can't be Satan.

The main and really most important reason is that Satan is not bound. We are told in the Scriptures that Satan is the “**god of this world**” or “**god of this age**”, and he is “**the prince of the power of the air.**” (II Corinthians 4:4, Ephesians 2:2)



We also see this in Job 1:6-7 as we are told, **“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. And the Lord said to Satan, ‘From where do you come?’ So Satan answered the Lord and said, ‘From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.’”**

In fact, Satan can't be associated with the bottomless pit until he is cast into it. Remember what we read in Revelation 20:1-3, **“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.”**

So I believe this angel is a high-ranking fallen angel or demon!

I hope that makes sense to you. Satan can't be the King over these demons who were locked in this bottomless pit.

I do believe that the star fallen from heaven spoken of in Revelation 9:1 is Satan. He is given the key to this bottomless pit and opens it, but here, this King over these demons is ***ABADDON*** or ***APOLLYON!*** This is the King to this bottomless pit.

Now you read all that is going to be taking place for five months and it is horrible. But it is not over as we shall see as we read on.

VERSE 12

If you are into scary movies, this one would be right there at the top of the list, but this is not fantasy, this is real and the Orkin man is not going to be able to help you out with this problem!

And folks, this is only the first woe that the angel pronounced, there are two to go as these trumpet judgments sound forth!

You think this fifth trumpet judgment is bad, but it is only going to get worse as the judgment of God goes forward.

It is as Jesus said, **“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.”**

Matthew 24:21-22.

In other words, unless the Lord stepped in, no one would survive!

But again, we see God’s grace and mercy that is extended to all. He has opened the door of salvation to all, even in the Tribulation Period!

As I have said, these demons could have killed many people, but by God’s mercy He did not allow that. Only pain that is so intense that you will want to die.

And that is God’s mercy because if you die apart from Christ, this judgment will be a piece of cake compared to an eternity apart from Christ in the Lake of Fire.

So God allowed them to live through this in that they might turn to Him!

In Amos chapter 5 we read, **“... ‘Seek Me and live.’ ... Seek the Lord and live ...”**

Amos 5:4b, 6a.

If you refuse, then you will not live with Him but be eternally separated from Him in a place where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth for eternity!

Next time we will look at this sixth trumpet judgment, but as I close, let me leave you with this.

We are told,

This passage teaches us that God's judgment is painful and terrifying and that only those whom God seals will be protected from his judgment.

You cannot keep the judgment of God from falling.

You cannot protect yourself from it.

You are not stronger than the scorpion sting of these demon locusts, and they are more scary to you than you are to them.

Your only hope is to repent of your sin and trust in Christ!

- James M. Hamilton Jr., Revelation – The Spirit Speaks to the Churches, p. 215