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The Mission

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## Revelation 8

So last we finished up Revelation chapter 8, and of course there the seventh seal was opened and there was silence in heaven for about half an hour; and then John saw seven angels standing before the throne of God and they were given seven trumpets.

And this is what we refer to as the trumpet judgments. And as each of the seven trumpets is blown, another series of judgments is unleashed upon the world. And we saw the devastating results of the first four of those judgements last week as we went through the entirety of chapter 8.

When the first angel sounded his trumpet, hail fire and brimstone or something similar to what happened to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah was unleashed from heaven and fell upon the earth and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

And then the second angel sounded and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea. It was probably a great asteroid or something similar that God caused to hit the earth and a third of the sea it says became blood. In other words, there was a great loss of life in the sea when it hit. In fact, we're told a third of the living creatures in the sea died, along with a third of the ships were destroyed. And so a great loss of life.

And then the third angel sounded and a great star or possibly another asteroid fell from heaven, and it was burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. And so now both the oceans

and the fresh water are affected, which again means a great loss of life, because people can't survive without water.

And then the fourth angel sounded and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. And a third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

And so suddenly there's no longer a 24-hour day, and there are no more seasons, and all of the heavens and earth are in total disarray and chaos, and there's panic all over the world like has never been seen before, because everyone is going to know; that this is not survivable.

And last week I told you; that's why these judgments come at the very end because, because they're designed to not be survivable, they designed to be without remedy. And there's nothing mankind will be able to do to avoid the consequences of this final judgement of God. And no-one will escape the far reaching hand of God!

When everything is gone: when food is gone, and fresh water is gone, and time is disrupted, and the seasons are gone; everything and everyone will be affected and no one will escape.

And so those were the first four trumpets and tonight we have three left.

So turn with me if you would to chapter 9 and I'm going to ask again if someone would be so kind as to read this entire chapter for us and then I'll go back and we'll look at it verse by verse.

**Revelation 9:1, 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. 2 And 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.**

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

**4 They 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. 5 And 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. 6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.**

**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.**

**12 One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.**

Okay so go back to verse one and we'll see if we can unravel this a bit for you.

**1, 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.**

So when this angel sounds his trumpet, John sees in this vision, a star from heaven, which had fallen to the earth.

Now, previously John had seen visions of stars actually in the process of falling. Back in chapter 6, in chapter 8, in verses 8 & 10, John saw some heavenly bodies come out of the sky and crashing into the earth.

But, this is different. Here John sees a star from heaven, which had at some time in the past had already fallen to the earth; and that's important. This is a star that had at some time in the past fallen to the earth.

So what would that be? Or better yet, who would that be?

Because we know it's a person by what it says. It says, "The key of the bottomless pit was given to **him**," and, then "**he** opened the bottomless pit." And so we know this particular star is a person.

And so who is he?

Well, he has to be Satan, who is sometimes called the **day star**, or the **son of the morning**. And of course we're told about his fall in the book of Isaiah in chapter 14. That's when he was cast out of heaven, and out of the presence of God, and then in Revelation chapter 12, we're told that also included a third of the angels, which would be millions, if not billions of angels who turned demons, and went along with Lucifer in his rebellion against God.

And so this is the star that John sees. This is Satan who has already fallen once, but who now is being thrown to the earth once and for all.

The first time he fell from heaven was because of his pride; and because of his rebellion against God; and because of that, he was no longer allowed to be an angel of God. But he **did**, as we know from the book of Job, retain his ability to visit heaven, and to come before God, and to accuse the brethren of which Job was one of those who was accused.

But now, here he's being thrown out for good. No longer will he be able to accuse the brethren before God in heaven. Here's he forever banned from heaven! And for Satan and his demons, things only go downhill from here.

And I thank God that one day; everything wrong will be made right. Everybody that has persecuted a child of God will be made to answer and pay for their sins if they never repent and turn from those sins.

And then in the last part of verse 1, we're told this fallen star who is Satan was given the key to the bottomless pit. And that key of course was given to him by God.

And so God allows Satan to be given the key to this bottomless pit.

Now, what is this bottomless pit?

Well, to be in a pit with no bottom would mean that whoever is in it would be continuously falling. And to be continuously falling would mean you would be constantly thinking about hitting bottom. And depending on the speed you were going, well I guess that would have something to do with your fear level maybe, but to continuously and forever fall through the air, that in itself would be awful, would it not?

Well, the Greek term is used seven times in the book of Revelation. And it refers to the abode of demons, or the prison of demons, or the place where demons are kept in chains in bondage. And in Revelation chapter 20, we're told that during the thousand-year reign of Christ, this is where Satan and his demons will be bound.

But for now, Satan and his angels, at least most of them are roaming around from individual to individual trying to gather as many as possible to join them in hell; and Satan is going back and forth to heaven accusing the brethren.

But during the Tribulation, they will all be loosed. And all their efforts will be concentrated on the earth and all this by God's design.

Now, in **2 Peter chapter 2 and verse 4**, we're told a little something about these fallen angels or demons that are being held right now in this bottomless pit. It says, **"If God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment."**

So these demons who will be loosed during the Tribulation are the angels who sinned and were committed to pits of darkness, and cast into hell.

