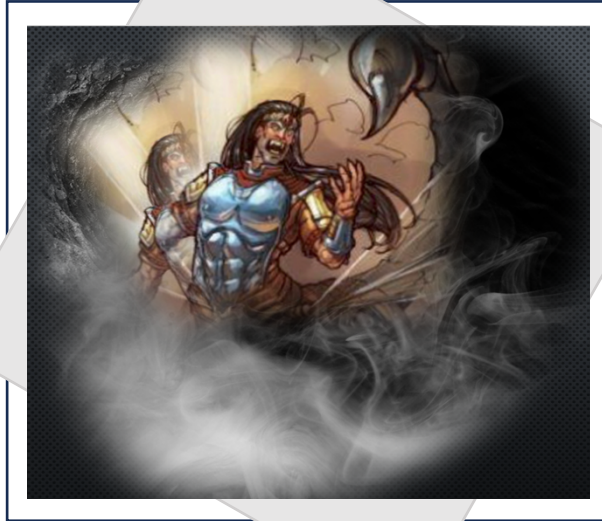


The LOCUSTS of Revelation

What are they and what is God's purpose of releasing them for five months?



“Now the rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the works of their hands. They did not stop:

- Worshipping demons
- Worshipping idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk
- They did not repent of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their sexual immorality, nor of their thefts” (Revelation 9:20-21).

Scripture here is referring to a heavily darkened group of people remaining on earth. Their souls are on the verge of being irredeemable. God Almighty is giving them their final chance to choose life or death.

The rule of the beastly coalition and false prophet on earth will become completely wicked prior to the rise of the “little horn.” Rule on earth will become unfathomably evil. Disobedient mankind will enter into worshipping demons, making idols and setting up shrines as communication conduits to the evil, fallen angels and sons of God who will be then ruling on earth. With an unquenchable appetite, they will practice sorceries, perform magic, conjure evil spirits. They will engage in sexual activities to pervert, to the fullest extent, the sacred relationship of a man and a woman that is symbolic of the holy relationship of Jesus Christ and

the faithful church. All that they will engage in is to twist, distort and pervert God's purpose for mankind, their great and precious calling and their role that will complete the God-family.

It will take drastic means to awaken these people entrenched in darkness. Four trumpets have already been blown, God's wrath poured out and still some people on earth relish in darkness. The fifth trumpet is blown. God will unleash the gods these wicked people worship and they will feel the excruciating sting of their reign.

FIFTH TRUMPET, FIRST WOE

"I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss" (Revelation 9:1).

The star is an angel. This angel had already fallen out of heaven and down to earth prior to receiving the key to the Abyss. This is the place of the spiritually dead located deep in inner earth. It is the most southernly point in all creation.

THE ABYSS

God's holy law courts are located in the far north in heaven. The direction pointing north is symbolic of law-keeping. The direction pointing south is symbolic of lawlessness. The Abyss is in the utter depths of the south, inside inner earth. It is the prison for the lawless who do unfathomable wickedness. The beast that comes out of the Abyss is the final beastly coalition to rule earth for three and a half years. This beast will kill the two righteous witnesses at the end of their ministry.

"When the two witnesses have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will wage war with them, and will overpower and kill them" (Revelation 11:7).

"The beast that you saw—it was, and now is no more, but is about to come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction" (Revelation 17:8a). The Apostle John understood that this beast was at one time at play, it was not ruling at the time he wrote, "and now is no more" but it will come again out of the Abyss. This beast is separate from the locust-like creatures that also come out from the Abyss. The Abyss is a domain full of evil creatures.

THE ABYSS—THE PIT

The Abyss is the pit in Ezekiel. God has imprisoned the overthrown fallen angels, His rebels sons have gone down to the pit. God describes these fallen spiritual beings as "uncircumcised"—wicked beings. God warned Pharaoh, the heavenly ruler over Egypt, of his fall as he slipped into sinning following the path of the infamous, king of Assyria, a once-revered leader in God's holy courts in heaven.

"Who then is like you in glory and greatness among the trees of Eden [leaders in God's family]? You also will be brought down to the depths of the earth to be with the trees of Eden. You will lie among the uncircumcised [wicked], with those slain by the sword [the word of God]. This is Pharaoh and all his hordes,' declares the Lord GOD" (Ezekiel 31:18).

