

REVELATION 9

I. BACKGROUND

In Rev. 8-9 we have the second series of judgements being poured out upon the Earth. Still has spares the majority of the Earth and its resources...GRACE! The last three of the Trumpet Judgments are more devastating than the previous 4; the eagle flying through the air ominously calls them “woes...”

The Trumpet judgments – 1/3’s: in ch. 8 we saw...

- 1st – 1/3 of earth burned up, 1/3 trees, all the grass;
- 2nd – something like a huge blazing mountain falls into sea: 1/3 sea turned to blood, 1/3 ships, 1/3 of the marine life;
- 3rd - “a great star” (*aster*) pollutes 1/3 of the fresh water;
- 4th - sun, moon and stars light reduced by 1/3.

There is no delay as there was before between the first and second series of judgments (1/2 hr. silence in Heaven, Rev. 8:1)....God’s patience, grace and long-suffering have come to an end; now they must face the “wrath of God.” In Egypt, Pharaoh hardened his heart similarly when God repeatedly told him to, “*Let my people go*” (Exodus 5-10); the judgments that followed were predictable.

II. TEXT

v. 1a: “...star that had fallen from Heaven....”? “Star” in 8:10 apparently a large meteorite; here is a PERSON (notice the use of the personal pronoun, “*he*” in v. 2). Even in modern terminology it is customary to speak of an unusually-talented athlete or performer as a “star.” In other Scriptures, “star” is used figurative sense to describe angels (the root word means to be strewn, i.e., across the sky, or to cross the sky [as a meteor], or an angel inasmuch as he crosses the sky in coming from heaven to earth). Who is the “star” that had previously fallen? This is Satan, formerly Lucifer: “shining one”.

- **Job 38:7** “*When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*”
- **Isa. 14:12**: “*How you have fallen from Heaven, O morning star, son of dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations.*”
- In **Luke 10:17f** Jesus’ disciples were returning from their first missionary trip and said to Jesus, “*‘Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.’ He replied, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.’*” In other words, “You guys are so impressed with the power I gave you for ministry, but be careful! I saw Satan fall because he got all wrapped up in the power he had as a worship leader in Heaven. No longer a servant, he wanted Heaven to serve him, so he disqualified himself from further use by God. Don’t rejoice in the power I give you or the miracles you see done in your ministry; rejoice that you’re saved by the grace and mercy of God and your names are in the Book of Life.” In other words, don’t make signs, wonders and miracles your passion; make JESUS your passion and rejoice in your position in Heaven!

Rev. 12 describes his expulsion:

- **Rev. 12:3-4** “Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth.”
- **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.”

Who gives him the key? **Jesus:** **Rev. 1:18** “I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

v.1b: “Abyss” – the *a-bussos*; without bottom; the bottomless pit; the subterranean abode of demonic hordes. 7 of 9 NT references are in Revelation! In Luke 8 the Gadarene demoniac begged not to be sent to Abyss before their time. **Point: Hell exists!**

When Lucifer fell from heaven, described in Isa. 14 and Ezek. 28, acc. to Rev. 12 one-third of the angels of heaven joined in his rebellion and were cast down with him as demons (fallen angels). These are angels “who left their first estate” (Jude 6) and had sexual relations with women, producing the “nephilim,” lit. “the fallen ones,” who were the giants spoken of in Gen, Num, Deut, and Joshua. The most heinous of these it appears have been incarcerated all this time in the Abyss and kept for release in Rev. 9 upon those that think they want to serve Satan instead of the Living God!

v. 2 When Krakatoa erupted in Indonesia in 1883, most recently in 2010 (or Vesuvius, 79ad or Mt. St. Helens, 1980, the Japanese tsunami, Mar. 11, 2011), it caused 36,417 (official) deaths (some est. 120,000).

