

Chapter 6

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| 1 st Seal- | False Peace- White horse |
| 2 nd Seal- | War- Red Horse |
| 3 rd Seal- | Famine- Black Horse |
| 4 th Seal- | Death- Pale Green Horse |
| 5 th Seal- | Prayer for God's Vengeance |
| 6 th Seal- | Fear Among Men |
| 7 th Seal- | Seven Trumpets |

Chapter 8

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| 1 st Trumpet- | Hail and fire mixed with blood. |
| 2 nd Trumpet- | Something like a great mountain burning with fire
hurled into the sea- Third of earth, trees, and green
grass burned up. |
| 3 rd Trumpet- | A great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch-
Third of sea becomes blood, third of marine life
dies, third of ships destroyed. |
| 4 th Trumpet- | Third of the sun, moon, and stars turned dark. A
third of the day was without light, and also a third of
the night. |

The first four trumpets will focus on the earth's environment.

Chapter 9 – 10

Eagle cries three woes

5th Trumpet- (1st Woe) Demonic locusts attack and torture the unsaved for five months.

6th Trumpet- (2nd Woe) A third of humanity is killed.

7th Trumpet- (3rd Woe) The beginning of the Bowl Judgments.

The last three trumpets will focus on humanity and will unfold over the next three chapters.

Chapter 8

Verse 13- *Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to those who live on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”*

eagle- (aetos) bird of prey (some believe this could also be translated “vulture”).

Woe, woe, woe... (ouai [oo-eye]) “The first woe has come. Look, still two more come after these things” (9:12) and “The second woe is past. Look, the third woe is coming soon” (11:14).

Chapter 9

Verse 1- *Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key to the shaft of the abyss was given to him.*

star from heaven which had fallen- (perfect tense- action in the past with ongoing results). This “star” had fallen in the past. It (he) was in heaven but now it has been on the Earth. This “star” represents Satan as mentioned in Luke 10:17 and Isaiah 14:12-15 (KJV):

Chapter 9

Verse 1- *Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key to the shaft of the abyss was given to him.*

*How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, (Heb. – הֵלֵל helel- “shining one”)- son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. **Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.***

Chapter 9

Verse 1- *Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key to the shaft of the abyss was given to him.*

star- reference to Satan (“Lucifer” in Latin – lux “light” + the suffix “fer” meaning “bearer”). In the ancient world, the planet Venus was thought of as two “stars,” Vesper, the evening star, and Lucifer, the morning star (a star that “brings the light”). Satan is a counterfeit “morning star.”

Liturgically, *lauds* are morning prayers and *vespers* are evening prayers.

Chapter 9

Verse 1- *Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key to the shaft of the abyss was given to him.*

key- a key was given to Lucifer, not the angel. The power he has in this chapter was given to him because Jesus holds the key to Hell and death (cf. 1:18). He allowed Satan to use it.

shaft of the abyss- (*abyssou*) found seven times in the book of Revelation, (9:1, 9:2, 9:11, 11:7, 17:8, 20:1, 20:3) once in Romans 10:7, and once in Luke 8:31 (Legion asks not to be sent to “the abyss”). Jesus drove them out into a herd of pigs.

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shaft of the abyss- (abyssou) This is the place where the worst of demons are restrained.

2 Peter 2:4- *For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed **them to pits of darkness**, held for judgment;*

Jude 6- *And angels who did not keep their own domain but abandoned their proper dwelling place, these He has kept in **eternal restraints under darkness** for the judgment of the great day.*

Chapter 9

Verse 2- *He opened the shaft of the abyss, and smoke ascended out of the shaft like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened from the smoke of the shaft.*

smoke ascended out of the shaft- This smoke is in contrast this to the smoke of believers' prayers which rise like incense to God. This smoke comes from hell and precedes demonic locusts. The smoke, apart from the locusts, blocks the light of the sun and pollutes the air.

Chapter 9

Verse 3- *Then out of the smoke came locusts, upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power.*

locusts- mentioned throughout Scripture. This reminds us of the eighth plague of Egypt (Exodus 10:3-5), and men are seen as helpless against their power to destroy vegetation.

scorpions- God is in control! He gives the key to the abyss to Satan and gives permission to demonic locusts to sting those who have not been sealed, but a scorpion sting is rarely fatal (30 of 1,500 species can produce enough venom to kill an adult).

Chapter 9

Verse 4- *They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.*

the grass of the earth- all the grass was burned in the last chapter (8:7) but has now grown back.

any green thing, nor any tree- the remaining trees and vegetation were not to be harmed by this demonic horde, which is unnatural for earthly locusts- this would be all they would eat.

Chapter 9

Verse 4- *They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.*

people who do not have the seal of God- the only ones who had the seal of God were the 144,000 Jewish evangelists. Every other person on the earth were targeted.

