

“The Abyss”

(Rev. 9)

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I. Introduction

A. Locusts

1. The Middle-East in the 1950s
 - a. It started out like any ordinary day
2. A cloud on the horizon
 - a. 100 ft. wide
 - b. 4 miles long
3. Composed of locusts
 - a. Breed in deserts
 - b. Invade cultivated fields
 - c. Look like grasshoppers
 1. 4 – 5 inch wingspan
4. Soon the “cloud” eclipsed the sun
5. Hit the fields
 - a. Scorched like a brushfire
 - b. Ate it all in five minutes
 - c. Devastating
 1. Devoured all living vegetation for several hundred thousand square miles
6. The noise of their approach

- a. Like a water fall
 - b. Eating – sounds like a prairie fire
7. Couldn't be stopped
- a. Dug trenches
 - b. Lit fires
 - c. Fired cannons
8. Yet the locusts marched on by the millions

B. The locusts in Revelation 9

- 1. When hell spews out its contents
- 2. A locust cloud of angry demons
 - a. From a mysterious place called “The Abyss”

II. Review

A. John given a view of things to come

- 1. The coming Tribulation
 - a. 7 years long
 - b. Purpose
 - 1. Redeem Israel
 - 2. Judge the ungodly
 - 3. Save multitudes
- 2. The 1000 year Kingdom
 - a. The Millennium
 - b. The earthly reign of Christ
- 3. New Heaven and New Earth

B. The Tribulation

1. A period of seven years
 - a. The Antichrist
 - b. Current events point toward it
 - c. Especially in the Middle East
2. The Sevens—
 - a. 7 Seals
 - b. 7 Trumpets
 - c. 7 Bowls
3. Last week we saw the first four trumpets
4. Now the final three trumpets
5. Called *“The 3 Woes”*
 - a. The words of the eagle
 - b. (Rev. 8:13) *“WOE – WOE – WOE “*

III. The Fifth Trumpet (v. 1-12)

A. The Fallen Star (v. 1)

1. Not a burning land mass (star)
 - a. Described as a person
 1. “he opened...”
2. It is most likely referring to Satan himself
 - a. “fallen” = Greek perfect tense
 - b. Completed action

- c. Had already happened
- 3. So much we don't know about in this universe
 - a. Discovery of distant galaxies
 - b. Discovery of "micro-space"
 - 1. as deep as space is large
 - c. The story behind the angels
 - 1. prior to our creation
 - d. The vastness of God's creation
 - 1. other created beings
 - e. God's creation prior to Adam and Eve
 - 1. Satan and the angels
 - 2. Eternity past!
- 4. Satan's past
 - a. Satan's exalted position

(Ezekiel 28:13-15) (13) You were in Eden, the garden of God;(14) You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. (15) You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.

- b. Satan's rebellion and fall

(Ezekiel 28:15-17) (15) You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. (17) Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

(Isaiah 14:12-15) How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! (13) You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God" I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. (14) I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." (15) But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.

(Rev. 12:9) *“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.”*

(Luke 10:18) Jesus says *“...I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”*

c. Took a third of the Angels with him

(Revelation 12:4) *“Satan’s tail swept a third of the stars (angels) out of the sky and flung them to the earth.”*

d. We know them as demons

B. The Abyss (v.1-2)

What we know about the Abyss

- 1. Satan will be permitted to open the Abyss during the Tribulation**
- 2. Satan himself will be bound in the Abyss during the millennium**
- 3. A special group of demons is currently imprisoned in the Abyss**

a. Mentioned in Luke 8:31 →

1. Jesus casting a legion (6,000) of demons out of a man
2. The demons begged Him not to *“command them to go out into the abyss.”*

b. Some demons are imprisoned there now

1. As opposed to demons on the loose

4. The Abyss was created for demons guilty of especially heinous sins

a. Jude 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.”*

b. These angels are probably those that violated the laws of God in that they came in unto the daughters of men and cohabited with them, producing a strange mixed race that had to be destroyed by the flood

- c. The “sons of God and the daughters of men” (Gen 6:2-4)

When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, (2) the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. (3) Then the Lord said, “My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his day will be a hundred and twenty years. (4) The Nephilim were on the earth in those days...and also afterward, when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

- d. Would have mixed the line of angels and man

1. the challenge of “redemption”

- e. Why God decided to send the flood

f. II Peter 2:4 *“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell (Tartaros...the Abyss), putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment.”*