- Krakatoa’s explosion was heard 3,000 miles away, the island was removed!
- It caused a volcanic winter that reduced temperatures worldwide by an average of 2.2° F for the next 5 years,
- caused global tsunamis as tall as 150’; smaller waves were recorded on tidal gauges as far away as the English Channel.
- The shock wave from the final explosion reverberated around the globe 7 times in total.
- Ash was propelled to a height of 50 miles into the air.
- The eruption darkened the sky worldwide for years afterwards, and produced spectacular sunsets throughout the world for many months – all from just ONE VOLCANO! Just imagine them going off all over the Earth simultaneously! If Yellowstone’s massive volcano – the largest in the world and 2,000 x’s the size of Mt. St. Helens – erupted it would make 2/3 of America uninhabitable!

v. 3 Joel 1:2-2:11 interprets the locust invasion as a foreshadowing of the devastations that accompany “*the Day of the LORD*.” But these do not look like your usual grasshoppers!

v. 4 Just as the Israelites were protected from Egypt's plagues (Ex. 8-12) so the 144,000 and/or the Tribulation saints ("*the servants of God*," 7:3) are spared.

v. 5 The life cycle of a locust is about 5 months (Spring through late summer). Locust invasions in the Middle East can be horrendously devastating: in 1866, 200,000 people died in Algiers from a famine following a locust invasion! They might be demons who appear in the form of locusts. This is confirmed by the fact that they came from the Abyss, the home of demons (Luke 8:31). See Slide "0."

vv. 7-10 Interesting "**locusts**." Understanding the limitations of John's vocabulary to describe things he had never seen before, these could be either special locusts – don't forget these are the most heinous demons imaginable – allowed by God to take this form, for this very purpose . . . or, as Hal Lindsay suggests, something like the modern attack helicopters we have today. SEE PICS...

v. 7 "**looked like horses**" – the likeness of a locust to a horse, especially to a horse equipped with armor, is so striking that the insect is named in German Heupferd (hay horse), and in Italian cavalett little horse.

v. 11 Leads one to believe they are other than literal locusts: "*locusts have no king*" (Prov. 30:27). Ex. 10:12-15 locusts descend on Egypt (looking and acting very 'locust-like'); a distinction was made between the Egyptians and the Israelites as a distinction is made between those having the mark of the beast and those that do not (v. 4).

Aba-DOHN (Hebrew) and **Apol-LU-on** (Greek) both mean "Destroyer."

vv. 13-15 "**The sixth... trumpet**" seems to relate to the final military conflict described in 16:12-16 ("Armageddon").

v. 13 "**Horns of the altar**" in the OT were projections at each corner (Exo. 27:2). Those fleeing judgment could take hold of the projections and cry out for mercy.

v. 14 These "**four angels**" are clearly fallen angels, i.e., demons; good angels are not bound. There are some of the worst of the worst fallen angels who have been incarcerated until this moment:

- 2 Peter 2:4 "*For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell [Greek: Tartarus: the deepest, darkest part of Hell], putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment...*"
- Jude 1:6 "*And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home--these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.*"

"**The Euphrates River**", (the longest river in W. Asia; 1,700 miles long!), mentioned in the Bible as early as the Garden of Eden (Gen 2:14) and on which were such famous cities of the ancient world as Babylon, Nippur, and Ur, was the NE boundary of the land promised to

Israel as well as the eastern boundary of the Roman Empire. It was generally considered the boundary separating the East from the West. Rudyard Kipling: *“East is east and West is west, and never the twain shall meet!”*

The army described in Rev 9:16-19 is a military host coming from the Orient across the Euphrates River (cp. 16:12 *“kings from the east”* – Iran/Iraq??!! 200 mill?! No – only Red China can boast of such a size militia; which they did . . . in 1965! Perhaps here with elements from Iraq/Iran though doubtful inasmuch as China is atheistic and Iran/Iraq are Moslem). The loosing of the angels (9:14-15) and the drying up of the Euphrates (16:12) are a preparation for the invasion of the Holy Land by the *“kings from the East”* (16:12) in anticipation of the battle of Armageddon (16:14-16).

v. 15 One-third of man-kind killed! That is, 1/3 of that which remained after the loosing of the 4th seal judgment (Rev. 6:8) when ¼ or 1-3/4 bill. died (leaving 5 ¼ bill.). Now an additional 1.75 bill. people die . . . (1/3 of the remaining). These two judgments alone (5th and 6th Trumpets), disregarding all intervening judgments, would account for the death of half the earth’s population!

