

Revelation Chapter 9.

Revelation 9:1

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The Fifth Trumpet, The first woe. *In the Bible a woe is a terrible calamity.*

And the fifth Angel sounded and I saw a star fall from Heaven unto the earth; and to him was given the key to the bottomless pit. 2. And 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.

Because of the personal acts required by this star we can safely say this is not a shooting star or a meteorite, he is an intelligent being. Only such could be given a key and commanded to open such a place as the abyss. This Trumpet and the opening of the abyss bring the beginning of five months of extreme torment on the people of the earth. Seven times John associates the Abyss or the Bottomless pit with demons and the unsaved. It also appears to be a place of suffering and torment. Many prefer not to believe there is a Hell and if they do, prefer to think that place is the home of Satan and his fallen Angels only. Mathew 25; 41 tells us

Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand (those who reject Christ) depart from Me you cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

This shows that hell was created for the devil and his demons but those who reject Christ will also by default be condemned to the same destination if they die without being reconciled to Christ.

Those who are found in Hell are those who have chosen to be there of their own free will by rejecting Jesus as their Saviour and thereby condemning themselves to spend eternity with Satan. When Jesus visited the bottomless pit He preached Salvation to those believers who were there, they were still captives by Satan because the blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin but the cross did! He took the keys of Death and Hell from the hands of Satan and came out with the key of the bottomless pit and brought captivity captive out with Him.

The fifth Trumpet blast announces the expulsion of Satan from the second heaven and this was spoken of in Isaiah just like John speaks of it here,

Isaiah 14:12

How are you fallen from Heaven O Lucifer, son of the morning! How are you cut down to the ground, which did weaken 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 sit also upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.

Note:

I believe time did elapse between verse 1 and verse 2 of Genesis Chapter 1. God originally created earth beautiful and complete. Before the fall of Satan he lived with God and all the Angels in Heaven; he was a very beautiful being. Pride entered his heart and we know from the scriptures what he thought of himself. He wanted to rise up above the Most High and take God's place. (Rev: 12; 3, 4) A revolution took place and Satan was thrown out of heaven and he took one third of the Angels with him. These became known as 'fallen angels'.

This is a big subject and very poignant to this part of our study of Revelation. I am aware that many have a different interpretation to this subject and as I have said before I respect your view but please look at this with an open mind and respect mine.

Many believe that Satan has a 'home' in hell and is confined to that place with his angels. This may not be so. When banished from Heaven in the days described in Genesis, he made his 'home' on earth that is why earth was in such a mess when God remade it in Genesis Chapter 1 verse 2. All Angels including the fallen angels and Satan himself are subject to God and they often have to report to the Throne of God to give account of their actions. Job.1. verse 6 onwards tells us that on one of these occasions when the Angels were summoned to the throne, God asked Satan where he had been. Satan said "*From going to and fro in the earth and from walking up and down in it*" So Job tells us Satan had free access to earth and to the third heaven where God dwelt. He was able to dialogue directly with God and had retained authority over mankind. But remember Jesus took away the keys- He took away all of Satan's authority to bring death and condemn mankind to Hell. Satan from that time until now is described as Prince of the power of the air (Eph: 2.2). That represents the second heaven above the surface of the earth. The reality is that he now has no power or authority, but remember he is the original liar. He is the father of lies and he now uses his lies to steal, kill, and destroy. He does that by commissioning demons to influence what we think, meditate on and believe. His ploy is to compromise our trust and faith in Jesus. It is an old trick- yet highly effective. That is why we are told that Satan is "*seeking who he may devour*", seeking who will begin to believe his lies...So in the era that we are now living

Satan is not yet in hell and he seeks to get us to believe that he has true power when he does not.

Verse 1a

...and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. 2. And 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 air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

The key to the bottomless pit was given to Satan who opened the pit and from its depth rose smoke as the smoke of a furnace. The polluted air became darkened and the sun was turned dark by reason of the smoke. This would not be a bonfire smoke, or indeed smoke from a house on fire, vast swathes of thick ink black putrid smoke would rise up out of the bowels of the earth and fill the air and blot out the sun.

