

REVELATION

CHAPTER NINE

Introduction

- The first four trumpet plagues were aimed at the natural world order of things, i.e., vegetation, sea, fresh water, and sky.
- These next two trumpet plagues are aimed at the supernatural order.
- Demonic forces are unleashed upon the earth for the purpose of tormenting mankind.
- The last trumpet blast happens in Revelation 11, and announces the victory of God over the kingdoms of this world at the Second Coming of Jesus and initiates His millennial reign over the earth.

The Rules Of Interpretation

- "...all Biblical passages are to be taken exactly as they read unless there is something in the text indicating that it should be taken some way other than literally. If this law is applied consistently, much of the present-day tangents and 'newspaper exegesis' can be avoided, as well as errors..." -Fruchtenbaum
- The best possible interpretation is a literal understanding of scripture and not to spiritualize it or attempt to place an allegorical meaning to these signs unless we are told otherwise within the scripture itself.

The Day Of The Lord

"Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. Therefore all hands will be limp, every man's heart will melt, And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; they will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; they will be amazed at one another; their faces will be like flames. **Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger,** to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine."-- Isaiah 13:6-10

The Purpose Of God's Wrath

- The reason that God pours out His wrath on mankind during this period is to move people to repentance.
- **"The rest of mankind, who were not killed with these plagues, didn't repent** of the works of their hands, that they wouldn't worship demons, and the idols of gold, and of silver, and of brass, and of stone, and of wood; which can neither see, nor hear, nor walk. **They didn't repent** of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their sexual immorality, nor of their thefts."- Revelation 9:20-21

- "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? "Now, therefore," says the LORD, **"turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm."**-Joel 2:10-13

The Believer And The Wrath Of God

"But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. **But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.**

You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. **For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one---**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

- “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”- John 3:17-8
- “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and **he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.**”-John 3:36

Revelation 9:1

Then the fifth angel sounded:
And I saw a star fallen from
heaven to the earth. To him
was given the key to the
bottomless pit.

A Fallen Star

- This is not a literal star but an actual being because we are told, “To him was given....”
- In the Old Testament angels are often referred to as stars.
- At creation all “the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”-Job 38:7
- The Bible describes Satan as, “....fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, “I will ascend into heaven! I will exalt my throne above the stars of God! I will sit on the mountain of assembly, in the far north!”-**Isaiah 14:12-13**
- The word “fallen” is in the perfect tense which indicates that the star had already been in a fallen state and **John was simply describing the condition of the angelic star.**

The Key To The Pit

- This angelic being “was given the key” to the bottomless pit.
- The angelic being didn’t have authority to open the pit on his own but **needed to be given authority by God.**
- What is about to be unleashed upon earth is entirely subject to the will and authority of God.
- An angel will be given the same key with which to lock Satan within the same compartment for the duration of the Millennial Kingdom

- "I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, **having the key of the abyss** and a great chain in his hand. He seized the dragon, the old serpent, which is the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole inhabited earth, and bound him for a thousand years, **and cast him into the abyss, and shut it, and sealed it over him**, that he should deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were finished."-**Revelation 20:1-3**

The Bottomless Pit

- The word for "bottomless pit" is the word "abussos" which we get the word "abyss" and literally means "without depth".
- Demons didn't want to go there, "Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered into him. **They begged him that he would not command them to go into the abyss.**"-**Luke 8:30-31**
- The beast who overcomes the two witnesses comes up out of the abyss. (Revelation 11:7)

Who Inhabits The Abyss?

- "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**; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly"--**2 Peter 2:4-5**
- The abyss is an intermediate place of punishment for fallen angels.
- The fallen angels who are cast there are said **"to be reserved for judgment"**.
- They are not only to be judged themselves but are executors of God's judgment when the bottomless pit is unlocked.

Jude 6 & 7

- "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."--Jude 6, 7

- “Left”; “*apoleipo*” : to leave behind, to forsake, to desert (compare 2 Tim 4:13,20)
- “Proper Domain”; “*oiketerion*” : literally own habitation or spiritual body; used in 2 Cor 5:2 of the resurrected body of men
- “Strange”; “*eteros*” :different in kind
- These angels, i.e. "sons of God in Genesis 6:2, left behind for good their spiritual bodies; to lust after strange flesh; different than their own kind.
- It appears that the demonic forces which are about to be released from the abyss were supernaturally transported there by God reserved for the day of judgment when they will serve God's purposes.
- “As the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.”-**Matthew 24:37**

Revelation 9:2

“And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.”

