

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 18

The Trumpet Judgments
Selected Cross-references

Revelation 9



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)

These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).



2

Revelation 9

The fifth angel sounded his shofar, and I saw a star that had fallen out of heaven onto the earth, and he was given the key to the shaft leading down to the Abyss. He opened the shaft of the Abyss, and there went up smoke from the shaft like the smoke of a huge furnace; the sun was darkened, and the sky too, by the smoke from the shaft. Then out of the smoke onto the earth came locusts, and they were given power like the power scorpions have on earth. They were instructed not to harm the grass on the earth, any green plant, or any tree, but only the people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. The locusts were not allowed to kill them, only to inflict pain on them for five months, and the pain they caused was like the pain of a scorpion sting. In those days, people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them. Now, these locusts looked like horses outfitted for battle. On their heads were what looked like crowns of gold, and their faces were like human faces. They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like those of lions. Their chests were like iron breastplates, and the sound their wings made was like the roar of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. They had tails like those of scorpions, with stings, and in their tails was their power to hurt people for five months. They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is "Abaddon" and in our language, "Destroyer."



3

The first woe has passed, but there are still two woes to come. The sixth angel sounded his shofar, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the gold altar before God, saying to the sixth angel, the one with the shofar, "Release the four angels that are bound at the great river Euphrates!" And they were released. These four angels had been kept ready for this moment, for this day and month and year, to kill a third of mankind, and the number of cavalry soldiers was two hundred million! —I heard the number. Here is how the horses looked in the vision: the riders had breastplates that were fire-red, iris-blue, and sulfur-yellow; the horses' heads were like lions' heads; and from their mouths issued fire, smoke, and sulfur. It was these three plagues that killed a third of mankind—the fire, smoke, and sulfur issuing from the horses' mouths. For the power of the horses was in their mouths—and also in their tails, for their tails were like snakes with heads, and with them, they could cause injury.



4

The rest of mankind, those who were not killed by these plagues, even then did not turn from what they had made with their own hands—they did not stop worshipping demons and idols made of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they turn from their murdering, their involvement with the occult and with drugs, their sexual immorality, or their stealing.



5

Joel 2

“Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD, is coming; it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness, there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations. Fire devours before them, and behind them, a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them, but behind them, a desolate wilderness, and nothing escapes them. Their appearance is like the appearance of horses, and like war horses, they run. As with the rumbling of chariots, they leap on the tops of the mountains, like the crackling of a flame of fire devouring the stubble, like a powerful army drawn up for battle. Before them, peoples are in anguish; all faces grow pale. Like warriors, they charge; like soldiers, they scale the wall.



6

They march each on his way; they do not swerve from their paths. They do not jostle one another; each marches in his path; they burst through the weapons and are not halted. They leap upon the city, they run upon the walls, they climb up into the houses, they enter through the windows like a thief. The earth quakes before them; the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. The LORD utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful. For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it? **“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;” Tear your heart, not your garments; and turn to ADONAI your God. For he is merciful and compassionate, slow to anger, rich in grace, and willing to change his mind about disaster.**



7

Key to the Abyss

Revelation 9:1	References
The fifth angel sounded his shofar, and I saw a star that had fallen out of heaven onto the earth, and he was given the key to the shaft leading down to the Abyss.	Gen 1:2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep .



8

And the herd rushed down the steep slope into the lake and were drowned



Area of Gadara harbor



8:33

9

The *Abussos*

Revelation 9:2

He opened the shaft of the Abyss, and there went up smoke from the shaft like the smoke of a huge furnace; the sun was darkened, and the sky too, by the smoke from the shaft.

References

Gen 19:28 And he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace.



10

“Locusts” from the Abyss

Revelation 9:3	References
Then out of the smoke onto the earth came locusts, and they were given power like the power scorpions have on earth.	Exodus 10:12: 2 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, so that they may come upon the land of Egypt and eat every plant in the land, all that the hail has left.”



11

Unnatural Locusts

Revelation 9:4	References
They were instructed not to harm the grass on the earth, any green plant or any tree, but only the people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.	



12

A sting that lasts five months

Revelation 9:5	References
The locusts were not allowed to kill them, only to inflict pain on them for five months, and the pain they caused was like the pain of a scorpion sting.	Genesis 7:24 And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.