Chapter 9

Verse 5- *And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a person.*

five months- the natural lifespan of an earthly locust is about five months.

stings a person- a scorpion sting is rarely fatal (30 of 1,500 species can produce enough venom to kill an adult).

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Luke 10:17-20 *Now the seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name!" And He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like lightning. Behold, I have given you authority to walk on snakes and scorpions, and authority over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."*

Chapter 9

Verse 6- *And in those days people will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death will flee from them!*

Life is given by God and belongs to Him. When we attack life at one end (birth), it is natural to attack it at the other end (death). Where does it end when human life becomes so cheap? (cf. *Whatever Happened to the Human Race*- Koop/Schaeffer). Men are used to taking life but will be unable to take their own lives.

Job 3:20-21- *"Why is light given to one burdened with grief, And life to the bitter of soul, Who long for death, but there is none."*

Chapter 9

Verse 7- *The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like human faces.*

horses prepared for battle- (Joel 2:2-11) the image of the demon horde switches from a natural group (insects) to a military group (cavalry).

crowns like gold- (*stephanos*) the demon horde are conquerors. This is in comparison to the real king (Jesus) with a permanent crown.

Chapter 9

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human faces- denotes intelligence. The demonic horde are terrible in appearance but have the intelligence of a human being.

Chapter 9

Verse 8- *They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like the teeth of lions.*

hair of women- In ancient cultures long, unbound hair was often characteristic of fierce peoples. This characteristic may denote ferocity and strength (Samson), not femininity.

teeth of lions- (Joel 1:6)- Symbolizes savagery and cruelty. Satan and his demonic forces seek to entice human beings and ultimately destroy them. He wants every person dead and in Hell.

Chapter 9

Verse 9- *They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle.*

breastplates of iron- Speaks of their invincibility. They cannot be defeated.

sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots- Reminds us of the prophecy of Joel 2:4 concerning the Day of the Lord.

Chapter 9

Verse 10- *They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt people for five months.*

power- (exousia) authority- They can only do what the Lord allows them to do. He has given Satan the key to Hell for the purpose of loosing these demons on earth for a period of judgment. Later, they will be destroyed.

hurt people for five months- hurt people, not kill them, although the people they hurt will want to die but cannot. The natural lifespan of a locust is about five months.

Chapter 9

Verse 11- *They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.*

They have as king- natural locusts have no leader (unlike other insects) Agur, in Proverbs 30:27, characterizes the natural locusts:

The locusts have no king, Yet all of them go out in ranks;

Abaddon- (Hebrew- "Destruction")- A demon responsible for "the pit." Many consider this to be Satan.

Chapter 9

Verse 11- *They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.*

Apollyon- (Hebrew- “Destruction”)- Satan’s true character is revealed. He is not “an angel of light,” but a deceiver and destroyer of the souls of men. (figure in *Pilgrim’s Progress*)

Then Apollyon, espying his opportunity, began to gather up close to Christian, and wrestling with him, gave him a dreadful fall; and with that Christian's sword flew out of his hand. Then said Apollyon, I am sure of you now. And with that he had almost pressed him to death, so that Christian began to despair of life; but as God would have it, while Apollyon was fetching of his last blow, thereby to make a full end of this good man, Christian nimbly stretched out his hand for his sword, and caught it, saying, "Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy; when I fall I shall arise."

And with that gave him a deadly thrust, which made him give back, as one that had received his mortal wound. Christian perceiving that, made at him again, saying, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us". And with that Apollyon spread forth his dragon's wings, and sped him away, that Christian for a season saw him no more.

Chapter 9

Verse 12- *The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still coming after these things.*

First woe- Follows the fifth trumpet. It relates the release of demonic forces that are empowered to harm but not to kill for a specified duration.