These heavenly rulers have a vast army—hordes that will be sentenced and destroyed with them.

THE SMOKE FROM THE ABYSS

“When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss” (Revelation 9:2).

Instantly, destruction is released from the Abyss. Billowing, dense smoke will come out of the Abyss blotting out the full-strength of the sun filling the air with very fine, suffocating particles. The powers of darkness cloud mankind completely with their disdain for Almighty God and Jesus Christ and they will not hide their relentless drive for the destruction of all things of the Father and the Son. All truth and all matters correct and right will be covered with lies and deception, so much so, that exposure to pure evil will saturate earth when the Abyss is opened.

God Almighty is intentionally releasing these fallen creatures to show unrepentant mankind the reality of pure evil. Their presence is darkest black and asphyxiating.

THE LOCUSTS

“And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and they were given power like that of scorpions of the earth” (Revelation 9:3).

Creatures from the Abyss rise with the smoke and then come down like a plague of locusts covering the earth. They have a ravenous appetite, consuming every sound thought of the people listening to them leaving a path of destruction. Poisoning mankind into an irredeemable state is their primary objective. God Almighty will give them power to hurt mankind as they desire. Mankind who worship these fallen gods and make idols of them need to feel their love these rebels have for them.

THE STING

“They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. The locusts were not given power to kill them, but only to torment them for five months, and their torment was like the stinging of a scorpion” (Revelation 9:4-5).

God seals 144,000 people before the strike takes place. These rebels cannot go beyond God’s commands. They have limited power and strength. The torment these rebels unleash on unrepentant mankind will cause them intense pain. These rebels disdain mankind; their desire is to destroy all creation on earth. Jesus said, “And if those days had not been cut short, **no human being would be saved**. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short” (Matthew 24:22).

God assigns a period of five months, likely from the Passover in Spring to the Fall, when the seventh trumpet is blown. God is determining when and if they will choose to overcome and

stop sinning. The spring, summer and late fall harvests image the three time periods God has determined to transform the overcomers into eternal beings.

MEN WILL SEEK DEATH

“During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them” (Revelation 9:6).

God desires to save all of mankind. How much pain are people willing to suffer before coming into repentance? The people want to die to end their suffering, but Almighty God will not allow it. He only will determine when they die. They will live to come to a full understanding of their sins and their choices. They will be without excuse.

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a testimony [a legal witness] to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).

THE APPEARANCE OF THE LOCUSTS

The Apostle John is very specific in the description of these locust-like creatures. Every detail provides an understanding of who they are and their outlook towards mankind.

- **“The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle.”**
These beings are angry and revengeful. They are dressed for war. They are not mankind’s friends.
- **“On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold.”**
These beings were rulers in heaven and some over the nations on earth given to them at the time of Babel. All of them, turned against Almighty God. Most of them have been



overthrown and imprisoned in the Abyss. Their five-month release is to show unrepentant mankind exactly who they are worshipping. The Apostle John saw their gold crowns and wasn’t sure if the likeness he saw was in fact a crown because they were no longer the prominent glorious bands of great, royal kings. Instead, he saw buckling and twisted shapes

that fit their deformed heads due to their decay over time. God said to the rebel sons of God, “You are gods, sons of the Most High, but you will die like mere men” (Psalm 82:6). Mankind begins dying when they take their first breath of life.

□ **“Their faces resembled human faces.”**

The four living creatures surrounding God’s throne have four faces: the eagle, the lion, the ox and man. Each face is representative of a guardian of God. With faces that look human, likely, these locust-looking creatures were once sons of God in heaven. They have the face of a human. Repentant mankind become children of God.

The Apostle Paul preaching to the Gentiles said, “In Hosea: “I will call them ‘My People’ who are not My people, and I will call her ‘My Beloved’ who is not My beloved,” and, “It will happen that in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ **they will be called ‘sons of the living God’**” (Romans 9:25-26).

The Apostle Paul was quoting Hosea here and preaching to the people from the ten-tribes of Israel. Though they were pushed away from God and divorced and God declared that they were no longer His people or loved, God foresaw that they would be brought back because, like the prodigal son, He saw their repentance and He will declare them to be sons of the living God—the God who is aware and awake and will act on their repentance.

