

## Study Notes – Revelation 9

### The 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpets

Rev 9.1 <sup>1</sup>Then the fifth angel trumpeted, and I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to earth. The key to the bottomless pit was given to him.

- ✓ Then – the first of three woes: the fall of humanity. Note: **Woe** – grief, anguish, affliction, wretchedness, calamity.
- ✓ Star – (aster) metaphorically an angel not an asteroid, meteor, or comet. Job 38:7, Isa 14:13
- ✓ had fallen – (peptokota) perfect tense participle “having previously fallen and is now a fallen angel”, a destroying demon.
- ✓ Key – (kleis); opens & shuts doors, authority.
- ✓ bottomless pit – (abyssou) “Abyss”; a deep hole of unmeasurable depth; a prison for evil demons. Luke 8:31, 2 Pet 2:4, Jude 1:6 Note: different place from the one in Luke 16:24.
- ✓ Given – God gave him permission.

9.2 <sup>2</sup>He opened the pit, and smoke rose from the pit like the smoke of a gigantic furnace. The sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the pit.

- ✓ Like – the smoke rose from the shaft leading to an underground holding prison. Smoke = judgement, doom, torment.

9.3 <sup>3</sup>Then from the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given to them like the scorpions have power over the earth.

- ✓ Locusts – (akris) a symbol of destruction in the Old Testament.
  - John saw something **like** the size of a locust.
  - Real locusts were not locked in the “abyss”, nor are they modern day instruments of warfare.
  - These locusts swarm in limitless numbers **like** real locust blackening the sky.
  - Natural locust never attacks people; these will.
  - Natural locusts strip away everything green; **these will only attack people, not the earth.**
  - They are demonic fallen angels.
- ✓ power was given – God’s ability & permission “**like**” **the scorpions have power over the earth.**
- ✓ Scorpions – (skorpios) a small animal, the largest 6”, like a lobster, but with a long tail; at the end of the tail is a venomous stinger.
  - Yeshua said “serpents & scorpions” represent the **power of the enemy**. Luke 10:19

9.4 <sup>4</sup>They were told to do no harm to the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only the people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

- ✓ They were told – commanded, ordered.
- ✓ do no harm to the grass – enough time has past since the 1<sup>st</sup> trumpet judgement in Rev. 8:7, that the grass has regrown.
- ✓ any green plant or any tree – 1/3 have already burned.
- ✓ only the people who do not have the seal of God – “Earth Dwellers”
  - God commanded these evil creatures to inflict severe pain on the Earth Dwellers who didn’t have God’s mark of ownership and protection on their foreheads.

- God's mark of ownership and protection on their foreheads (continued):
  - The 144,000 Jewish Evangelists
  - The 2 witnesses in Jerusalem
  - Both Jew & Gentile who come to faith in the first 3.5 years of the 7-year Tribulation.

9.5 <sup>5</sup> And they were permitted not to kill them, but to torment them for five months—and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a person.

- ✓ permitted not to kill them – Sovereign God will not allow them to kill their victims as some may still repent and turn to him.
- ✓ torment them for five months – (basanizo): torture
  - **There is a fixed number of months for this judgement.**
  - 3 to 5 months is the life span for a natural Locust (27 species).
- ✓ like the torment of a scorpion:
  - The sting is extremely painful, injected poison.
  - There are two types of scorpion poison.
    - A hemotoxin that causes mild to severe local effects: edema, discoloration, pain.
    - A dangerous neurotoxin that can cause severe local & systemic effects such as convulsions, paralysis, cardiac irregularities, and death.
    - It ranks with the snake in its hostility towards humans. Luke 10:19, 11:11-12

9.6 <sup>6</sup> In those days, people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will flee from them.

- ✓ In those days – 5 months
- ✓ people will seek death –
  - Grieved with fear. Luke 23:30
  - Experiencing intense pain. Joel 2:6
  - Wish to die. Jonah 4:8, Job 3:20-22. 7:15-16
- ✓ they will long – (epithumeo): to desire intensely, lust, to covet evilly, passion, of those who seek things forbidden.
  - A double negative emphasizing the impossibility of death which does suggest unsuccessful suicide attempts.
- ✓ to die – (apothanein): present tense infinitive – **they will continually seek relief from the torment through death, but relief will not come.**

9.7 <sup>7</sup> Now the appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were something like crowns of gold, and their faces were like human faces.

- ✓ Appearance – (similitudes): made like or resembles something.
  - An enormous swarm **like** locusts darkening the sky
  - Sting humans tormenting them (not having the “mark”).
  - Demonic capabilities of the fallen angels is real.
  - Size of Locusts: 0.5 to 7” long; sting **like** a scorpion.
- ✓ like horses –
  - Locust resembles horses when viewed through a looking glass.
  - Job also compared the horse with the locust. Job 39:19-20
  - Unusually grotesque and frightening.

## 9.7 continued

- ✓ like crowns – (stephanos): victory crowns
- ✓ like human faces

9.8<sup>8</sup> They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like those of lions.

- ✓ like women's hair –
  - Women of John's day wore long hair
  - Biblical times it was a sign of glory
  - "The locust has a head like a horse, a breast like a Lion, feet like a camel, a body like a serpent and antennae like the hair of a maiden." Arab Proverb
- ✓ teeth were like those of lions – (voracity): Having or marked by strong desire for an activity or pursuit.

9.9<sup>9</sup> They had chests like iron breastplates; and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many horse-drawn chariots rushing into battle.

- ✓ like iron breastplates – Breastplates cover the chest and back giving them the appearance of invulnerability.
- ✓ like the noise of many horse-drawn chariots – A terrifying sound as they go in search of their victims – to battle the Earth Dwellers.

9.10<sup>10</sup> They have tails like scorpions with stingers; and in their tails is their power to harm people for five months.

- ✓ This verse repeats 9:5 stressing how awful is their mission to torment with their painful stings.

9.11<sup>11</sup> They have as king over them the angel of the abyss. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

- ✓ Natural locust are described in Proverbs 30:27 <sup>"27</sup> locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks"
- ✓ Confirmation that these locusts are demons.
- ✓ His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he has the name Apollyon – this is not Satan.
  - Abaddon/Apollyon is likely one of Satan's underlings, a destroying demon and one of the "rulers," "authorities," and "powers" mentioned in Ephesians 6:12.
  - Angels have a hierarchy, including fallen angels.
  - Their objective: Destroy people with God's permission to be carried out on unbelievers both Jew & Gentile.

9.12<sup>12</sup> The first woe is past. Behold, two woes are still coming after these things.

- ✓ first woe is past – 5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet
- ✓ two woes are still coming – the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet judgements each increasing in severity.

9.13<sup>13</sup> The sixth angel trumpeted, and I heard a single voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God.

- ✓ sixth angel trumpeted – 2<sup>nd</sup> woe
- ✓ a single voice – Identity of the single voice is unclear
- ✓ four horns – symbolic of power
- ✓ golden altar – Golden alter of incense. Rev 8:3-4

9.14 <sup>4</sup> It said to the sixth angel, the one holding the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

- ✓ It said – “a single voice” from verse 13

Note: Angels play key roles in the judgements, even fallen angels.

- ✓ Release the four angels who are bound – the 6<sup>th</sup> Angel has another task.
  - They must be fallen angels because good angels are never bound.
  - How long they have been bound there is unknown.
  - The number 4 is worldwide effect of their destruction.
- ✓ river Euphrates –
  - The 4 destructive angels are there currently.
  - It was near the Euphrates that sin began, the first lie told, first murder committed, Tower of Babel was built by Nimrod (origin of false religion – Queen of Heaven).
  - Israel endured 70 years of bitter captivity in Babylon. Ps 137
  - The Euphrates mentioned in Rev. 16 proves that Babylon the historic city on the banks of the Euphrates will be rebuilt.
    - Saddam Hussein built himself a palace on a man-made hill beside the footprint of the original city.
    - In 1987 he ordered construction of Nebuchadnezzar’s palace on the original site.
    - Built museums and minted coins with his face on one side & Nebuchadnezzar’s on the other.
    - Construction has ceased as it wasn’t time yet, but it will become a financial and war campaign center for the Antichrist.

9.15 <sup>15</sup> 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.

- ✓ had been prepared – (hoi hetoimasmenoi): perfect tense passive participle “the ones having been prepared” for divine judgements on the world.
- ✓ for the hour and day and month and year – a specific appointed time chosen by God.
- ✓ released to kill a third of mankind – their task was to put 1/3 of the Earth Dwellers to death. Rev 8:13
  - This will result in about half the earth’s population alive at the start of the Tribulation (70<sup>th</sup> week) being dead at the end of this judgement.
    - ¼ die under the 4<sup>th</sup> seal judgement. Rev 6:7-8
    - Many more will die as Martyrs and for other reasons. Dan 12:1, Matt 24:21-22
  - It is only the “earth dwellers”, those in rebellion to God, who suffer death as a result of this second woe.

Note: By this point in the first 3.5 years billions of people have died. If you have been told we are already living in the Tribulation, it is a false teaching.

9.16 <sup>16</sup> The number of mounted troops was two hundred million—I heard their number.

- ✓ The “mounted troops” may be humans under the control of these 4 evil angels. Years ago, China claimed to have an army of this size.
- ✓ More likely the “mounted troops” are demons. The description of the horse argues for an angel’s army with 4 fallen angel leaders. An astounded John is going to describe them the best he can.

9.17 <sup>17</sup> Now here is how I saw the horses and those riding on them: they had breastplates that were fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow. The heads of the horses were as heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire and smoke and brimstone.

Note: In the previous judgement John uses simile (like) to describe the demonic locust swarm. Here he doesn't so take it as literal description, horse means horse.

- ✓ breastplates that were fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow – fiery red is judgement, Hyacinth blue / dark blue, and sulfur yellow is brimstone. Fire, Smoke & Brimstone.
- ✓ heads of the horses were as heads of lions – terrifying, fierce and destructive.
- ✓ out of their mouths came fire and smoke and brimstone – something natural horses can not do. Fire, smoke & brimstone all used for judgement. Gen 19:24, 28

9.18 <sup>18</sup> By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone that came out of their mouths.

- ✓ Together these plagues will be responsible for the largest death toll in human history. Survivors will bury billions of people and we are still in the first 3.5 years.

9.19 <sup>19</sup> For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads by which they inflict injuries.

- ✓ For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails – This added description supports the conclusion that they represent demonic judgements other than natural horses.
  - They are not modern-day weapons that shoot both forward & backwards, such as missiles.
  - The locust had power in their tails to inflict painful injuries. Rev 9:10
  - These horses have power to kill **like** serpents with their tails.

9.20 <sup>20</sup> But the rest of mankind, those not killed by these plagues, did not repent and turn away from the works of their hands—they would not stop worshipping demons and the idols of gold and silver and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk.

- ✓ did not repent – turn away from worshipping demons & false gods. Acknowledge Yeshua as their Lord & Savior.
- ✓ works of their hands – refers to idolatry which is ultimately worship of demons. Deut 32:17, Psa 106:37, 1 Cor 10:20
- ✓ they would not stop worshipping demons – **The “earth dwellers” refuse to stop worshipping the demons who are responsible for the misery and the death of millions.**

9.21 <sup>21</sup> And they did not repent and turn away from their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their stealing.

- ✓ did not repent and turn away from their murders –
  - But for the cowardly and faithless and detestable and murderers and sexually immoral and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars—**their lot is in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**" Revelation 21:8
- ✓ Idolatry violates the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment.
- ✓ These sins violate the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> commandments.

9.21 <sup>21</sup> And they did not repent and turn away from their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their stealing. (continued)

- ✓ Sorceries – (pharmakon): implies the use of drugs.
  - Can also refer to poisons, amulets, charms, magic spells, witchcraft. Note: the Harry Potter series prepares children to view sorcery as normal and accepted.
  - “Pharmacy” comes from this word.
- ✓ sexual immorality – (porneias): used of prostitution, unchastity, fornication, every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse (God’s Law), harlotry, adultery and incest.

Note: These Trumpet judgements, as the seals, will grow more intense as they proceed. Most people living on the earth during these days will be so hard of heart that they will never repent and turn to God, but **some will become believers in Jesus / Yeshua!**