

A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

November 15, 2020

Resources used:

- A Study Of The Book Of Revelation by Bob Dodson
- More Than Conquerors by William Hendriksen
- Overcoming With The Lamb, Florida College Annual Lectures, February 7-10, 1994
- Revelation: An Introduction and Commentary by Homer Hailey
- Revelation (Truth Commentaries) by Robert Harkrider
- Revelation (A Study Workbook) by Robert Harkrider
- Revelation by Donnie Rader
- Revelation charts by Keith Greer.
- Studies In The Book Of Revelation by Ferrell Jenkins
- The Old Testament In The Book Of Revelation by Ferrell Jenkins
- The Revelation Of Saint John The Divine by G.B. Caird
- The Book of Revelation by Foy E. Wallace
- The Avenging of the Apostles and Prophets by Arthur M. Ogden
- Worthy Is The Lamb by Ray Summers
- Written exchange on "The Domitian Persecution" between Arthur M. Ogden and Ferrell Jenkins presented in Searching The Scriptures, June 12, 1989, pages 7-12

Revelation

I. Struggle on Earth (1-11)

- A. *John's Vision* (1)
- B. *Letters to 7 churches* (2-3)
- C. *God in control* (4-5)
- D. *Opening of seven seals* (6-11)

Revelation 9

"Fifth and Sixth Trumpets" Outline

- I. The Fifth Trumpet: The Locusts (verses 1-12)
- II. The Sixth Trumpet: Angels and Horsemen (verses 13-21)

Revelation 9

"Fifth and Sixth Trumpets" Outline

- I. The Fifth Trumpet: The Locusts (verses 1-12)
 - A. *Their source* (verses 1-3a)
 - B. *Their mission* (verses 3b-6)
 - C. *Their description* (verses 7-10)
 - D. *Their king* (verses 11-12)

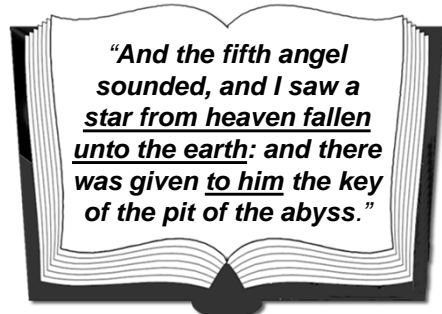
Revelation 9

"Fifth and Sixth Trumpets"

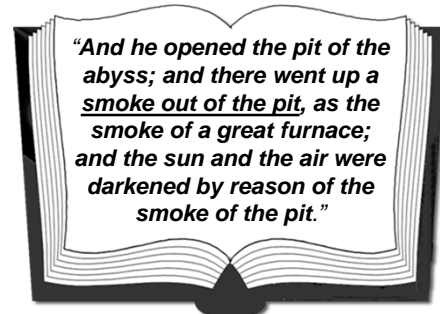
MAIN THEME: *The transgressor who will not repent brings destruction upon himself as well, as he shall feel the wrath of almighty God! (Proverbs 11:3, 5, 6, 17, 19, 21, 23, 27, 29, 31).*

- *Should I really envy the prosperity of wicked?*
- *Should I fret because it seems like the wicked have the fat of the earth?*

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:1

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:2

Revelation 9

The Fifth Angel

- **Star falls** from heaven (*Agent of Satan personified*).
 - "When Jesus said in Luke 10:18, 'I beheld Satan fall as lightning from heaven,' he meant the complete defeat of all the personified agents of Satan. By his fall from heaven, Jesus meant that Satan would be dethroned from his exalted dominion; and his downfall would come swiftly as lightning in the shaping conflict." (Foy Wallace)
 - In Isaiah 14:12 The prophet spoke of a Babylonian ruler. It referred to the downfall of the ruler, personified as **Lucifer**.
 - The name Lucifer in the Septuagint, is translated "**Star**," which was represented as falling from heaven – the wicked king's exalted place of dominion.

Revelation 9

The Fifth Angel

- **Star falls** from heaven (*Agent of Satan personified*).
- Satan defeated. Hebrews 2:14-15
- The star falling "*from heaven unto the earth*" merely denoted the descent of the ruler from an exalted dominion to a degenerate place of activity among the powers of men. (Wallace)
- Given the **key** to the bottomless pit.
- The pit was **open**.
- Smoke like the **smoke of a great furnace** escaped from the pit.
- The great smoke **darkened** the sun and air.

Revelation 9

The Fifth Angel

- The fifth trumpet sounds the warnings as the devilish **forces are unleashed**.
- They shall torment those who do not have the "**seal of God on their foreheads**" (*saints*). cf. 7:2-3
- **Punishment** is unleashed on those who have **committed** heinous crimes against God and His people.

