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Revelation 9:1-21 (NIV)

- 1** The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.
- 2** When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.
- 3** And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.
- 4** They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.
- 5** They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man.
- 6** During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.
- 7** The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces.
- 8** Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.
- 9** They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle.
- 10** They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months.
- 11** They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon.
- 12** The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.
- 13** The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God.
- 14** It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."
- 15** And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.
- 16** The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number.
- 17** The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur.
- 18** A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths.
- 19** The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.
- 20** The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk.
- 21** Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

REVELATION 9

1-14-24

INTRO: Remember, we closed out chap 8 with an eagle calling out Woe (3 times) to the inhabitants of earth!

Woe = Gk oai = eerie, ominous foreboding... This is woe upon woe!



THE 5TH TRUMPET SOUNDS...AND DEMONS ARE RELEASED!

Revelation 9:1-21 (NIV) “The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.

The word **star** is used in its symbolic way to refer to a person of fame or of high position.

- **He is said** to be a star “that had fallen” from heaven to earth. This is past tense, meaning that he had already fallen.

Jesus said in Luke 10:18 that He saw Satan fall from heaven.

“... I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven” (Luke 10:18).

Isaiah 14:12-15 (NLT2) “How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world. ¹³ **For you said** to yourself, ‘I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God’s stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. ¹⁴ **I will** climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.’ ¹⁵ Instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead, down to its lowest depths.

In comparing Scripture with Scripture, this fallen star or angel seems to be Satan himself...the “angel” Lucifer who was cast out of heaven. Presently Jesus Christ has the keys to the bottomless pit, but He gives them to Satan and allows Satan to afflict the earth with his hordes of demons. Why? So that the world of evil men can reap what they have sown. However, note that God restrains and limits his evil destruction even as He does in our day and time .

God now gives him the key to the Abyss (bottomless pit).



² **When he** opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.

This bottomless pit is the place where demons/evil spirits are kept UNTIL their final destination — lake of fire! The smoke of this pit brought to the atmosphere was so thick/heavy that the sun was darkened. THAT’S WHAT THE DEMONIC DOES TO YOUR LIFE...DARKENS...CLOUDS!

³ **And out of** the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. “The locust usually causes a great deal of injury. It is generally 3-4 inches long. In Exodus (Egypt) the plague of the locusts was the eighth that God sent upon the Egyptians because they would not let the children of Israel go, as he commanded; and it was a very terrible one indeed.

<https://artpictures.club/autumn-2023.html>



EXODUS 10:13-15 “So Moses stretched out his staff over Egypt, and the Lord made an east wind blow across the land all that day and all that night. By morning the wind had brought the locusts; ¹⁴ **they invaded** all Egypt and settled down in every area of the country in great numbers... ¹⁵ **They covered** all the ground until it was black. They devoured all that was left after the hail—everything growing in the fields and the fruit on the trees. Nothing green remained on tree or plant in all the land of Egypt. Most mentions of [locusts in the Bible](#) are during times of God’s wrath poured out either as discipline for His people or as a means of demonstrating His power so as to move those who defy Him to repentance.

⁴ **They were** told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who **did not** have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵ **They were** not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man.

Locusts that sting like scorpions! Real beings? Maybe. Probably? What we know that scientists are doing in labs...a mutation? Maybe.

- Don't touch grass/plant/tree – either God prevents them from doing so, or they're not real earthly locusts.
- John in the 1st century trying to describe something like a drone? Maybe.

God shows He's in charge. Judgment for sure!

Many believers will be afflicted and die at the hands of the antichrist and his henchmen, but not a single believer will be touched by the judgment of God. God's wrath will fall only upon unbelievers.

LOCUSTS = 5 MONTHS OF TORTURE! This may seem cruel, but we must always keep in mind what is happening: the ungodly and evil of the last days will launch a holocaust upon the world far beyond anything anyone could have ever imagined. They will literally torment and slaughter millions. Therefore, as God has always said, a man reaps what he sows. Consequently, the ungodly and evil of the end times will be punished with an equal judgment, a torment equal to the torment they have inflicted.