5. Demons will be released from the Abyss during the Tribulation

- a. They are locked and raring to get out

- a. When Jesus went and declared that He had defeated Satan

*****back to Revelation 9*****

6. Satan grabs the key and unlocks them.....v.2

- a. Only a short time left

7. HELL itself literally pours out onto this earth

8. Smoke belches

- a. Sun darkened

9. The swarm of demons arises

- a. As thick as a locust swarm

1. Millions

- b. Frightening

10. Have been waiting (Jude 6) ***“And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own habitation, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day”***

C. The Creatures from the Abyss (v. 3-10)

1. Had the general appearance of locusts
2. But had tails like scorpions.....v.3
3. Left the grass
 - a. Went after men and women
4. Only one group escaped....v.4
 - a. Those with the mark of God
 - b. The seal
 1. The 144,000 sealed
 2. All believers sealed (Eph. 1)
5. Great suffering.....v.5-6
6. Demons have no bodies
 - a. Seek to inhabit physical bodies
 - b. Jesus casting a legion (6,000) of demons out of a man
 - c. Luke 8:30-31 ***(31) And the demons begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. (32) A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into them, and he gave them permission. (33) When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.”***
7. Possessed locust-like creatures....v.7-10
 - a. Heads like horses – power.....v.7
 - b. Crowns like gold – victors....v.7
 - c. Faces like men – personality.....v.7

- d. Hair like women – seductive....v.8
- e. Teeth like lion’s – wicked.....v.8
- f. Breastplate of iron – unstoppable.....v.9
- g. Wings sounded like chariots.....v.9
 - 1. With many horses
 - 2. To battle
- h. Tails like scorpions – pain....v.10

E. The Leader from the Abyss (v. 11-12)

- 1. The leader of the demons emerges....v.11
 - a. Not Satan
 - 1. Satan wasn’t in the Abyss
 - He unlocked it
 - b. A demonic general
 - c. A fallen angel similar in power to Michael the Arch-angel
- 2. Two names.....
 - a. Hebrew “Abaddon”
 - b. Greek “Apollyon”
 - c. English “Destroyer”
- 3. That’s the 5th Trumpet....v.12
 - a. The 1st of the three “woes”

IV. The 6th Trumpet (v. 13-21)

A. The Voice from the Altar

- 1. The Altar of incense....v.13

- a. In the Holy Place
 - b. Characterized God's mercy
2. The voice belongs to Jesus
 - a. But no more cries for mercy
 - b. Now He demands judgment
3. Releases 4 angels....v.14
 - a. Bad angels
 - b. Being held for just that task and time
 1. The hour – day – minute and year
 - c. Bound in the area of the Euphrates
 1. Eden
 2. Babel
 3. Israel's captivity
 4. Iraq
 5. Israel's eastern border (Gen 15)
 6. Center of false religion
4. The Army.....v.15-16
 - a. The 4 angels do something to allow an army to invade
 1. 200,000,000 horse-like creatures
 2. Probably a demonic hoard
 - b. This is probably different than the army of Revelation 16:12
 1. Both will come from the east (Asia)
 2. Time Magazine (May 21, 1965, p. 35)

-- cites a Chinese militia of that same number

c. The Euphrates is held back by the angels (Rev. 16:12)

5. Description.....v.17-19

a. Like horses

1. Colors

2. Heads like lions (fierce)

b. Fire and brimstone shoot out

6. Killed 1/3 of mankind

7. Their tails

8. Man's response?

a. Too late

b. Hardened hearts

c. Have rejected too often

9. Failed to repent

10. Worshipped demons and idols of gold, and silver, brass, stone, wood

a. Turned anywhere but to God

b. True today

*Turn to any answer but God

11. Did not repent of.....v.20-21

a. Murders

b. Sorceries

c. Immorality

d. Thefts

V. Communion

A. One more thought regarding the Abyss

1. A most interesting passage of Scripture

a. **I Peter 3:18-19** *“But Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, (19) by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison (the Abyss),*

b. **Ephesians 4:8-10** *“Therefore He says: ‘When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.’ (Now this, ‘He ascended’—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)*

2. After His crucifixion & and before his resurrection

a. *Declared his victory over Sin....and over Satan!*

b. **Colossians 2:14-15** *“having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (15) Having disarmed principalities and powers (demons), he made a “public spectacle” of them, triumphing over them in it.”*

c. The Roman Victory Parade

3. Even in the Abyss...the demons will confess that he is Lord!!!

a. **Philippians 2:9-11** *“Therefore God also has highly exalted Jesus and given Him the name which is above every name, (10) that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, (11) and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*