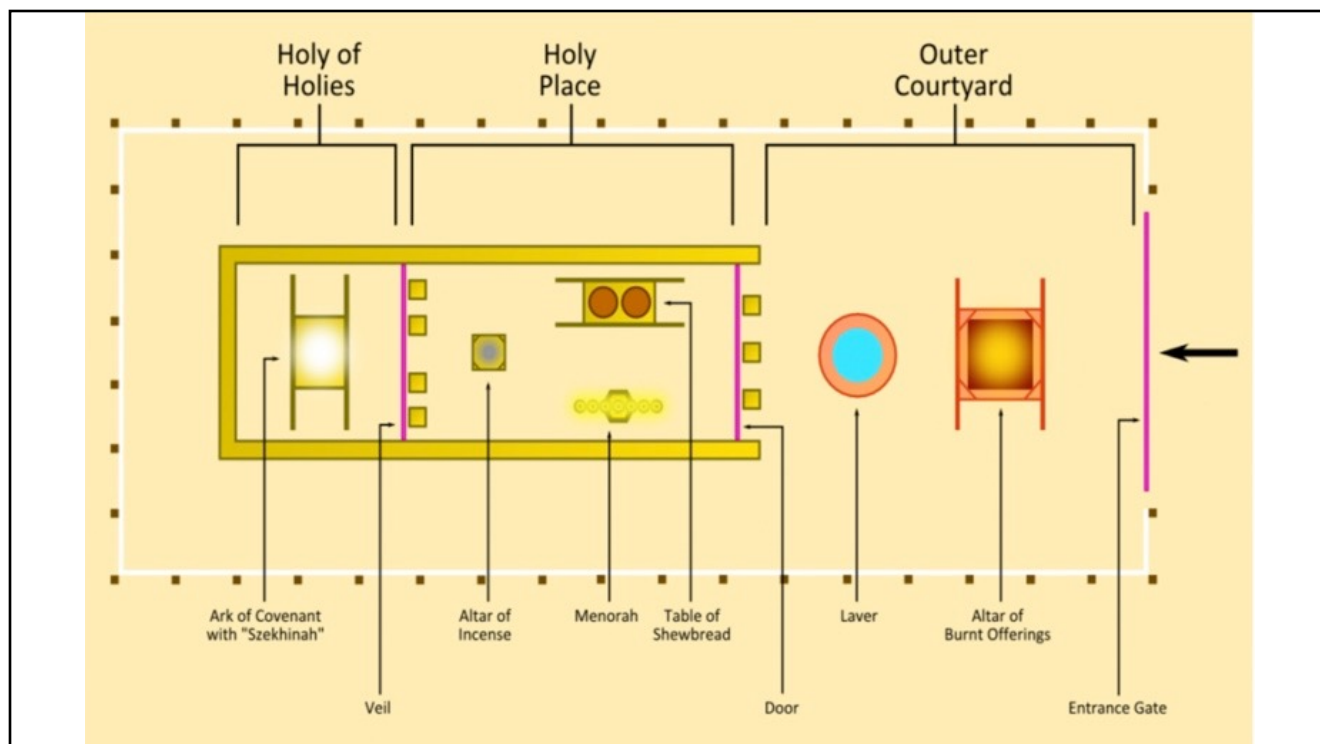
Second woe- Follows the sixth trumpet is blown. Four angels are released to kill a third of the human race by fire, smoke, and sulfur.

Third woe- Introduces 7 Bowl Judgments (11:15b-19).

Chapter 9

Verse 13- *Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,*

four horns of the golden altar- both the altar of sacrifice (Exodus 27:2) and the altar of incense (Exodus 37:25) had horns on each corner. The golden altar is the altar of incense. This sixth trumpet is tied to the prayers of the saints.





The altar of burnt offerings



The altar of incense

Chapter 9

Verse 14- *saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."*

four angels- probably wicked angels (demons) held against their will.

Euphrates- In Old Testament times the Euphrates was the great river of the Babylonian (modern day Iraq) and Assyrian empires, the enemies of Israel (Isa 7:20; 8:7). As John recorded the events of Revelation, it marked the eastern boundary of the Roman Empire.

Chapter 9

Verse 15- *And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind.*

hour and day and month and year- This is the only place in Scripture that uses the “hour-day-month-year” phrase. God has a plan that will be executed to the very hour. He is in perfect control of history!

Chapter 9

Verse 15- *And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind.*

People leaving the Earth

- Raptured- $n = ?$ (2021- 2.38 billion profess Christ)
- Seals – $1/4^{\text{th}}$ of mankind killed in the fourth seal (2 billion)
- Death due to martyrdom mentioned in fifth seal- $n = ?$
- 6^{th} Trumpet- another $1/3$ of mankind is killed- (2 billion)

By the time of the 6^{th} trumpet sounding, half or more of humanity is gone.

Chapter 9

Verse 16- *The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.*

two hundred million- “twice ten thousand ten thousand”- During John’s day The Roman army had twenty-five legions or about 125,000 with an auxiliary army almost equal in size. This demonic horde was a thousand times the size of the Roman army.

Each horseman would kill approximately 10 people.

Chapter 9

Verse 17- *And this is how I saw in my vision the horses and those who sat on them: the riders had breastplates the color of fire, of hyacinth, and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire and smoke and brimstone.*

fire, of hyacinth, and of brimstone- Each rider had tricolor armor that spread the plagues of fire (red), smoke (blue), and sulfur (yellow).

Next week...

Chapter 10 & 11-
“The Angel & Little Scroll,
The Two Witnesses &
the 7th Trumpet”

