

## Chapter 9

*Rev 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.*

**What is the Abyss?** The bottomless pit refers to a place of the greatest torment and isolation where some of the demonic hordes are incarcerated - Per John MacArthur. Luke 8:30 - Demons begged not to go to the abyss.

**What is the relationship between God's judgement and his grace?**

*2 Peter 2:4-9 (New Living Translation)*

*For God did not spare even the angels who sinned. He threw them into hell, in gloomy pits of darkness, where they are being held until the day of judgment. And God did not spare the ancient world—except for Noah and the seven others in his family. Noah warned the world of God's righteous judgment. So God protected Noah when he destroyed the world of ungodly people with a vast flood. Later, God condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and turned them into heaps of ashes. He made them an example of what will happen to ungodly people. But God also rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man who was sick of the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him. Yes, Lot was a righteous man who was tormented in his soul by the wickedness he saw and heard day after day. So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while keeping the wicked under punishment until the day of final judgment.*

**Who is this star?**

- Isaiah 14:12 - How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn!  
You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!
- Luke 10:18 - He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.
- 2 Cor 11:14 and no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.
- Rev 12: 7-9 and there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

**What about the key?** Key symbolizes authority given to Satan. Reference Job 1:12 & 2:16 God limits Satan.

***Rev 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.***

This is a literal smog from the abyss will make LA will clear, and I suspect the earth will be darken by from this vile smoke rising from the pit.

***Rev 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.***

1915 Locust Plague Accounts: ‘We saw them coming as a great cloud flying across the sky and then they swarmed by millions about Ras Beirut. They look like giant flakes of snow being driven along by the wind over your head’. Antun Yamin, writing about Lebanon, noted that ‘on the 9th of April [1915] we could not see the sun that day. Gigantic locusts blocked out all vision... for an entire week they blocked out all sunlight’. A Beirut newspaper likewise commented: ‘the view of the locusts yesterday afternoon was terrifyingly dreadful. The army of locusts spread out in our sky, layer on top of layer, a wonder of God almighty’s ability’. Yusuf Al-Haddad from Lebanon wrote that the locusts descended from the sky ‘as if the sea itself has gushed forth on to earth...the land dried up as if the clocks turned spring back to fall...on top of every lowland, tree and plant, all we could see was an abhorrent layer of yellow[locusts]’. Margaret McGilvary compared the ‘whirling winged forms’ to driving in a snowstorm, ‘only in this case the mammoth flakes were yellow and black’ 500,000 people in Syria died of starvation. 536,000 tons of food were destroyed in a few month.

Source: [www.academia.edu/10231965/\\_The\\_1915\\_Locust\\_Attack\\_in\\_Syria\\_and\\_Palestine\\_and\\_its\\_Role\\_in\\_the\\_Famine\\_During\\_the\\_First\\_World\\_War\\_Middle\\_Eastern\\_Studies\\_51\\_3\\_2015\\_370-394](http://www.academia.edu/10231965/_The_1915_Locust_Attack_in_Syria_and_Palestine_and_its_Role_in_the_Famine_During_the_First_World_War_Middle_Eastern_Studies_51_3_2015_370-394)

### Why are these not normal locust or any previous biblical locust plague like in Egypt?

1. Unlike all other locust they don't eat vegetation.
2. These locust have a king, and the bible clearly states locust have no king (Prov. 30:27).
3. The scriptures clearly state there will be no locust like the plague in Egypt (Exo 10:14).
4. They are described as literal creatures “like” (used 9 times) a lion, horse, scorpion and man.

***Rev 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.***

This judgment is limited to 5 months and clearly on those not sealed, so the 144k and their disciples are the two groups spared. The sting may not kill man for possibly two reasons: either Satan was limited or Satan did not allow his troops to die because he need them to fight later.

Scorpions Sting – A scorpion’s victim often rolls on the ground in agony, foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth in pain. The demons in locust form are able to inflict the Physical and perhaps spiritual pain like that of a scorpion. Many scorpions have neurotoxins attacking the nervous system.

Signs and symptoms in children who have been stung by a bark scorpion include:

- Pain, which can be intense, numbness and tingling in the area around the sting, but little or no swelling
- Muscle twitching or thrashing
- Unusual head, neck and eye movements
- Drooling
- Sweating
- Restlessness or excitability and sometimes inconsolable crying

***Rev 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.***

Locusts look like horses. – Note in German the word for locust means hay horse and in Italian it means little horse. Lions Teeth (Reference Joel Chapter 1), Their Antenna or bristles maybe like a woman's hair (Jer 51:27). Faces may denote rational and intelligent beings.