The Pit Is Opened

- The smoke that comes up out of the bottomless pit is so intense that it darkens the sky.
- This is the third blackout of the sun in the book of Revelation.
- Joel had spoken of this in his prophecy: “I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood, fire, and pillars of smoke.”-**Joel 2:30**
- “There are worlds of being and of darkness upon which man has never looked. There is a tenanted abyss of which the demons know, and concerning which they besought the Saviour that He would not send them into it [Luke 8:27-31]. It is a dark and horrible prison, in which many, many strange and evil things are shut up. Satan knows of that world, and would fain bring forth its malignant inhabitants into the earth if he only dared. At last, however, he receives permission to bring them, and the fifth trumpet gives the result.”-Seiss

Revelation 9:3-4

“Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.”

The Locusts

- These are obviously not natural locusts.
- They are told not to harm the plants or the trees or the grass. The very items that locusts eat.
- The ordinary locust is deadly to vegetation but not harmful to humans.
- These locusts have power like a scorpion to harm People.
- The Jewish people in chapter 7, who have the seal of God on their forehead will not be harmed (the 144,000).
- The locust is "A visual representation of the hordes of demons loosed upon the earth." (Walvoord)
- The locusts destructive and devastating affects upon vegetation give a fearful illustration what the demonic forces will have upon an unrepentant world.

Israeli Locusts



- The supernatural locust plague against Egypt demonstrates the normal activity of locusts against the vegetation.
- "And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested on all the territory of Egypt. They were very severe; **previously there had been no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them.** For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left. So there remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt."-Exodus 10:14-15

- "With the burning south winds (of Syria) there come from the interior of Arabia and from the most southern parts of Persia clouds of locusts (*Acridium peregrinum*), whose ravages to these countries are as grievous and nearly as sudden as those of the heaviest hail in Europe. We witnessed them twice. It is difficult to express the effect produced on us by the sight of the whole atmosphere filled on all sides and to a great height by an innumerable quantity of these insects, whose flight was slow and uniform, and whose noise resembled that of rain: the sky was darkened, and the light of the sun considerably weakened. In a moment the terraces of the houses, the streets, and all the fields were covered by these insects, and in two days they had nearly devoured all the leaves of the plants. Happily they lived but a short time, and seemed to have migrated only to reproduce themselves and die; in fact, nearly all those we saw the next day had paired, and the day following the fields were covered with their dead bodies."- Smith's Bible dictionary

They Were Commanded

- Like the Four Horseman in Revelation 6, these locusts and their destruction is limited by God in the scope of their power.
- They are commanded not to harm the grass, any green thing, or any tree.
- The natural system has already been dealt with in the first four trumpet judgments upon the earth.
- The last three trumpet judgments are directed towards people.

The Men Who Have The Seal

- These 144,000 Jewish servants of God who have the seal of God on their foreheads will not be harmed by the onslaught of demonic activity.
- Their seal also protected them against the judgments of the natural order of things.
- “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”-Revelation 7

The Reason For The 144,000

- This Good News **of the Kingdom** will be preached in the whole world for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.- Matthew 24:14
- Indeed He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give you as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’”-Isaiah 49:5-6
- During the tribulation God will seal these 144,000 Jewish sons for the purpose of evangelizing the nations
- The end that Jesus is referring to in Matthew 24, is clearly the tribulation.

The Redeemed Believers

- As the 144,000, Jewish evangelists convert people they are exempt from the judgments that come on the earth by God.
- “Those who have the seal of God include not only the 144,000 Jewish evangelists (Rev. 7:3-4; 14:1), but also the rest of the redeemed (Rev. 22:4; 2Ti. 2:19). This seal marks them as personally belonging to God and as such protected from the forces of hell.”-MacArthur
- “And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name *shall be* on their foreheads.”-Revelation 22:3-4

Revelation 9:5-6

“And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them *for* five months. Their torment *was* like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.”

Five Months

- The demonic invasion is not given authority to kill but to torment the inhabitants of the earth for five months.
- Not only will the demons not be able to kill but the tormented men will not be able to kill themselves either.
- Certainly Satan would want to kill the unrepentant mankind to keep them from repenting but God in His mercy gives them time to repent.
- However the fear is so great of these demonic forces that they desire to die.
- The pain of the demons is so intense that they will continually seek death as a relief.

Revelation 9:7-8

The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces *were* like the faces of men. They had hair like women’s hair, and their teeth were like lions’ *teeth*.