Revelation 9

The Fallen Star

- The star "**a messenger**" came from heaven to earth.
 - Perhaps personifying Satan. (Revelation 11:7; 17:8; 20:1-3)
- Key to the "**abyss**" (*bottomless pit*)
- This is the abode of **demons**. (Luke 8:31)
- Preliminary punishment for **fallen angels**, the **beast** (17:8)
- Final abode for Satan himself (20:3)
- Satan has control over the **demonic forces**

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:3

"And out of the smoke came forth locusts upon the earth; and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power."

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:4

"And it was said unto them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree, but only such men as have not the seal of God on their foreheads."

Revelation 9



Revelation 9

The Tormenting Locusts

- Locusts were a common pest in that day.
- From the time of Moses they were the instruments of divine judgment as in Exodus 10:4-15
- Various illustrations in the Bible are drawn from their characteristic features (Deuteronomy 28:38; Joel 2:1-11, 25; 2 Chronicles 7:13; Psalms 105:34; Nahum 3:15).
- These locusts that could sting like a scorpion were emerging from the bottomless pit, causing great pain.

Revelation 9

The Tormenting Locusts

- Tormenting **locusts** arise from the pit out of the smoke.
- Power over only those **not numbered** with the 144,000 (*sealed*).
- Given power as the **scorpions** on earth have power
 - They are not to eat the **earth's vegetation**, grass, or any green thing.
- Their mission is to **hurt** and **torment**.

Revelation 9

The Smoke and Darkness

- Smoke and darkness tend to "**blind**" men.
- This plague of evil causes men to be **blind to their sins**.
- Sin has a **vicious sting** – it hurts, but it is **not yet fatal**. cf. **Galatians 6:7-8**
- Proverbs 13:15-16, "*Good understanding giveth favor; But the way of the transgressor is hard. Every prudent man worketh with knowledge; But a fool flaunteth (his) folly.*"
- Those who subjected God's people to much torment will receive **much worse** in return!

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:5

"And it was given them 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 it striketh a man"

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:6

"And in those days men shall seek death, and shall in no wise find it; and they shall desire to die, and death fleeth from them."

Revelation 9

Mission of the Locusts

- Power is limited for only "**five months**."
- Commanded **not to kill** – just torment.
- Torment is like a scorpion's **sting**.
- For some extended period of time, men will experience **something worse than death**.
- Death would be **preferred**, but it cannot be found. (cf. 6:15-16; cf. Luke 21:26, Matthew 24:22, and Mark 13:12, 20)
- Could it be the "**inner corruption**" that leads to moral and spiritual decadence?

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:7

"And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared for war; and upon their heads as it were crowns like unto gold, and their faces were as men's faces."

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:8

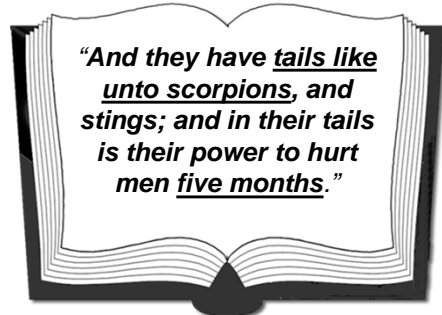
"And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as (teeth) of lions."

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:9

"And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to war."

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:10

Revelation 9

Descriptions of the Locusts

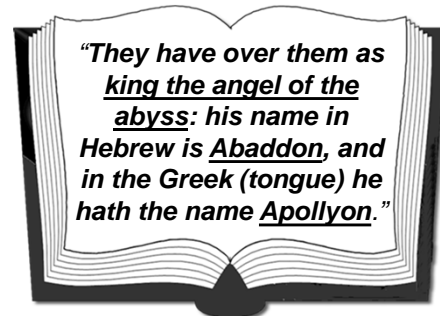
- The locusts:
 - Were shaped like **horses** prepared for battle.
 - Wore something shaped like **golden crowns** on their heads.
 - Had faces like the **faces of men**.
 - Had breastplates like **breastplates of iron**.
 - Had wings that sounded like **chariots** with many **horses running** into battle.
 - Had tails like **scorpions and stings** in their tails.
 - Had power that was limited to "**five months**."

