

**Rev 9:1 (NIV)**

- 1) The consensus of most if not all commentators is that the word star here represents an angelic or heavenly being.
- 2) As to who the angel is, there is much debate.
- 3) Some say that it is Christ or an angel of God’s choosing to whom he gives the key to the abyss.
- 4) Most however, believe the fallen star here is Satan.
- 5) For me, the key to the solution lies in the fact that this is presented in the past tense “star that had fallen.”
- 6) We will see this further described in Rev 12 when we get there.
- 7) Satan being the source of all evil, it only makes sense that he should be the one that opens the abyss and unleashes the traumatic events that are the reason for the woe’s issued by the eagle.

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- 8) NOW, having said all that let me see if I can confuse you.
- 9) On giving more thought to this, I now find it at least plausible that the angel that had fallen was actually God’s instrument – Abaddon who we will discuss shortly.
- 10) The statement I made regarding the source of evil is true – it is Satan.
- 11) However, I am still struggling why Satan would voluntarily inflict the severe trauma of the locusts that are described here on people he would like to keep in his camp.

**Thoughts / Comments?**

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- 12) The fifth trumpet events are described in four distinct parts of John’s vision:
  - a) The pit unlocked
  - b) The power unleashed
  - c) The tormenting evil described.
  - d) The king of the Abyss identified.

**The Abyss Unlocked**

- 2 When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.
- 6) Here, we must remember, this black billowing smoke coming from the Abyss and blocking the sun that is already dimmed, is happening in a world that is already in chaos!
- 7) This is the insult to injury – but – that’s not the end – not by a long shot!

**Rev 9:3-6 (NIV)**

- 8) There are a couple of things that are probably obvious.
  - a) **First** – the reason for the description “locust” is the idea that they are what we might call a weapon of mass destruction.
  - b) In the 1950’s – locusts devoured several hundred thousand square miles of vegetation in the middle east.
  - c) **Second** – as we will see in the description we are about to read; these were not really locusts at all but demons.
- 3) In verse 6, we see a clue to exactly how bad things are.

6 During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

- a) It is not just the demonic plague of locust-like creatures that is causing men to want to die.
  - b) It is that all hope is gone; there will be no tomorrow.
  - c) The earth people have loved and worshiped will have been utterly devastated.
- 4) It is possible that this verse infers that during this time, people could not even commit suicide. They were forced to continue to endure this situation.

**Rev 9:7-10 (NIV)**

- 5) WOW! Not something you would like to meet in a dark alley or, for that matter anywhere!
- 6) The general appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle.
  - a) War horses thru history have been powerful, and defiant.
  - b) Some say they were as eager to fight the opponent’s horse as their riders were to fight their opponents.
- 7) They had crowns like gold.
  - a) The crowns they wore are called *stephanoi* (ste’fan’oe), the victors' crowns.
  - b) This indicates that the demon host will be invincible, unstoppable, and all-conquering.
  - c) Men will have no weapon that can harm them and no cure for the terrible torment they inflict.
- 8) That their faces were like the faces of men, indicating they are intelligent, rational beings, not mindless insects.
- 9) Their hair was like the hair of women.
  - a) This characteristic is another that seems to have widely varying interpretation.
  - b) MacArthur says:

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“More likely this emphasizes their seductiveness. The glory or beauty of a woman is her hair, which she may decorate to become more alluring. Like the Sirens of Greek mythology, these locust-like demons will lure people to their doom.”

10) Adam Clark however brings a little different focus which seems more likely to me.

- a) Thru history, many warring armies, especially those in rebellion let their hair and beards grow.
- b) Remember, at this time, men’s hair was to be short and women’s hair long.

### **1 Cor 11:14-15 (NIV)**

11) Their teeth were as the teeth of lions simply indicates they are ferocious and cruel

- a) Since, as we were told in verse 5 “They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them ...” these teeth are not the way they accomplish their purpose.

12) Breastplates of iron

- a) Designed to protect the vital organs and preserve their lives
- b) Likely symbolizes again, their invulnerability
- c) They will be impossible to destroy.

13) The sound of their wings was like a moving army.

14) Finally, John says in verse 10 “They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails, they had power to torment people for five months.”

- a) This emphasizes the demonic torture and torment inflicted by their scorpion like tails.

15) The upside to all this might be the five months.

16) Just a curiosity question – what size do you imagine these creatures are?

### **Rev 9:11-12 (NIV)**

1) The paradox here is found in the interpretation of who Abaddon is.

- a) There are several interpretations as to exactly who Apollyon is – Satan, the Antichrist, and even Jesus.
- b) One source has him as: "Abaddon, however, is an angel not of Satan but of God, performing his work of destruction at God's bidding".
- c) Personally, logic says that the destroyer would not be Satan or the Antichrist.
  - i) Here, the question comes as to why would either one of them independently become instruments of torture bringing God’s rath on the unrepentant people of the earth?
- d) If I had to choose one, it would be an angel of God who was in charge of the Abyss.  
OPINION!

2) It is now time for the second woe – the sixth trumpet.

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- 3) It heralds another, more severe demonic attack on sinful mankind.
- 4) This attack, unlike the previous one, brings death.
- 5) It unfolds in three stages: the release of demons, the return of death, and the reaction of defiance.

### **Rev 9:13-16 (NIV)**

- 1) The consensus appears to be that the voice is not identifiable.
  - a) It could be an angel.
  - b) It could be God.
- 2) Just not enough inference or evidence to determine.
- 3) The altar here is the same as we have seen twice before.
  - a) In Rev 6:4, John saw that is was where the souls of the martyred saints were at rest.
  - b) In Rev 8:5 we see an angel fill a censor with fire from it and hurl it to the earth.
- 4) It is important not to miss the word bound here.
- 5) This indicates that these were fallen angels or demons.
- 6) They were obviously unable to release themselves for God had bound them.
  - a) They now become His instruments unleashing the devastation that were being held for.
- 7) They were in command of an army numbering 200,000,000 troops.
  - a) As you may recall from our list of symbols, this was the largest conceivable group of people.
  - b) It was also the approximate number of people in the Roman empire at that time.
    - i) The obvious inference here is that anyone who knew this census figure would realize there would be 1 troop for every citizen.
- 8) One further note regarding how this symbology would be viewed by those of John's time.
  - a) The river Euphrates was the boundary between the Roman empire and the barbarian hordes such as the Parthians.
  - b) It was also the river that was crossed by the Assyrians and Babylonians as they came to conquer Israel.