⁶ During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

It could be that antichrist's captives sought freedom/life for 5 months... now they were repaid.

Agony, pain, suffering...5 months. Seeking death, but death eludes them!

LOCUSTS ARE DESCRIBED

⁷ The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. ⁸ Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.



⁹ They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. ¹⁰ They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months.

There will be the terrifying appearance and power of the demonic forces of the end time. Humanity must beware and prepare by receiving Jesus Christ as Savior. This will be the only way to escape the demonic hoard that is to come in the last days. Eight descriptions are given.

1. The demonic locusts are like horses prepared for battle: posed and ready to attack. This could also mean that they will be larger than the average size locusts (cp. Joel 2:4).
2. The demonic locusts will have heads that look like they are crowned with gold: this symbolizes that they will have authority to afflict men. They will be as conquerors and be successful in their attacks.
3. The demonic locusts will appear to have the faces of men: this symbolizes the determination and intelligence of men. They will be set like flint in their attacks and have the intelligence to attack and inflict damage with their scorpion like poison.
4. The demonic locusts will have hair like hair of women: beauty to seduce and ensnare, to help them to seem innocent and harmless at first. This may mean long antennae to help them in their attack and escape.
5. The demonic locusts will have teeth as a lion: ferocious, fierce, devouring, and cruel (cp. Joel 1:6).
6. The demonic locusts will have breastplates as of iron: indestructible, protected, and defended. People will be helpless in killing them.
7. The demonic locusts will have wings that sound like many chariots rushing into battle: frightening and overwhelming. There will be a sense of hopelessness in defending against them (cp. Joel 2:4-5).
8. The demonic locusts will have stinging tails like scorpions: demonic torture.



¹¹ They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon.

A King = power/authority... angel of the Abyss (fallen angel—demon); Name/nature = Abaddon (destruction); Greek name Apollyon (destroyer).

The first four trumpet blasts—judgment was against nature. Horrifying and catastrophic events destroyed one third of the vegetation, water supply, sea life, and the shipping and fishing commerce of the world. Scientists warn us all the time about the possibility of such horrors unless the environment is protected. Such a horrible time is coming, NOT because of climate change, but as judgment of God.



SEE YOUTUBE: JOHN KILPATRICK—THE EARTH IS SPEAKING. But note: in the first four trumpet judgments, man himself will not be afflicted, not on a massive scale. That is, man's body will not be attacked; his body will not suffer any massive ill effects from the catastrophes. But after the natural disasters the ungodly and evil of the world will be judged directly.

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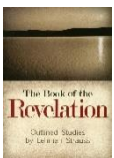
THIS WAS JUST THE FIRST WOE! NOW COMES THE 6TH TRUMPET

¹² The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come. ¹³ The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God. ¹⁴ It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." ¹⁵ And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.

There are the four fallen angels set loose.

1. They are set loose by a command coming from the golden altar--the altar of incense where the prayers of God's people are kept (cp. [Rev. 6:9-10](#); [Rev. 8:3-4](#)). God Himself launches this judgment especially to vindicate the millions who will be slaughtered in the holocaust of the antichrist. God is going to be perfectly just. He is going to execute perfect justice against the antichrist and his followers who have slaughtered millions. They too shall be slain by the judgment of God. The very prayers on the golden altar cry out for the name of the Lord to be vindicated against those who laughed, mocked, rejected, denied, disbelieved, disobeyed, and cursed God. God hears those prayers and will act!

Why would the angels come from the Euphrates? Two reasons seem likely.



Bible expositor, Lehman Strauss. *The Book of the Revelation*, p.194) suggests, "The head or spring of the Euphrates river flowed out of the garden of Eden. It was there, of course, where Satan first tempted and overthrew man. The first sin that resulted in the fallen human race took place at the head of the Euphrates river. It was also there that the first murder took place, and it was in the region of the Euphrates that the first organized rebellion against God took place."

