

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Message #8
Revelation 9 – Hell on Earth
(8/23/09 PM)

Revelation is not necessarily in chronological order. The judgments appear to advance the narrative. **(Refer to overview handout)**

Last week we saw the opening of the 7th Seal in chapter 8. The trumpets do not follow the seventh seal they are the seventh seal. This seal contains all of the trumpet and bowl judgments. It seems best to see them as telescoping out in consecutive order. The seventh seal contains all of God's final judgments to be visited upon earth in the Tribulation Period. These judgments will most likely occur in the 2nd half of the Tribulation. **(Outline Map of the Tribulation).**

Chapter 8 contains the first four Trumpet Judgments

- #1 – Hail and Fire – aimed at nature, plant life
- #2 – A Great Fireball – aimed at the sea
- #3 – The Great Star – aimed at earth's water sources
- #4 – The Dimming of the Heavens – aimed at the cosmos

Chapter 8 ended with an eagle flying over the earth warning of the final three Trumpet Judgments

1. Trumpet #5 – Demons from the Pit (1-12)

Satan Cast Down to the Earth

The star is most likely Satan. In Isaiah's description of his original fall he is called "Lucifer" which means brightness or morning star.

Isaiah 14:12, "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!" This star is referred to as a person (1) "To him".

• Satan will be cast down to the earth during the Tribulation (1)

Satan is described as "the prince of the power of the air", Ephesians 2:2 and "the god of this age", 2 Corinthians 4:4.

Revelation 12:7-9, "And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

The Events of the 5th Trumpet Appear to Be Connected to this Event

• Satan will be allowed to release the demons confined in the pit of the abyss (2)

Christ was seen in Revelation 1:18 as having "the keys of Hades and of Death." Keys represent authority. Satan can only do what God permits him to do. "The bottomless pit" appears seven times in Revelation. This is where Satan himself will be confined during the Millennium, Revelation 20:1, 3. Not all demons are confined but a certain select number are. The demons of Gadara begged Jesus not to send them there. Luke 8:31, "And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss."

2 Peter 2:4, "For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment."

Peter used the Greek word *Tartarus*. This was used in Greek mythology to describe the place where the worst sinners were sent.

That Peter used this term seems to imply that the sin of these angels was especially wicked. Jude 6, “And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day.” Some Bible teachers connect these demons to “the sons of God” in Genesis 6. They believe that these were fallen angels who committed sexual sin with human women.

John’s Description of what Arises out of the Pit Involves a Lot of Figurative Language

John uses the term “like” 10 times in this passage.

- **The focus of the 5th Trumpet is mankind (3-6)**

“Smoke” in Revelation usually is associated with judgment. The pollution of hell is about to be unleashed upon the world. The demons come “out of the smoke” (3).

Some believe that these demons actually take on the visible form of locusts. Locusts depict swarming destruction upon humanity. The prophet Joel uses locusts as a depiction of the coming Day of the LORD. Others see John’s vision as representing the horrific powers that the demons will have as they afflict mankind. What would it be like to see all the violent criminals released to do as they please? These demons are specifically commanded to target human beings and not nature.

(4-5) “...only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months.”

This is an act of God’s grace as He is once again giving people the opportunity to repent and believe the Gospel. Three times the text refers “scorpions” in describing them. MacArthur, “The symptoms of a sting from one of the deadly species, including severe convulsions and paralysis, resemble those of demon-possessed individuals.”

The torment will be so terrible that men will “seek death and will not find it” (6). No matter how they try to end their lives they will not be able to.

The Antichrist’s Promised Dream of Utopia will be Demolished

- **John’s detailed description of the demons (7-12)**

Weirss suggests that “The fact that the creatures have characteristics of beasts (horses, v. 7), men, and wild animals (v. 8) suggests that Satan is imitating the heavenly creatures of 4:7.”

John compares their general appearance to “horses prepared for battle” (7). Horses would paw the ground and pull at the reins eager to be let loose. John saw “crowns” (7) on their heads. These are *stephanos* crowns indicating that they will be victorious in their mission. They were human like in appearance “their faces were like the faces of men” (7). These creatures are not insects but are rational beings. Their “hair like a woman’s hair” (8) may indicate their seductiveness. John notes that their “teeth were like lions teeth” (8). A lion’s teeth are for ripping and tearing which shows their destructive powers.