And the Greek word that Peter uses here for "hell" actually refers to a place that is lower than Hades. Hades is where the wicked go when they die now, but this place is reserved for the most wicked, the most rebellious, the worst of the worst of the worst beings in other words. And the mere use of this word tells us that.

And so not all demons are running loose in the world right now. Some of them are prisoners, bound in "pits of darkness" in the deepest torment of hell at its very bottom level. And they're being "reserved for judgment," they're being reserved for this time which we read about here.

So here we are during the last days of the Tribulation and the fifth trumpet blows, and Satan takes the key, and in verse 2, he opens the bottomless pit.

**2 And 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.**

When he opens it, so much smoke rises from it that it fills the air and darkens the sun. And so this is not only a bottomless pit, it's a pit filled with

smoke and fire. And this is the abode of these fallen angels, an abode much similar to that of every person who dies without Christ.

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

**4 They 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.**

**5 And 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.**

**6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.**

So what is this?

Well, if you think the world's bad now, we ain't seen nothing yet. When these fallen angels turned demons are let loose, they're going to have thousands of years of anger built up against God for having locked them up.

One commentator likened it to what the world would be like if we were to open the doors of all the penitentiaries on earth and set free all the world's most vicious and violent criminals, and give them full rein to do whatever they wanted to anybody they wanted to do it to.

Can you imagine? Probably not; so let me help you.

These locusts; they're not real locusts. They're demons and there are so many of them that they appear like black smoke when they're released.

And they appear as locusts, because of the damage that locusts can do.

As an example, just a few years ago, there was a locust plague in Africa, and they estimated that there were over 80 million locusts per square mile. And during that plague those locusts would eat as much grain as 35,000

people could eat in a day. It's just unbelievable the damage these things can do when they attack.

And these demons, when they come in the time of the Great Tribulation, they're going to be like a locust plague. Everything is going to fall under their power and everything in their path is going to be tormented.

Now, thank God, He's put restraints on them and they can't kill anyone, but they can torment men and women all they want, and they will torment people to the point that those who are being tormented will want to take their own lives, but they won't be allowed to.

God won't allow suicide as a means to escape their torment during this time. And anyone who does not have the seal of God on their forehead will be targeted. Those who belong to God will be protected.

And then it says and they "torment for five months," and five months just happens to be the normal life span of a locusts. They usually live from around May to September. And so their time is limited. It's confined to five months. And this is what Jesus told us in Matthew 24, He said this very time will be shortened for the sake of the elect. By the way, five months was also the time in which God allowed the floodwaters to rise during the days of Noah.

And so for five months, they come and they torment. And that word torment is repeated three times. A whole world full of demon-possessed people will be tormenting.

And then he likens it to the sting of a scorpion, which they say is one of the most poisonous and most painful stings a person can experience. And so it's inconceivable the things that will take place during these final days.

And again verse 6 says, "Men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will flee from them."



And then in verses 7 to 10 we have a description of these locust.

**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.**

They appeared as horses prepared for battle. In other words, they're warlike, they're defiant, they're armed, they're powerful, they're bent on destruction.

And then on their heads they have these "crowns like gold." The word here describes a crown that a victor would wear. In other words, they win every battle. They triumph in their efforts. And then it says, "Their faces were like the faces of men," Which means they're intelligent.

"They have hair like women, which maybe refers to their seductiveness. But then they have teeth like the teeth of lions, which is symbolic of the teeth that locusts have and so they're also fierce and terrible and devastating.

And then they have breastplates of iron, which means they're invulnerable, nothing or no-one can stand against them. And the sound of their wings is like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle.

In other words, they're going to be coming from everywhere and going in all directions and moving very fast, and their torment will be inescapable. There will be no place to hide, because they'll be everywhere.

Nothing will be able to stop them. They'll be able to go anywhere and everywhere; through walls; into human bodies and animals; everywhere!

And again, they have tails like scorpions. They sting and they cause unbearable pain and for five months they will torment the entire earth, save those who belong to God.

**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.**

**12 One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.**

Now, this isn't Satan. Satan is the one who had the key that unlocked the bottomless pit. This is some demon that has evidently been put in charge of the pit, and his name means Destroyer.

And so that's what the world has waiting for it. An invasion of demons, even more so than today; a force of terror and torment and destruction, when millions and millions of demons, invade the earth unrestrained.

You say but we have millions of demons in the world today, and that's true, but they're restrained today by the presence of the church and the presence of Holy Spirit as well as the plan of God. But when the church is gone and it will be by this time, God will allow the demons that are already circulating in this world to be joined by these millions if not billions more and they will all have full access to everyone who is unprotected by God to do with them whatever they want, up to but not including death.

And that's not the end of it!

**Look at verse 12: "The first woe is past; behold, two woes are still coming after these things."**

And what's so bad is that even after all this the people still won't acknowledge God and repent of their sins. Their hearts will be hardened so hard that they still won't be able to respond properly to all this judgement.

That's why it's so critical to be saved today. Don't make plans to wait and be saved during the Tribulation period, because even though many will be saved, many will also have their hearts hardened and they won't be saved. And they won't be protected from all this torture and torment either. And they surely won't be spared the judgment of hell for eternity when it's all over.

Now, next week we'll look at the judgments when the sixth trumpet is sounded as we look at the remainder of chapter 9. And so if you want to read ahead and study ahead that would be great.

Amen