This fact is to be taken literally as it confirms the statement by Daniel (Dan. 12:1) and the words of Christ (Matt. 24:21) that the Great Tribulation will be without precedent and would end in the death of all mankind if it were not stopped by His second coming (Matt. 24:22):

- **Daniel 12:1** *“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people--everyone whose name is found written in the book--will be delivered.”*
- **Matthew 24:21 f** *“For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive . . .”*

v. 16 “200 million” man army—cf. 16:12-14. Do you realize how impossible this was until recent times? Never has the earth seen before an army this large; the entire earth’s population was not this large at the time John wrote this (it didn’t reach 200 million until about 600AD!); “The kings from the East” (Rev. 16:12). China in 1965, during President Lyndon Baines Johnson’s tenure, claimed it could muster a 200 million-man army from its regular troops in conjunction with its armed and trained militia! **“200 million”** was the EXACT number THEY quoted! Not 190 mill, not 210 mill! (cf. *Time*, Vol. 85, No. 21, May 21, 1965, p. 35 in an article entitled “Firecracker No. 2” as China had just detonated a second 20-kiloton nuclear bomb at Lop Nor: “200 million-man (and woman) militia”).

Several great dams have already been placed across the Euphrates River to divert water for irrigation so that at times the riverbed is dry or partially so.

vv. 17-18 Literal or figurative “horses?” Prob. figurative inasmuch as these are NOT your typical horses!

- The lion-like **“heads of the horses”** imply something other than natural horses.

- **“Out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur???”** Not your usual horse, to be sure! Bad breath is one thing, but this . . . Interesting that some of the Chemical Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) smell like **“sulfur”** – Mustard gas, used in WW I, AKA sulfur mustard, gets its name from its trademark rotten mustard or garlic and onion odor. Other chemical WMDs include VX, Sarin, Phosgene, mustard gas and chlorine derivatives. The most toxic are nerve agents; others are vesicants; all are banned under the Chemical Weapons Convention agreed to and signed by 98% of the countries of the world, including Russia, China, Syria, Iraq and Iran...that’s comforting...(N. Korea doesn’t sign anything...)
- Some have taken this as a picture of modern warfare including the use of armed vehicles such as tanks, armored personnel carriers, Bradley Fighting Vehicles and the like.

v. 20 False worship – today?! **Yup!** Let me give you a “for-instance”: A two inch long discolored eyetooth is revered by 400 million Buddhists (6% of the Earth’s population) as the most sacred object on earth. The tooth is supposed to have been reclaimed from Buddha’s funeral ashes in 543BC and was brought to Ceylon 800 years later.

Today the tooth sits upon a golden lotus in the glorious Temple of the Tooth in Kandy, Ceylon surrounded by rubies and tons of flowers. Each year a 100,000 faithful Buddhists come from many countries to gaze at the sacred tooth. They bring gifts of gold, silver and jewels to place within the temple.

v. 21 “Magic arts” is lit., “sorceries”, Greek, *pharmakei-OWN*; (where we get our word “pharmacy” from) --drugs have always been used by Satan as a subtle introduction into the occult. Do we have a “drug” problem today?! **“Sexual immorality”** is *porneia* in the Greek: do we have a problem with pornography today? In the media? Hollywood? Internet?

- Did you know that there are more registered fortune-tellers than pastors in Germany?
- People who worship Satan pray specifically that he would destroy the marriages of pastors.

The seventh trumpet, which releases the Bowl Judgments, is found in Rev. 11:15 and what a “Woe!” it is!

III. SUMMARY / APPLICATION / RESPONSE

A. It’s all coming; are you prepared? Do you know Jesus, repented of your sins and asked Him to be your Lord and Savior? Notice Jesus’s first concern in this Book was the state of the Church! 5 of 7 needed to REPENT! Change! Turn around!

B. If you know Jesus personally and have surrendered your life to Him, you can have comfort in the knowledge you won’t be here: *“God has not appointed us unto WRATH”* (1 Thess. 5:9) and promised the faithful church at Philadelphia to keep them **“OUT OF”** the Great Tribulation soon to come upon the whole world.

C. 2 Peter 3:11-12 *“Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.”*