(9) “And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron”. This highlights the fact that they cannot be defeated or defended against.

John hears the sound of their wings and compares it to “the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle” (10). This will be a massive worldwide attack upon all unbelievers. John for the 3rd time focuses upon their “tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails” (10). That these are not natural creatures is also revealed by the fact that they have a leader over them. (12) “And they had as a king over them”. The Hebrew name “Abaddon” and the Greek name “Apollyon” both mean “destroyer”. This individual is either Satan or a high ranking demon.

A comparison of the accounts of demon possession in the Gospels reveals some of what people will experience. People experienced self-mutilation, paralysis, self-destructive behavior, convulsions, sickness, nakedness, etc.

Mankind Will Experience the Effects of Unrestrained Demon Possession and Oppression

2. **Trumpet #6 – The Army of Destruction (13-19)**

A Glimpse of the Cosmic Conflict

John hears a “[voice from the four horns of the golden altar](#)”.

This altar is the heavenly counterpart to the altar of incense in the Tabernacle and the Temple. It was used daily to offer incense but once a year. We saw in [6:9-11](#) it was the place where the martyred dead were praying for God’s judgment to come. Last week we saw the angel take coals from it to cast to the earth to begin the Trumpet Judgments. The voice is most likely that of Jesus as He commands the 6th trumpet to be sounded. Why the reference to the altar? Once a year the High Priest was required to offer a sin offering on the altar of incense. This symbolized that no one can have access to God unless their sin has been atoned for. The earth dwellers are people who have refused God’s offer of salvation through Christ.

- **The release of the four demons (14)**

“[Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.](#)”

These angels are demons, holy angels would not be bound. The river Euphrates is near the site of the Garden of Eden and the first sin. It is near the site of the Tower and Babel and the origin of false religion. It is the eastern boundary of the Promised Land. It is possible that these demons could be associated with the four major world empires of Daniel’s prophecy; Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome.

Daniel 10 Reveals that There Are Specific Demons Connected with World Governments

- **The army of demons (15-19)**

These demons have been bound by God for this specific time “[prepared for the hour and day and moth and year](#)” (15). Their purpose is to lead a demon horde “to kill a third of mankind”.

The judgment of the 4th Seal killed ¼ of the world’s population. Added to this judgment and the deaths resulting from the other judgments over ½ of the world’s population will have been killed. [According to Wikipedia “As of 20 August 2009, the Earth's population is estimated by the United States Census Bureau to be 6.779 billion.”](#) Over 3 billion people will be killed just at this point in the Tribulation.

Some believe this army to be a human army associated with the “[the kings of the east](#)” in [Revelation 16:12](#). That judgment is associated with the 6th Bowl Judgment and occurs at a later time. The figurative language similar to that of the demons from the pit suggests this to be a demonic army. 200 million demons would be more probable than a human army. Some believe that John is seeing tanks, planes, helicopters etc. The logistics for such an army would be near impossible let alone during the chaos of the tribulation. The “horse” What John described is not actual horses. (17) “[...the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.](#)” These creatures also kill with their tails which are “[like serpents](#)” (18). [Joel 2:1-11](#) appears to describe this event.

God Is Literally Allowing Hell to be Released upon the Earth

3. The Unrepentant Remainder (20-21)

Men Will Harden Their Hearts

This will be the greatest destruction since the flood of Noah. There will be the 144,000 missionaries preaching. We will see later two special witnesses that God will send to earth. Yet men will still not repent of their sins and turn to Christ.

- **Wickedness will run rampant all over the world**

“worship demons...murders...sorceries...sexual immorality...thefts”

The word “sorceries” is the word for our English word pharmacy. Many false religions use drugs to induce a state of euphoria in their worship. The word can also apply to amulets, incantations, charms etc that are used in occult practices.

Jude 14-15, “Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him".”

Demonic Influences Will Plunge the World into Complete Ungodliness

As Christians we should realize how crucial it is to share the Gospel with lost people.