

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles to Revelation 9 –

For the past couple of weeks, we have been studying about events that will take place on earth once the church is removed.

And once this occurs, the bible tells us that there will be a period of 7 years, known as the Great Tribulation.

This time of tribulation is a time when God's wrath is poured out on an unbelieving world and God begins to make right all the things that have been so wrong.

So, once Jesus takes up the church, He begins to open up the seals of the scroll – because He alone is worthy to open it.

And as He opens the seals, we find trumpets interwoven through them.

These are different judgments that will come upon the earth during this time – and I made a point last week that there are many parallels between the judgments here in the book of Revelation and the plagues that God sent to Egypt in the book of Exodus.

We studied the first four trumpets last week – and we saw the devastation that they are going to bring with them.

As bad as the first four judgments are – the ones we study tonight are even worse.

We are now looking at the last three trumpets.

The last three trumpets bring such terrible things to the earth that they are called the three “woes”.

We saw that at the end of the study last week, where John describes seeing and hearing an angel in heaven saying, “Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”

So things are going to get worse -

Let's pray...

**[Rev 9:1-21 NKJV] 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.**

In our study last week, John described after the third trumpet sounded, that a star fell from heaven and polluted the 1/3 of the drinking water in the world.

And the name of the star was Wormwood – and I provided different ideas regarding wormwood – could be a comet, asteroid, nuclear warhead etc –

Here in Rev 9,

John didn't see a star falling... like in chapter 8

He saw a fallen star.

Also – notice in the second half of verse 1, that John refers to the fallen star as “him”

He had already fallen from heaven – and he continues to be in a “fallen” state.

This helps us identify who this fallen star is – because there is much confusion regarding the identity of the individual.

I have read commentaries where some people even believe this fallen star to be Jesus

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However, if we one studies the bible – the bible reveals who this fallen one is.

In the Old Testament – there are several bible verse that refer to angels poetically as stars (write down Job 38:7 and read it when you get home – that is one of them)

Turn to Isaiah 14 -

**[Isa 14:12-15 NKJV] 12 "How you are **fallen** from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! [How] you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!  
13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' 15 Yet **you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.****

The fallen him – is a fallen angel – none other than Satan.

Now -

Satan used to be one of the worship leaders in heaven (Eze. 28:14-15). But He rebelled against God and became an enemy of God.

Here is where many people are mistaken –

People believe incorrectly that Satan at this very minute dwells in hell.

He is sitting there on a throne with a pitch fork in his hand tormenting people day and night.

That is not biblical at all–

Satan's "fall" has to do with a change in his status, not his address.

Satan was no longer working "for" God, but "against" God.

And he still has full access to heaven where he works as the "accuser of the brethren" – every time we sin, he goes before God and accuses us.

If you are having trouble grasping this – read Job 1

Because that is what Satan is doing at this time.

Now, verse one states that he was given the keys to the bottomless pit –

That means that he didn't or has never had the keys before right. Who had them? God.

The keys are given to him – meaning he is under God's control.

Now, let's talk about this bottomless pit –

The word that is used here for bottomless pit is the word for abyss.

There is a place on earth, whether it's in the physical realm or in the spiritual realm, known as the bottomless pit or “abyss”.

Turn with me to Luke 8

In Luke 8, Jesus confronts a demon-possessed man.

When Jesus asked him what his name was – he said it was legion because of the many demons that had entered him.

Look at verse 31 -

**[Luk 8:31 NKJV] 31 And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.**

So Jesus allows them to go into nearby swine instead of sending them into the abyss.

The abyss is considered a place for demons and one day will be the temporary residence of satan.

But here at the sound of the trumpet – Satan will be allowed to open up the abyss and they will be allowed to be released and bring judgment upon the people.

Remember, all of this happens as God's grace is pulled back during the Tribulation Period.

**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. 3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 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. 5 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.**

So Satan unlocks the abyss and out come what John describes as a swarm of locusts.

Now, the eight plague upon Egypt was a swarm of locusts and the book of Exodus tells us the God brought a wind that brought the locusts into Egypt and they ate everything that was green in the land.

That is what locusts do – even to this day locusts are a big problem in Africa and in the Middle East.

When they land, they consume everything green; even the bark off trees.

And even in the ancient times – people understood a plague of locusts as a judgment from God.

That is what this is –

The only exception is that these locusts aren't interested in vegetation –

They are interested in tormenting those that do not have God's seal upon their foreheads.

These locusts will have the ability to sting people – like scorpions do.

Now, we have scorpions here in Arizona and for the most part – unless one has an allergic reaction – they are no big deal.

But the scorpions in the Middle East are different.

The sting of a scorpion there is extremely painful; like a bee sting times 10.

The site swells up & the pain spreads to the whole limb.

Then the muscles start to spasm, the eyes begin to twitch, there's mental confusion & drooling – the effects of their sting will last for five months.

Those that have God's seal on their foreheads – they are the 144,000 that we saw back in chapter seven.

**6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.**

The pain inflicted by this judgment is so great, people will want to die, but be unable to.

While most people loath and fear death, it is in fact one more manifestation of God's grace that He permits it.