Revelation 9

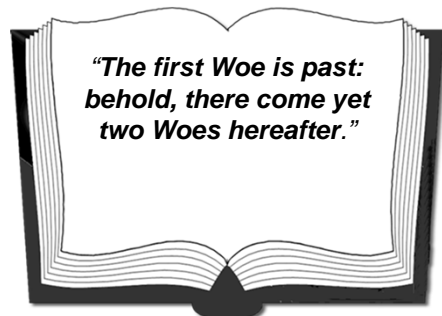
Descriptions of the Locusts

- Like horses prepared for battle – (*powerful*)
- Wore crowns (*like victors*)
- Had faces of men (*intelligent*)
- Had hair like the hair of women (*beautiful*)
- Had teeth like the teeth of lions (*powerful*)
- Wore breastplates of iron (*protection*)
- Had wings that sounded like many chariots
- Had tails like scorpions (*tormenting power*)

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:11

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:12

Revelation 9

Their King

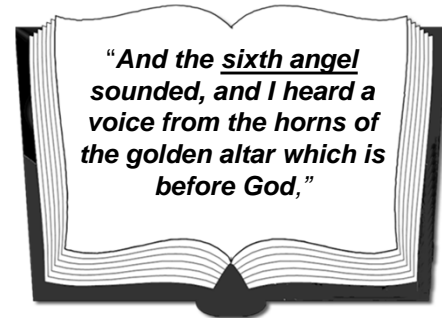
- Hebrew – **Abaddon**
- Greek – **Apollyon**
- Both names mean "**destruction and destroyer**."
 - **Wrecker** of everything that is fine and holy
- **Abyss** is on earth not in heaven – abode of all ungodly **BEFORE** judgment!
- **Luke 16:23; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6**

Revelation 9

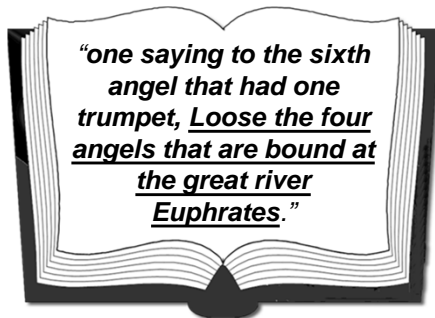
Summary

- God has now used **two instruments** to cut down the oppression of His people:
 - Natural calamity
 - Internal decadence
 - Rome fell for Satan's lies.
 - Internal decay was one of the reasons for her fall.
 - ONE down – two to go!
 - The ungodliness of the time is summarized in Romans 1:18-32.

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:13

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:14

Revelation 9

Sixth Angel Sounds

- A voice calls out from the **horns of the golden altar** in heaven.
 - Altar of burnt incense (Exodus 30:1-10)
 - Souls under the altar (6:10; 8:3-5)
 - Altar is before God – power of the requests of the saints
- Loose the **four angels** that are bound at the great river Euphrates

Revelation 9

Sixth Angel Sounds

- River Euphrates stands for the **military might of the enemy**. (More fully developed in 16:12.)
- Largest, longest, and most important river in Western Asia. Nearly 1,800 miles long and was the boundary of the land promised to Abraham (Genesis 15:18).
- The empires of Assyria and Babylon lived east of the Euphrates.
- The prophets often put the Euphrates by metonymy for these countries to designate the place from which the punishment of God would come. (Isaiah 7:20; 8:7; Jeremiah 46:10; cf. Isaiah 10:5-6)

Revelation 9

Sixth Angel Sounds

- Homeland of the **Parthians** – the world's most dreaded cavalry (*fought Rome in 53 and 62 AD*)
- These **ARE NOT** the angels in 7:1, who were restraining the four winds.
- Being **bound** means not permitted to act until **God permits**.

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:15

“And the four angels were loosed, that had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, that they should kill the third part of men.”

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:16

“And the number of the armies of the horsemen was twice ten thousand times ten thousand: I heard the number of them.”

Revelation 9

The Army

- The angels were perpetually **prepared** for the time of their release.
- **Predetermined** by God for this very hour.
- Remember, “**4**” is the world number.
- This judgment being released will be a **world-wide judgment**.
- Against all **wicked** and unregenerate men.
- God **prepared these angels** for this certain time.

Revelation 9

The Army

- **Two hundred million!** A tremendous host.
“Summers calculated they would cover an area one mile wide and eighty-five miles long. The literalist cannot find the space to fit an army this size into the valley of Jezreel for a battle of Armageddon!”
(Robert Harkrider, *Revelation*, Truth Commentaries, Page 185)

Revelation 9

The Army

- **Two hundred million!** A tremendous host.
- Figurative number representing a vast, **inconceivable** force – invincible.
- Scare the enemy and assure God the victory!
- Forces assemble to do **God’s bidding** – external invasion.

Revelation 9

“The whole picture presents the Parthian cavalry from the land of the Euphrates. This group was Rome’s most dreaded enemy and a constant threat to her eastern boundary ... This whole picture is given to symbolize external invasion which would serve as an instrument in God’s hand to punish the oppressors of his people.”

– Ray Summers, *Worthy Is The Lamb*, Page 159

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