13

Death will elude them

Revelation 9:6	References
In those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.	Jeremiah 8:3 Death shall be preferred to life by all the remnant that remains of this evil family in all the places where I have driven them, declares the LORD of hosts.



14

Description of Locust Army

Revelation 9:7	References
Now these locusts looked like horses outfitted for battle. On their heads were what looked like crowns of gold, and their faces were like human faces.	Judges 6:5 For they would come up with their livestock and their tents; they would come like locusts in number—both they and their camels could not be counted—so that they laid waste the land as they came in.



15

Description of Locust Army

Revelation 9:8-9	References
They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like those of lions. Their chests were like iron breastplates, and the sound their wings made was like the roar of many horses and chariots rushing into battle.	



16

Abaddon

Revelation 9:10-12

They had tails like those of scorpions, with stings; and in their tails was their power to hurt people for five months. They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is "Abaddon" and in our language, "Destroyer." The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still to come.

References

Proverbs 30:27 the locusts have no king, yet all of them march in rank;
 Pro 27:20 Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the eyes of man
 Job 26:6 Sheol is naked before God, and Abaddon has no covering.



17

Sixth Angel - Euphrates

Revelation 9:13-15

The sixth angel sounded his shofar, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the gold altar before God, saying to the sixth angel, the one with the shofar, "Release the four angels that are bound at the great river Euphrates!" And they were released. These four angels had been kept ready for this moment, for this day and month and year, to kill a third of mankind;

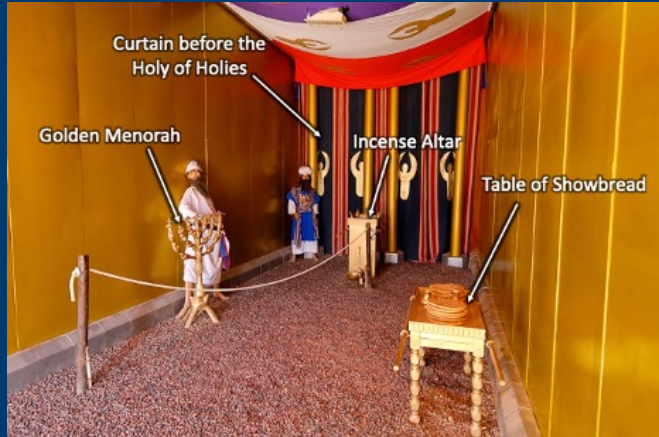
References

30:1 "You shall make an altar on which to burn incense; 3 You shall overlay it with pure gold, its top and around its sides and its horns.



18

I heard a voice from the four horns of the gold altar before God,



Tabernacle model incense altar

Revelation 9:13

19

Release the four angels that are bound at the great river Euphrates

Isaiah 10:5-6

(NIV) "Woe to **the** Assyrian, the rod of my anger, in whose hand is the club of my wrath! I send him against a godless nation, I dispatch him against a people who anger me, to seize loot and snatch plunder, and to trample them down like mud in the streets.

ESV: Woe to Assyria, the rod of my anger; the staff in their hands is my fury! Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

Upper Euphrates River at Carchemish (ancient Assyria)

Luke 8:30-31

20

Silence – silent prayers and intercessions

Revelation 9:16-17

and the number of cavalry soldiers was two hundred million!—I heard the number. Here is how the horses looked in the vision: the riders had breastplates that were fire-red, iris-blue, and sulfur-yellow; the horses' heads were like lions' heads; and from their mouths issued fire, smoke, and sulfur.

References



21

Silence – silent prayers and intercessions

Revelation 9:18-19

It was these three plagues that killed a third of mankind—the fire, smoke, and sulfur issuing from the horses' mouths. For the power of the horses was in their mouths—and also in their tails, for their tails were like snakes with heads, and with them, they could cause injury.



22

Silence – silent prayers and intercessions

Revelation 9:20-21

The rest of mankind, those who were not killed by these plagues, even then did not turn from what they had made with their own hands—they did not stop worshipping demons and idols made of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they turn from their murdering, their involvement with the occult and with drugs, their sexual immorality or their stealing.

References

1 Cor 10:20 I do not want you to be participants with demons.



23



24



25