Becoming children of God is the promise to all repentant mankind. “Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that **we should be called children of God**. And that is what we are!” (I John 3:1)

□ **“Their hair was like women’s hair.”**

The hair of these creatures is long. They are declaring that they have a covering like Jesus Christ is the covering of the Church—all of repentant mankind. Women are the image of the church and it is their glory that they have longer hair than men and they take pleasure in styling, colouring and caring for it.

“Doesn’t nature itself teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, but that **if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering**” (I Corinthians 11:14).

After Adam and Eve sinned, God provided a perfect covering for them. It replaced the fig leaves they chose. God covered them with the skin of a perfect sacrifice.

The saving plan for mankind, a kingdom of priests-in-the-making, is the redemptive sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The locusts from out of the Abyss with long hair are claiming to have a covering of redemption.

□ **“Their teeth were like lions’ teeth.”**

Lions are clever hunters. They stalk their prey creeping closer and closer. At the right moment, they jump often taking their prey by surprise. They will kill their prey by biting the back of the throat or the neck to kill it before tearing and devouring it.

These rebels have teeth like a lion. Jesus Christ is the lion of Judah; the lion is symbolic of a king. These rebels were once princes in heaven who have a rich knowledge of God's word. They will stalk mortal man and attack with a vengeance those who do not know God's word well. Easily, they will tear them to pieces.

□ **“They had breastplates like breastplates of iron.”**

The breastplate of the high priest in God's temple has twelve precious stones on the front symbolic of the twelve tribes of Israel. It is a sacred breastplate carrying the judgement of God. Having a breastplate of iron is one specializing in hatred, war and chaos.

□ **“The sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle.”**

The power in the wings of these creatures demonstrates supernatural forces. The woman of Revelation will escape Satan's pursuit when she is given two wings of a great eagle where she is then kept safe during Jacob's trouble (Revelation 12:14). She is given supernatural power to escape from the grip of Satan.

It is the great and untouchable power of Almighty God that keeps Wickedness from destroying His loved ones. When ancient Israel left Egypt they too, escaped the pursuit of the Egyptian army on the wings of an eagle. “You have seen for yourselves what I did to Egypt, and how **I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself**” (Exodus 19:4).

These locust-like creatures are still powerful spirit beings. God will completely disarm them after He is finished with them.

□ **“They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails, they had power to torment people for 5 months.”**

God has referred to the head as the national leaders. The tail is an image of the religious leaders who are supposed to be experts in the ways of righteousness. It is no surprise that God describes Satan as a dragon that has swept one-third of the angels into his theology with his tail.

Ancient Israel became so corrupt and depraved that God had to purge all of their leaders—the head and tail. “So **the LORD will cut off Israel's head and tail**, both palm branch and reed in a single day. **The head is the elder** and honorable man, and the **tail is the prophet who teaches lies**” (Isaiah 9:14-15).

The locust creatures have a lethal weapon in the tail. Unrepentant mankind will feel the excruciating pain of their sting. It will ripple throughout their religious practices that these

people will embrace dearly. Five months is a period from Passover to the Feast of Trumpets, when Jesus Christ will return.

These locust-creatures will return to the Abyss after five months by the command of the King over all kings and Lord over all lords. They cannot refuse re-entry into their prison of shame.

- **“They had a king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon.”**

The swarm of locust creatures are subservient to their saviour master, Apollyon—Abaddon, the angel of the Abyss.

By allowing these locust-like beings out of the Abyss, God is showing unrepentant mankind His enemy. They are evil to the core. These evil beings were once righteous, ruling sons of God. They have gold crowns on their heads. These crowns have become barely recognizable like their unbounding lawless rulership style. They have a king over them, indicating their place in the Abyss is a structured dominion. They disdain God’s creation on earth because they resent God’s plan for a kingdom of priests. They hate God’s theology. They are determined to take control and enforce their style of leadership and theology for all eternity over all creation.

SIXTH TRUMPET, SECOND WOE

“The sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God. It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, ‘Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.’ And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million... One third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury” (Revelation 9:13-19).

So much can be studied from that scripture. My single focus is the 200 million mounted troops. The four fallen angels bound at the great river Euphrates, like many of the heavenly ruling kings over vast dominions in heaven, come with hordes and enormous armies.

- **Pharaoh** and all his hordes will go to the Pit (Ezekiel 31:18b)
- **Assyria** is there with her whole army... Their graves are in the depths of the pit and her army lies around her grave (Ezekiel 32:22-23)
- **Elam** is there, with all her hordes around her grave. All of them are slain, fallen by the sword... They bear their shame with those who go down to the pit (Ezekiel 32:24)
- **Meshech and Tubal** are there, with all their hordes around their graves. All of them are uncircumcised, killed by the sword... (Ezekiel 32:26)

- **Edom** is there, her kings and all her princes; despite their power, they are laid with those killed by the sword. They lie with the uncircumcised, with those who go down to the pit (Ezekiel 32:29)
- **All the princes of the north and all the Sidonians** are there, they went down with the slain in disgrace... They lie uncircumcised with those killed by the sword and bear their shame with those who go down to the pit (Ezekiel 32:30).

These rebels are in the pit, overthrown and captured by God, awaiting sentencing and destruction. The four fallen angels bound at the great river Euphrates have an army of 200 million troops on horses that have heads like lions and from out of their mouths fire, smoke and sulfur burst like high-tech flamethrowers. Like the locust-type creatures, their tail is a weapon. The tail of these horses is like snakes with a head that can cause injuries.

After suffering the torment and injuries of these rebel beings, mankind hardened their heart and refused to repent of their sins. In crazy madness, they continued to worship these evil beings and practice the deep dark black magic continuing to harm themselves and others.

“Now the rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the works of their hands. They did not stop:

- Worshipping demons
- Worshipping idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk
- They did not repent of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their sexual immorality, nor of their thefts” (Revelation 9:20-21).

What was practised in ancient times will be done again. These unrepentant are bent on worshipping these fallen sons of God and their offspring and making idols as communication conduits. The Psalmist recognized this grave treasonous sin of the rebel sons of God and urged them to repent.

He said, “**The LORD reigns**, let the earth rejoice; let the distant shores be glad. Clouds and darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are His throne’s foundation. Fire goes before Him and consumes His foes on every side. His lightning illuminates the world; the earth sees and trembles. The heavens proclaim His righteousness; all the peoples see His glory. All worshipers



Artwork by Pat Marvenko Smith

of images are put to shame—those who boast in idols. **Worship Him, all you gods!**" (Psalm 97:6-7)

The Great, Almighty God is the only one to worship. There is no one like our Majestic Creator, our Saviour who engineered a saving plan for sinners on earth swept up into the lies and deception of rebel angels, fallen sons of God who know better.

God needed to know who will be in His eternal kingdom and who will not. It is time for the final harvest of mankind.

"Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, 'Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe'" (Revelation 14:18).

"Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full; the wine vats overflow because their wickedness is great" (Joel 3:13).

The story of the harvest of grapes is comprised of two choices. One will bring a great celebration and the other a crushing blow.

The people imaged as over-ripe, rotting grapes are people determined to live wickedly. They are unrepentant and sold completely and fully into sin. These will be trodden under the feet of the righteous.

"Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act," says the LORD Almighty" (Malachi 4:3).

Their destruction will likely occur through the application of the law, judgement and sentencing. God's people will clean up their institutions and appoint righteous judges and law-enforcing officials at every level of government and these people will be judged, sentenced and destroyed.

And then, we will also see a crushed people who will repent and choose life eternal. God will see these late fruit-bearing people and offer them grace. Their suffering will forge an eternal relationship with Him.

Harvesting grapes to make wine, requires crushing to break the skin to release the juice. God's supper table is comprised of both bread and wine. Christ's body imaged as bread, God's word and his blood imaged in the wine together represent the two core components of righteous character: living perfectly by God's word and binding to a blood covenant of eternal trust, faith and loyalty to Almighty God.

At the end of the three harvests, born-again people on earth will together be the total culmination of righteous character. Resurrections into life eternal will have taken place, others

resurrected back into mortal beings to learn to live God's way. Earth will be again filled and populated with the ancient and the young, living together.

The rebel angels, fallen sons of God will be destroyed. There is no covering for them despite their declaration. They have truly sunk, deep into utter darkness, living doing harm and being harmed; they cannot be saved.

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