The Description Of The Locusts

- Again there is the word “like” John is attempting to describe what he sees the best that he can.
- They had a head like a horse.
- They had crown of gold on their heads.
- They had a face like a man.
- They had hair like a woman.
- They had teeth like a lion.

Revelation 9:9-10

And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings *was* like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power *was* to hurt men five months.

The Description Continues

- They had breastplates like iron.
- The sound of their wings was like the sound of Chariots of many horses running into battle.
- They had tails like scorpions that could sting.
- Their power was to hurt men.
- It is not unusual for the demons and angelic beings to have animal like features. It was true of the seraphim in chapter four.
- This has never occurred on earth before nor will happen again.
- Some have tried to describe these demons as helicopters of the antichrist which is purely speculative.



Revelation 9:11-12

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. One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

The King Of The Locusts

- This is another indication that these are not locusts because locusts have no king over them.
- “The locusts have no king, yet they all advance in ranks...”-Proverbs 30:27
- The name of the king of the locust army is Abaddon in Hebrew or Apollyon in Greek.
- Both of these mean destruction.

The First Woe Is Past

- There are two more woes to come.
- As God’s people we can be thankful that Jesus alone holds keys to death and hades.
- It is Jesus Who gives the authority of Satan to open the gates of hell upon the earth and because we are His we can rest assured.
- There is another demonic army to come upon unrepentant man.

Revelation 9:13-14

“Then 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 who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”

The Golden Altar

- The golden altar is the altar of incense and earlier in the book of Revelation it was a representation of the prayers of the saints (Rev. 8:3-5)
- The prayers of God's people play a large part in the end-times drama.
- The horns on the altar is where the atoning blood was applied.
- "How long, sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"-**Revelation. 6:10**



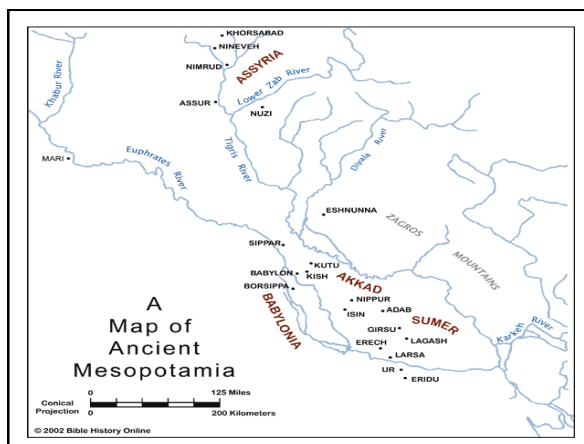
The Four Angels

- These four angels have evidently been reserved in bondage for this special purpose of God.
- These must be bad angels because they are said to be **"bound"**
- Since there are only four it is likely that they are a specific group of especially powerful angels.
- One powerful angel in a single night killed one hundred and eighty-five thousand Assyrians (2 Kings 19:35).
- These four angels are the commanders of a host of demonic angels.

The Euphrates

- It will be the eastern boundary of Israel during the millennium.
- "On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates."-**Genesis 15:18**
- The Euphrates river was one of the four rivers in the Garden of Eden. (Gen. 2:14)
- The first human sin began in this region. (Gen. 3:6,7)
- The first murder was committed there. (Gen. 4:8)

- Nimrod began his rebellious empire in near Euphrates (Gen. 10:11)
- The Tower of Babel was built there. (Gen. 10,11)
- The region near the Euphrates was the central location of three world powers that oppressed Israel: Assyria, Babylon, and Medo-Persia.
- The fountainhead of idolatry and false worship began in the Euphrates Region.
- The Euphrates Region will once again be the center of wickedness during the last days. (Zech. 5:5-11)
- Israel spent seventy long years of captivity along the Euphrates River.
- It was in the Euphrates area that the times of the gentiles began which will end at the return of Jesus.
- The Euphrates is the river over which the enemies of God will cross to engage in the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:12-16).



Revelation 9:15

“So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.”

Angels Are Prepared For The End

- The preparation was not their own but that of God Who also kept them bound until the appointed time.
- The four angels will be released at the exact appointed time, i.e. “hour and day and month and year”.
- The demonic locusts described earlier in the chapter were restricted to tormenting mankind. But these four angels have the authority to kill on a massive scale.
- These angels have a certain sphere of influence over a third of mankind.
- They execute God's will in God's timing.
- Since a quarter of mankind has already been killed (Rev. 6:8), this brings the total dead to over half of the world's population.