Therefore, these last three trumpet judgments are the woe judgments, directed against the ungodly and evil of this world. The first woe judgment, seen in the former passage, was a blast of a demonic-like plague of locusts. Now the sixth trumpet blasts forth its judgment, and another horde of demons come forth. This time, these are military demons, and they shall take their toll upon human life. An astronomical number of the ungodly and evil of the world will die under the judgment of God's righteous hand in this woe judgment.

Note in verse 15... God has already set the time for this judgment. There is an exact year, month, day, and even hour that this judgment is to fall upon the ungodly and evil. The hour is already fixed.



¹⁶ The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number.

¹⁷ The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur.

The breastplate symbolizes that they will be indestructible, protected and defended as they go to war against the ungodly of the world. Man will not be able to stop them.

200 mounted troops? CHINA? (1.4 billion) MUSLIMS (2 billion)

When Hamas infiltrated Israel it is estimated that 3000 attacked. In America...millions have entered!

Here, in the Great Tribulation... an army of 200,000,000!!!!!!!!!!

¹⁸ A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. ¹⁹

The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.

They will kill one third of mankind (2.7 billion) upon earth by the plague of fire, smoke, and brimstone. (Note: the weapons used by this demonic army are not given. But observe how fire, smoke, and brimstone sounds like an atomic explosion. **We must, however**, keep in mind that this slaughter is being masterminded by evil spirits and demonic forces—all being executed under God's will as a judgment upon the ungodly and evil of the world.)

- **Their power** is in their mouths, heads, and tails. The head symbolizes intelligence; the mouth symbolizes deceptive speech and a hunger to consume and to destroy; and the serpent-like tails symbolize poisonous strikes and deadly wounds.

²⁰ **The rest** of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood--idols that cannot see or hear or walk. ²¹ **Nor did they** repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

PEOPLE WORSHIPPED DEMONS... IDOLS OF GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE, STONE, WOOD. (wealth of this world)

PEOPLE REFUSED TO REPENT OF...

MURDERS – Physical murders, character assassination, anger against another, etc.

MAGIC ARTS - Increase in the sin of sorcery (*pharmakōn*). Where we get our word *pharmacy*. **Sorcery** includes all kinds of witchcraft, the use of drugs or of evil spirits to gain control over the lives of others or over one's own life. In the present context it would include all forms of sorcery including astrology, palm reading, seances, fortune telling, crystals, and other forms of witchcraft.

SEXUAL IMMORALITY – Increase in the sexual sin (*porneia*) to act the harlot. Engage in pornography...adultery, incest, pedophilia, incest, homosexuality, ...

THEFTS - (*klemmatōn*): to cheat and steal; to take wrongfully from another person, either legally or illegally. From our word kleptomaniac.

JUDGMENT WILL COME BECAUSE HUMANITY WILL NOT REPENT OF THESE SINS!

GOD'S PURPOSE BEHIND JUDGMENT IS REPENTANCE!

The **ungodly** and evil survivors of the earth still do not repent and turn to God. Two thirds of the population will survive, not because they deserve to survive but because God is merciful. **God is always** merciful even in the midst of judgment. He will give the ungodly of the earth another chance to repent, speaking to them through the judgments, but they will not repent.



Lehman Strauss makes an excellent point about this fact:

"God has never delighted in the death of the wicked. In the midst of His visitations of severest judgments, He delights to be gracious to the guilty. **But alas**, the death of one billion people in the earth [now 2.7 billion], with the accompanying grief and the confusion which must follow such a disaster, finds the residue of people not willing to repent. Such is the human heart, deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. **After two world** wars, and one hundred lesser wars in the past fifty years, the world is more wicked than ever. Instead of repentance, sin increases" (*The Book of the Revelation*, p.196).