We may immediately feel that we hate death because it takes our loved ones away from us –

But how much worse would it be if those loved ones couldn't die and had to continue to live in their broken bodies or continue to live in their diseased bodies, tormented by endless pain.

Church, death can be a mercy.

Am I sad that my dad is not around anymore – of course I am.

Did God show my dad grace and mercy by taking him when He did – so he didn't have to suffer anymore – He did.

So here in chapter nine, by not allowing the people tormented by the locust to die, God is rolling back His grace and mercy as His righteous judgment is being poured out on the people that rejected the Lamb.

**7 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.**

**8 They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' [teeth]. 9 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. 10 They**

**had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power [was] to hurt men five months.**

Here we have the description that John provides of the locusts –

Once again, I want to remind you that the emphasis here is not on the judgements but on the one who is bringing the judgments.

No one knows whether these are actually locusts or demonic spirits that swarm and destroy like locusts.

There is a reason that the Holy Spirit inspired John to write locusts – and it is because locusts in scripture are agents of God’s judgment.

**11 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.**

Both the Hebrew name Abaddon and the Greek name Apollyon mean the same – “Destruction or Destroyer”

He is going to be king over the swarm of locusts – the fallen one that was given the key to unlock the abyss – Satan – the destroyer.

Jesus in John 10 -

**(Jn 10:10 NKJV) The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**

Now, turn with me to Proverbs 30

**[Pro 30:27 NKJV] 27 The locusts have no king, Yet they all advance in ranks;**

Locusts are not like bees – where they follow the queen – when the queen moves the swarm moves.

Locusts are solitary until the condition is right and they all know exactly when to swarm.

The locusts in Rev 9 – they have a king – Satan

Meaning that if they are truly locusts – they could be demon possessed locusts,

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

**13 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."**

In the Tabernacle and in Heaven – there was the altar of incense.

We saw this same altar last week, this was the altar that the angel took the prayers of the saints, mixed them up with fire and threw them back to the earth.

And I mentioned that this was God answering the prayers of those that prayed for His kingdom to come.

Because before His kingdom can come, there must be judgment.

So part of God answering prayer is a command is given to release 4 angels somehow connected to the Euphrates River.

Now, since these demons are bound, it means that they are most likely not holy angels but demonic angels.

The Euphrates River speaks of Babylon

This is the area that came up with manmade religion.

Today, this is the area where Iraq and Iran are.

Historically this is the area that has consistency defied God and persecuted His people.

And later on, we will see the final world system in rebellion to God referred to as Babylon.

**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.**

These four angels were not lightweights.

But I want you to notice that they could not do anything – until God allowed them to.

If this bothers us – may I remind you that the reason God is allowing this is because God is simply giving humanity what it wants – a world without Him.

Once again, He's backing His grace out, so people can see what life & the World are like without Him.

After all, that's what they've been asking for.

Even more, it's what rebel man demands!

Here is the thing I want you to never forget

If they could, demons would want nothing better than to wipe all mankind from the earth.

They hate man because we bear God's image.

They know God created us to be His eternal companion so they do everything they can to keep us from that.

The reason that they cannot destroy us is because God won't let them. His grace protects us.

But the time is coming when in answer to foolish man's rejection of God, God will pull back His protection & demons will get to do what they want.

Now, what does this mean for the Christian today –

When you find yourself embroiled in Spiritual Warfare, it's because God's allowed it.

His Grace covers you.

So if the enemy is hassling you, it's only because God has some greater plan greater plan & purpose for it.

So, when you find yourself engaged in Spiritual battle, don't whine.

Don't play the "Woe is me; Life's so hard" card.

It's time to suit up in the whole armor of God, take the sword of the Spirit and go to war!

Because we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us.

These four angels are going to kill 1/3 of all mankind of earth – that does not include the ¼ when we saw the seals opened. Add those together – that is half of the population.

Right now, that number would be over 4 Billion people.

To put it in prospective, if you count every civilian and military death from world war 2 around the world – 75 million people – you would need to have 60 world war 2's to have the same death total.

**16 Now the number of the army of the horsemen [was] two hundred million; I heard the number of them. 17 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 army is made up of 200,000,000.

John actually heard the number – he is not guessing.

And once again, John provides a description on what they looked like to him.

They didn't even have 200,000,000 people on the earth back when John was around.

It would be hard for someone from that time period to try to describe armored vehicles and helicopters and everything else that is used in warfare today.

Again, we can speculate on whether or not this is a 200 million man army or if just like the locust, it is an army of demonic forces that is going to bring destruction upon mankind.

I found an estimate of the horse population on the earth from back in 2014 – and it was at 80 million –

So it could be that what John saw was not even men in horses.

**18 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. 19 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.**

Again, John is trying to describe the type of weapons that is used to bring destruction – John could probably describing chemical warfare or nuclear weapons.

**20 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. 21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.**

Despite having a first row seat of God's judgment, people are not going to repent.

They are going to continue to turn their back on God and continue with business as usual as the world around them burns.

As God begins to remove His grace more and more – the people will respond by being more wicked.

They know the source of the judgment – they continue to pursue life without Him and God is giving them a taste of what they want.

No one is going to be able to stand before God and say – I did not know.

We will either willfully accept or reject Him.

Church, don't be here for this. Trust Him to save you.

Amen

**Let's pray...**