Revelation 9:16-17

“Now the number of the army of the horsemen *was* two hundred million; I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses *were* like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.”

The Two-Hundred Million Army

- At one time I think China stated it could field an army of two-hundred million soldiers.
- Although this might be intriguing to ponder the passage doesn't support the idea of a human army.
- This passage as earlier in the chapter with the locusts speaks to a strange demonic phenomena.
- In the original text it literally says “two myriads of myriads” which essentially is a countless number.
- “To summarize why these two hundred million are demons and not Chinese, four things should be noted: *first*, they are led by four fallen angels; *second*, the location of the army is stated to be the Euphrates, where Babylon is located (which in the future will be the headquarters of the counterfeit trinity); *third*, the description given in the text rules out this army's being human; and *fourth*, the kings of the east are not connected with this at all.”-Fruchtenbaum

Horses

- The previous judgment involved demonic locusts whose appearance was “like horses”.
- Here in this passage John sees actual horses.
- These horses are not like normal horses for they breath fire out of their mouth and inflict harm with their tail and their head was like a lion.
- The demonic army sits upon and rides these demonic horses.

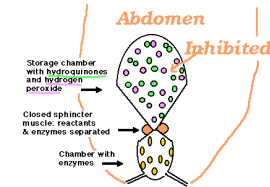
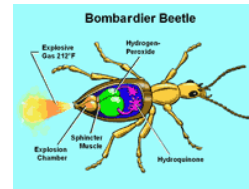
Fiery Mouth

- Out of the mouth of the horses came fire, smoke, and brimstone.
- “No doubt this all sounds fantastic and impossible, so commentators have invented all sorts of figurative meanings to apply to these deadly horses. But these are not the first fire-breathing animals the earth has seen. Ancient nations everywhere describe fire-breathing dragons which formerly existed on earth, and the Bible describes at least one such creature, called leviathan (Job 41:19-21). There are many indications that these dragons were actually dinosaurs, and the fossil evidence does show structures on at least some dinosaurs that could well have served as mixing chambers for flammable chemicals [not to mention methane from digestive processes] that could be expelled in the form of fire and smoke.”-Morris

BOMBARDIER BEETLE



"Bombardier beetles [1/2" in size] store two separate chemicals (hydroquinone and hydrogen peroxide) that are NOT mixed until threatened. When this occurs the two chemicals are squirted through 2 tubes, where they are mixed along with small amounts of catalytic enzymes. When these chemicals mix they undergo a violent "exothermic" chemical reaction. The boiling, [200 degrees Fahrenheit] foul smelling liquid partially becomes a gas and is expelled with a loud popping sound."



PUFF THE MAGIC DRAGON



- This figure, about 7 feet long from wing-tip to wing-tip, is actually painted with a dark-red pigment. Indians of the Fremont culture are thought to have inhabited the "Swell" between 700 and 1250 A.D. Black Dragon Canyon is named for the pictograph which resembles a large winged reptile with a head crest. On the left is shown a photo of one of the curious "dinosaur" petroglyphs near Middle Mesa at the Wupatki National Park. This particular petroglyph is called "Puff the Magic Dragon"

Revelation 9:18-19

By these three *plagues* a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails *are* like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

The Tails

- The tails of the horses are like the head of a serpent.
- Their tail has the ability to inflict harm upon mankind.
- "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. Before them the people writhe in pain; all faces are drained of color."-Joel 2:3,6

Revelation 9:20-21

But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Acts Of Unrepentant Mankind

- The rest of mankind did not repent of the work of their hands which is the making of gods in their own image.
- The making of idols from the creation rather than worshipping the Creator who gives life. (Rom. 1:18-23)
- The killing of the people and sorceries which is communication with the dead.
- The sexual immorality and their thefts.
- The reality is that if they repented of all these things the God of compassion would forgive them and except them as a child of God.

- "The conditions and judgments which John describes in this chapter are difficult for us to imagine. Yet if we understand the inspired pages of Biblical history, we recognize the reality of the events attending the Genesis Flood and the tower of Babel. What man has had the capability of doing in the past can easily be repeated in the future. To those who suggest that "modern man" has thrown off such shackles, we answer with just a few words: *Chairman Mao, Stalin, Hitler, holocaust*. These were not isolated individuals, but entire *historical movements* supported by countless others. The capability of the same and worse lies before us in the pages of the book of Revelation."-Garland