**Rev 9:9-11** *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. 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.*

There has been speculation that these are modern day war planes or helicopters; however, if you believe that these locust literally come out of the abyss as described in Revelation 9:2-4, then you will have difficulty in reconciling this theory with the bible. The creatures apparently are invulnerable to attack. Abaddon or Apollo (Hebrew or Greek) means destroyer. Probably, this is Satan's most trusted angels and the head of the bottomless pit.

**How evil do you think the head angel of the bottomless pit is?**

**Rev 9:12** *One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.*

Is this a ray of sunshine? Let's review. The bottomless pit has been opened, Satan has come to earth with new authority, the earth was darkened by the smog from the pit, and demonic locust are torturing the inhabitants of earth. **Why did God limit the judgment on man?**

**Rev 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."*

**Who is the voice now at the horns on the golden altar (as mentioned in Rev. 8:3 Incense for prayer)?**

**Why would angels need to be bound? Would good angels need to be bound? Who would be capable of binding Angels?**

**Why the river Euphrates?**

Euphrates is key in scripture: This is where:

Garden of Eden - one of four rivers	Flood began
1 <sup>st</sup> Murder	Tower of Babel
Sin Entered Earth	Babylonian captivity for Israel
Spawned many of the world's pagan religions	Dividing point for East and West (China and the West)

**Rev 9:15-17** *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. 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.*

Four Angels prepared to kill 1/3 of the population. Note ¼ is already gone, so now we are well over ½ the population of the earth. Based on today's population of 7.5 billion that mean over 4.375 billion dead by the

conclusion of the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet. Matthew 24:22 says “unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved, but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.”

### **200 million mounted troops, but what are they?**

Men, Demons, New Technology. Let’s look at what we know.

1. The bottomless pit full of demons has been opened.
2. The colors of red, blue and yellow are not your typical military uniforms.
3. Human army out of the East is referenced in the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet not now.
4. The Woe trumpets have had a common theme which is demonic, they are likely either literal demons or under demonic control.

**Rev 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.**

Notice, all three plagues are referred to specifically as fire, smoke, and brimstone. **Who kills the inhabitants of the earth the riders or the horses?**

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*Believers Bible Commentary* says: “It is worth noticing that death is inflicted by the horses, not the riders. One writer suggests that the mighty army of horsemen might symbolize “some irresistible delusion of the devil, coming from the East.” Hamilton Smith says: “Their power is in their mouth” may indicate that this delusion will be presented with all the persuasive eloquence of speech. But behind the delusion is the power of Satan, symbolized by their tails being like serpents.”

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**Rev 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.**

**Why do they not repent?**

**Homework:**

1. Look up the different translations for Rev 9:21 and read the commentaries or foot notes and tell me what meaning or truth we may miss if you only read the NIV bible.
2. Read Isaiah 13. What additional insight does Isaiah provide to this time period?

Answer to Homework Rev 9:21: Some translations use sorcery which in the Greek is Pharmacia- meaning Drugs where we get our English word Pharmacy.

Drugs will serve the following purposes:

- Drugs will help them bear the judgements. Likely, many will turn to drugs to ease pain of the scorpion stings alone.
- Drugs will likely be a religion of sorts. People will turn to drugs instead of God.
- Drugs tend to intensify sin. We see today the recreation use of ED (erectile dysfunction) medication.

Many drugs will become even more commonplace accepted, promoted, free of any social judgment. Probably, the opposite will occur in that there will be pressure to partake. If you choose to “Just say No” and be drug free, you will be like Daniel who chose not to partake in the king’s food. The same type of pressure and risk to your very life may occur.

The culture will be much worse than Las Vegas. It will be much more like Babylon or Ephesus. The Devil’s task to deceive will be much easier when the population is drugged. This is much the same as when you go to dig up a bush or a large plant in the yard. If you try to do that in August in Texas, when it has not rained in a month the task looks near impossible. But the same bush, can be relatively easily pulled after a week solid of spring rains to soften the soil. Drugs will serve the same purpose loosening our roots to reason and allowing us to fall for the strong delusions that will come. Paul referenced this in 2 Thes. 2:9-12. As originally coined in World War II, “If you stand for nothing and you will fall for anything!” Judgment will come for those who reject Christ!

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## Chapter 10

Where are we now?

**Chapter 1** – John’s Vision – Jesus in Glory – The one who keeps the lamb stands burning - What he sees  
**Chapters 2-3** - Church Ages – History - The Things that are, Then, the Things After these Things: