

At the end of chapter 8, John writes: 'And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "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!"'

3 Woes coming.

Four angels have sounded their trumpets and the four living creatures have called forth the four different colored horses and their plagues. The final three, the three Woes, are even worse.

Chapter 9: 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. ²And 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. ³Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴They 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.** ⁵And 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. ⁶In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

John sees an angel descending rapidly from Heaven to Earth and then down to below Earth's surface. The angel goes down to the bottomless pit, the Abyss... he has the key and he opens it to allow a cloud of demons, as locusts, to escape.

These are not normal locusts which eat up every green plant in their path... in fact these are specifically forbidden to eat or harm any plants. They have one mission only... to torment and terrify all the people of Earth... but not the 144,000 who have the seal of God, His Name, on their foreheads.

The Abyss out of which these locusts emerge is not what we normally think of as Hell... it's not the place of the dead and it's not the lake of fire... It's the Abyss... the bottomless pit.

There are 5 compartments, revealed to us, in what we inclusively call Hell... The first, the very first is **Tartarus**... the place where fallen angels who cohabited with human women are imprisoned until their final judgment. Jude mentions it and so does Peter. Not all the fallen angels are in Tartarus... but those which we read about in Genesis chapter 6 are. Others are still free, like Satan; they are what Paul describes as principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age and spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Two more compartments of what we think of as Hell are the 2 sides of **Sheol, 'the place of the dead'**... one side is **Paradise, Abraham's Bosom**, which is now empty... it's where the **righteous** dead were held until Jesus took them to Heaven after His crucifixion. The other side, **Hades**, is where all of the **lost** dead have been kept until they are raised at the final judgment, after the Millennium. That place is hot and miserable but it is not the final lake of fire.

When Jesus told of '*Lazarus and the rich man*,' we learned that these two places were geographically close but separated by a **great, impassable gulf** between them. This gulf, this fourth compartment of Hell is probably **the Abyss, the bottomless pit** which has a locked door which only God's angel, having the key, can open, at God's direction.

The fifth and final part of Hell is the **Lake of Fire**, created for the final judgment of Satan and all the fallen angels and for the Antichrist and False Prophet, as well as all the demonic spirits... and finally all of lost humanity from all time... billions upon billions... forever and ever, misery without end.

Right now, today, there are, locked in the Abyss, a great number of demonic spirits, kept until the time God has planned to use them as He pours out His Wrath during the Tribulation. We don't know why some demons have been imprisoned and some have been free to oppress or even enter into humans.

Each of these 'locusts' is a demonic spirit... kept for the day when they would be unleashed upon all those who have not been sealed with the Seal of God, His Name on their foreheads. These demon spirits are given terrifying bodies of ghastly locusts to inhabit for 5 months in order to torment and terrify all those without God's Seal. After the 5 months, we are not told what becomes of them, but perhaps they are then free to inhabit these humans as demon possession.

These are demons, not fallen angels... they are disembodied spirits which seek to enter the bodies of humans... to '*possess*' them. They are the '*familiar spirits*' of the Old Testament; they are the '*seducing spirits*' of which Paul warned Timothy. They are generally thought to be the evil spirits of the former inhabitants of Lucifer's Kingdom... before the time of Adam... before it was destroyed by God. Jesus said they 'wander about in desolate places' seeking someone to enter into.

Remember when Jesus freed the demon possessed man at the Gadarenes... the main, controlling spirit said, 'My name is Legion, for we are many.' When Jesus cast them out of the man they begged Jesus to not cast them into the Abyss. Instead, He sent them into an entire herd of pigs.

When the demons begged Jesus to not send them into is the Abyss... this is the Abyss they feared... this bottomless pit from which come these demonic locusts. This is also the bottomless pit into which Satan will be locked during the Millennium, the thousand year Earthly reign of the Lord Jesus Christ.

These demonic locusts are real. They are not just invisible evil spirits. God has given them horrible, physical bodies with which to terrorize the lost... those who have chosen to reject God...

The time of God's mercy and grace is past. There will still be people who repent and come to faith in God and the Lord Jesus Christ but this is now the time of God's Wrath poured out. There has never been a time like this on Earth. This will be... increasingly... hell on Earth.

These demonic 'locusts' are real. As we see them here in our imaginations... think about it... imagine the fear and horror these things will cause... they won't be just little one or two inch bugs. They are probably huge, for locusts... maybe the size of birds...

Verse 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. 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***.

The king over these demons is the powerful fallen angel of the bottomless pit. His name means ***destruction and destroyer***. He is a ruler of the darkness of this age and a spirit of wickedness.

John says they are locusts... not *like locusts*... they are demonic locusts but they don't look or act like regular locusts. They remind John of horses prepared for battle. *Like a horse prepared for battle* means they will have armor all around, and with breastplates like breastplates of iron. They have human-like faces with fearsome lion-like teeth and long hair. It looks like they have crowns. They have scorpion like tails with stingers giving excruciating wounds, so painful that people will want to die but they will not be able to... perhaps they will be unable to die because they've become demon possessed...

Imagine the terror these things will cause to everyone for 5 long months. There will be no hiding from them. They will come into every home and building... everywhere there is a person, at least one of these will be there to make them wish they could die.

With their breastplates they can probably smash into and through any windows. With their terrible teeth they can probably chew through any walls. They will land upon and hold fast to screaming people, they will bite and gnaw at them while stinging with their scorpion like tails.

This is truly the stuff of nightmares and it will last for 5 long, terror filled months... no rest, no sleep, no escape. How could it possible get any worse than this!!

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." 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.**

Here are 4 fallen angels... powerful, evil, wicked angels... like Satan. They were part of Lucifer's rebellion and perhaps part of the group who mated with human women. They have been kept bound at the Euphrates River... in it or under it... somehow kept prisoner there until this time of the end. They will be released and empowered to kill a full third of what remains of the Earth's population.

Remember... some small percentage of the population was removed at the Rapture... small in comparison to the whole but still a significant number... all their bodies disappeared. Then, of those left behind... many killed each other when the Red horse was called forth followed by Death on the Pale horse with Hell following, who killed an entire quarter of the population. Then, with the 5th seal, we saw a large group of the souls of Tribulation Saints under the Altar in Heaven and after the 144,000 were sealed we saw another huge number of Tribulation Saints' souls in Heaven which **no one could number.** All of their bodies were left behind when they were killed.

Now we see another full third of the Earth's remaining population slaughtered.

By now, there are literally billions and billions of dead bodies scattered all over the Earth... far too many to dispose of in any orderly way... every place is a putrid, stinking, fly, maggot and disease infested wasteland.

No one alive could have ever imagined such a time and place but it continues to be worse and more terrifying.

These 4 angels who have been kept bound at the Euphrates River... they are there right now... today. Perhaps they've been allowed to be influential in what's going on around there now... Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Russia...

When they are released, they'll command a demonic army of 200,000,000, killing a third of all the people who are still alive.

Verse 16: Now the **number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million**; I heard the number of them.

Like the demonic locusts, these also have been prepared to completely terrify everyone as well as kill so many.

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. 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.**

There is no reason to try and spiritualize or allegorize this army, they are what the Word of God says they are.

These are demonic horses and riders with breastplates of red, blue and yellow. The horses' heads look like lions, with fire, smoke and brimstone coming out of their mouths. They have tails like serpents which can bite but unlike the locusts, these do kill; they slaughter by the multiplied millions.

Just because we've never seen or experienced anything like these, doesn't make them any less real. That's one of the main points of all of Revelation. We are... actually they are... seeing and experiencing things never before seen because in His Grace and Mercy God has, until now, kept back His Wrath and Vengeance. Now it is poured out and there is nowhere to run, nowhere to hide, no way of escape. This is what has been planned and prepared for all those who are, even today, choosing to reject the Lord Jesus Christ and His gift of forgiveness and Salvation.

Verse 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.'

This is an amazing statement. Let's say there are 1 billion gone to Heaven... 3 or 4 billion dead, scattered and rotting all over the World and 2 or 3 billion left alive after the terror of the demonic locusts and the demonic army of horsemen... and now... those who are still alive refuse to act on what they know is true... the God of Heaven is real, He's all powerful, He's going to win... and He is finally doing what He said He would do in the last days... they all know it's true... and yet, even now... they refuse to humble themselves before God... they continue to reject and defy Him. They continue to worship demons... they continue to murder, to steal and to be swallowed up in sexual immorality and sorcery.

We are seeing these very people today, just a few years before the time we are reading about. Even now, murder and theft is everywhere. Sexual immorality is a way of life for a huge portion of the world's population today and anyone who doesn't support and glorify their every perversion is persecuted, marginalized and rejected by society and the World System.

They refused to give up their *sorceries*. The Greek word John writes is pharmakeia, from which we get our English word, pharmacy. The first definition given is ***the use of drugs, poisoning, sorcery and magical arts.***

Sorcery is the use of drugs to interact with demons. That is what is happening now throughout society, all around the World. That's why there has been such a push to legalize the use of drugs, especially marijuana, eventually everywhere. Marijuana is a supposedly harmless recreational diversion but is, in fact, a wide open gateway to the spirit world and demon possession.

Now we see a short interval between the 6th and 7th trumpets...

Chapter 10: I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow *was* on his head; his face *was* like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. ² He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and *his* left *foot* on the land, ³ and cried with a loud voice, as *when* a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. ⁴ Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

⁵The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven ⁶and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, ***that there should be delay no longer,*** ⁷ but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, ***the mystery of God would be finished,*** as He declared to His servants the prophets.

⁸ Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."

⁹ So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book."

And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

¹⁰ Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. ¹¹ And he said to me, "***You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.***"

The Angel here is probably the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. In the Old Testament, He is called the Angel of the Lord. His description here sounds like what John saw in Chapter 1. His voice is like a lion's roar... the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

With His feet on the land and the sea, it looks as if He is finally, officially taking possession of Earth and His rightful place as Lord and King of all that is. He is about to fully dispossess the longtime squatter and usurper of Planet Earth... Lucifer, Satan, the Devil.

John is told that there would be no more delay and that with the sounding of the 7th Trumpet the ***Mystery of God*** would be finished... the mystery of why God allowed Satan and his rebellion and the fall of man and the crucifixion of His Son for the Salvation of man. The Mystery of God is, in essence, the purpose of God... the Glory of God... and His plan of how He would accomplish that... a mystery hidden from Satan, hidden from angels and hidden from men.

Remember... the sounding of the 7th trumpet includes all 7 of the final plagues... the 7 Vial/Bowl Judgments.

The Mystery of the Church is already finished... we were removed at the Rapture.

The Mystery of Iniquity is about to be revealed in the person of the Antichrist, possessed by Satan himself.

When He speaks, 7 thunders sound but John is told to not write down what they say... it's not for us to know.

The angel has a book in His hand... this could be the book and prophecy of Daniel which he was told to seal up, that it would be opened at the time of the end. John is told to eat it, that it would taste sweet in his mouth but then be bitter in his stomach. This little book must have to do with John's work as prophet since immediately upon eating it he is told, "***You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.***" concerning the terrible times to come immediately following the sounding of the 7th trumpet.

The book was sweet in his mouth as he considered the consummation of God's plans and promises concerning Israel and the Church, but then bitter in his stomach as he thought about the terrible things coming... about to happen to Israel and all the world at the hand of the Antichrist and his followers.

5 months of demonic locusts followed by 200,000,000 murderous demonic horsemen killing a third of Earth's population... that must have been 2 full Woes... right? NO! All together... that was just one Woe...

How could it possibly get worse?

It will get worse and far worse until Jesus Christ returns in 3 1/2 years.

With the sounding of the 7th trumpet, the second half of the Tribulation will begin... the Great Tribulation... the Time of Jacob's Trouble.

Now, with chapter 11, Jesus will take John back to fill in some additional details for us.