Verse 3

And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded of 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.5. And 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 strikes a man. And in those days shall men seek death and shall not find it, and shall desire to die and death shall flee from them.

The appearance of these locusts is repulsive and John tells us they will be well organised, verse 11 says they have a powerful fallen angel 'king' over them whose name was Abaddon in the Hebrew and Apollyon in the Greek. These are spirit beings and they live in the abyss, indestructible by ordinary men otherwise men would not fear them, are you frightened of the locusts found in your garden? John the Baptist ate them with wild honey! John goes into detail as to what these locusts look like. They came out of the abyss unharmed by the choking black smoke and tormented human beings for five months. They are intelligent, capable of obeying orders, they have power to torment and give grief, men fear them, they have bodies like horses (v7), they have heads like men (v7), they have crowns of gold (v7), they have hair like women (v8), they have teeth like a lion (v8), They have a breastplate of iron (v9), they have wings (v9), they have tails and a sting like a scorpion in that tail (v9). They are frightening to look at and make a thunderous noise when they fly. John gives so much detail that these cannot be symbolic. These are literal beings but being demonic and living in the abyss under the influence of Satan everything is distorted and far removed from God's original creation. But God is using these scorpions to bring massive and devastating judgment upon the unbelievers.

Verse 11

And they had a king over them which is the angel out of the abyss (Greek). Whose name is in the Hebrew Abaddon but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

These powerful creatures will come out of the ground at the command of this 'king' who is Satan, when least expected and attack all human kind except those who had God's mark on them. There were those who belonged to God, one hundred and forty four thousand marked men who could walk free from the sting of these beasts as they preached about Jesus. It is very likely that those who responded to the message of the one hundred and forty four thousand preachers also were safe from these scorpions. The rest of mankind will be tormented stung and made ill by the sting of these demons.

At this point in our study I would like to remind you that a few chapters back we noted that those who had chosen to believe in Jesus and accept Him as their Saviour were marked by God with a mark in the forehead. This will be a physical mark seen by all just as the Antichrist's mark will be visible to all because you will not be able to buy or sell without his mark which we have come to believe to be 666. This means that there will be two classes of people in the early years of the tribulation, those on the side of the Antichrist and those on the side of Christ. I have to ask the most important question of your life that is whose side will you be on? Get this question settled as quickly as you can you don't want to be around when these locusts are about! By the way we are told it will be impossible to die or seek death, your torment will go on for five months: verse 6 is the one you are looking for!

One woe is passed and the sixth trumpet announces the second woe.

Verse 13

And the sixth angel sounded and I heard a voice from the four horns of the Golden altar which is before God.

The Golden Altar called the Altar of Incense which was in the tabernacle and was immediately in front of the curtain that separated the Holy place from the Holy of Holies where God's presence dwelt. The golden altar was made by Moses under the instruction of God (Ex.30,1-18) and was placed by the earthly tabernacle's Holy of Holy's where the Lord's presence was located. The four horn-shaped protrusions, one on each corner of the golden altar was where an Israelite could hold onto and plead for mercy as it was the nearest point to the mercy seat they could get to

outside the Holy of Holies. Only the high priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies and that was only once a year on the Day of Atonement.

The voice that was heard may well be the voice of the Lord giving the command to the sixth Angel who had the Trumpet to loose the four angels who are bound in the great River Euphrates. These Angels from the river are evil Angels hence they were bound. It is a grand river some 1800 miles long and marks one of the four branches of the river that flowed out of Eden (Gen:2;10) therefore it is the eastern boundary of the promised land (Ex; 23;31). This sixth Angel blew the sixth Trumpet which in turn loosed four angels, these angels were prepared for a certain year, and a certain month and a certain day and a certain hour to slay a third part of mankind. This refers to a fixed time in the history of the world; God knows the timing of the end of this age to the hour.

Verse 16

And the number of the army of the horseman were two hundred thousand, thousand, thousand and I heard the number of them.

The theory that these 200,000,000 horsemen are drawn from armies from all parts of the world particularly China and Russia is false. They all come from the abyss and they are spirit beings, also they are literal creatures.

1. They have angelic leaders proving them to be real as angels.(14-15)
2. They were numbered exactly proving their individuality.(16)
3. They kill one third of men proving bodily contact was necessary.(15)
4. They are intelligent creatures because they follow orders and commands.(14-15)
5. They have riders on them proving they have certain control.(17)
6. They cannot be killed by fire or affected by the smoke of the abyss proving them spirit beings.(1-2) (17-18)
7. At this moment of time they are bound in the abyss proving them fallen angels.(1-2)
8. They are indestructible by men (17)
9. Their bodies are capable of wearing breastplates (17)
10. They have bodies like horses and heads like lions (17)
11. Real fire, smoke and brimstone issue from real mouths (17-18)
12. They have tails like serpents that are capable of hurting men (19)

Whatever you think of this vast army and wherever you think they may have come from they are certainly not human!

Verse 17

And 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.

For many years it has been taught that this army is made up of 200 million soldiers from China who boast they can raise such an army. This does not seem to make sense, we have seen that these 200, million are led by four fallen angels who were bound in the river Euphrates, and they were mounted on strange horses unlike any horses we know of today. We also note that verse 17 tells us that it is these horses that have the ability to do the fighting not the riders. The Bible tells us they are demonic spirits led by four fallen angels and their mission is to murder millions of people.

John was the Lord's beloved disciple; he was the last disciple remaining alive and was a prisoner on the Isle of Patmos. God gave him the commission to write this very important book of Revelation. It was God who called him up to heaven in a vision and showed him future events and asked him to write them down. As preposterous as these events may seem to us today just remember it was God who ordered the plagues upon Egypt. Aaron's rod turned into a serpent, all water sources turned to blood, millions of frogs pestering everyone. He made lice from the dust of the earth, then swarms of flies, the death of all Egypt's cattle, the boils and the hail, the locusts and the darkness, and the death of all Egypt's very young.

There are very many miracles like the water into wine, Gideon's battle won with only 300 men, the five loaves and two fish and many, many more. When you read our studies in Revelation of all these strange things happening at the beginning of the seven year tribulation you may think these things just cannot be, but remember that's what the Egyptians thought when each plague came upon them. Don't underestimate God for one second; He is God Almighty creator of Heaven and Earth and He will judge the world for rejecting His Son Jesus and He has shown us what He is going to do so we can avoid it by giving our hearts and lives over to Him today.

Verse 18

By these three (plagues) was the third part of men killed by fire and by smoke and by brimstone which issued out of their mouths. 19 For 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.

The end times will bring all manner of plagues on the earth Revelation 6:8, 9: 20, 11: 6, 15: 1, 6: 8, 16:9, and others. What amazes me is the fact that although there will be millions left on the earth seeing all this devastation, killing, and wickedness the Bible says they did not repent and call on God for repentance.

Verse 20

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

When God created us with brains as detailed and precise as we have which are able to think, understand, reason, show feeling, design, build, make, and send other men to the moon. Make rockets and send them to Mars and other far distant planets, mend a broken arm, operate on another's heart. Create the beautiful places we all have been to on holiday, gave the sea its beautiful colour blue. On top of all that He gave His only Son to redeem us back to Himself and even then His subjects reject Him and worship idols of wood, stone, gold, silver, dabble in mysticism, spiritism, Satanism and all forms of wicked behaviours and so on. These gods cannot even move let alone create or love. Yes, unredeemed, unrepentant man is found wanting and a disappointment to God. No wonder He will show His wrath by letting free these demons and bring this age to a close.

Let us take an inward look at our hearts and make sure we are saved by the blood of the Lamb, safe and secure from all that is coming upon the earth.

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Be blessed

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