



# The Revelation of Jesus Christ

**CLA – 2016**

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# Chapter Nine

- **To refresh our memories – in chapter 5 we saw the Lamb take the scroll from the hand of the One on the throne.**
- **The scroll turned out to be the title deed to the Earth and it was sealed with 7 seals.**
- **Then starting in chapter 6 the Lamb began to break the seals one at a time and they turned out to be ways of sending judgment on sin and the sinners of the Earth.**

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- **In chapter 8 the first four of the Trumpet judgements sounded and they started with an eerie silence in Heaven of ½ hour.**
- **Why the silence? Perhaps because of the significance of the hour that is upon the world and because of the severity and intensity of the judgments.**
- **As it turns out, the first four trumpet judgments are on the ecosystems of the earth – the land, fresh water, sea water, and the sun moon and stars.**

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- **Not to be lost in all of this is the fact that we are in the time of the seventh and final seal that is broken to the scroll that is the title deed to the Earth.**
- **At this point, all of those people who we sometimes laugh at holding the “The End is Near” signs are right.**
- **Ezek 33:11 “Say to them, ‘As I live!’ declares the Lord God, ‘I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?’**



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- **9:1** Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him. **2** He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit. **3** Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. **4** They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. **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 man. **6** And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them.

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- **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 the faces of men. **8** They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like the teeth of lions. **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. **10** They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months. **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. **12** The first woe is past; behold, two woes are still coming after these things.



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# Chapter Nine

- **9:1 Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him.**
- **So who or what is this star? The text pretty much identifies this star as a person (the key to the bottomless pit was given to him).**
- **And who is the person? Verse 11 becomes more definite - his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon. (those words mean destroyer ) Clearly this star is Satan.**



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- Luke 10:18 And He said to them, “I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.”
- Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, 8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.
- Rev 12:4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.

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- It is well documented that Lucifer rebelled, was cast out of Heaven to the Earth, and renamed Satan.
- What is often forgotten is that while being cast out of Heaven will one day be permanent, for now he clearly has regular access to Heaven.
- Ask Job or see Rev 12: Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.”

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- **So who or what is in the pit to which Satan now has the key?**
- **Interesting to note here that Satan only has the power to do the things that God allows him to do. He would have loved to have unlocked the pit from the beginning, but was unable.**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> 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, reserved for judgment;**



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- **Jude 1:6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.**
- **So what do we know? Clearly in Jesus' day He cast demons out of people so by that alone we know that not all demons are in the locked pit.**
- **Luke 8:30 Jesus demanded, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, for he was filled with many demons. 31The demons kept begging Jesus not to send them into the bottomless pit**

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- **So now we know that of the demons that rebelled with Lucifer, 1/3 of them, some were sort of set free to do their evil on the Earth and some were locked up in the bottomless pit.**
- **We are not told for certain, but it seems reasonable to assume that the worst of the worst got locked up and the ones that were not as lethal were not.**
- **But now, in Revelation 9, the worst of the worst will be unleashed on the inhabitants of the Earth.**

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- **2 He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit. 3 Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power.**
- **One writer puts it this way, “I do know that the image here is that out of this pit comes ugly black pollution. And I think the spiritual tone of it is what is most important, it is hell belching out its corruption. It is the vile filth of the worst of the demons incarcerated in the pit let loose, demonic, satanic oppression comes roaring out of the heart of the earth, pushed out by infernal heat and pressure.”**



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- **And then following the filth that comes out of the pit are what John describes as locusts – no doubt these are the forms given to the demons of the pit.**
- **The power in these demonic locusts is described as that like a scorpion – “Stings can cause immediate pain or burning, and produce small swellings that are sensitive to the touch. Symptoms of Bark Scorpion stings result in numbness or tingling, blurry vision and twitching muscles.” Wikipedia**
- **Some of the physical affects are strikingly similar to that of people who are demon possessed.**

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- **4 They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 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 man.**
- **Normally, locusts devour vegetation in huge swaths, but not so with these demonic locusts – they are not permitted to consume vegetation, neither are they permitted to attack God’s people.**
- **Specifically, the scripture says the “sealed servants of God”, but it is possible this protection extends beyond the 144,000 to all believers of the time.**

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- **6 And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them.**
- **As bad as the demonic locust stings will be, none of them are lethal even though those stung wish they were.**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**



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- **13** Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, **14** one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” **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. **16** The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. **17** And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: the riders had breastplates the color of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone. **18** A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths. **19** For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm.

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- **13 Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”**
- **Now the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet sounds and we see four more demons being unchained to execute the judgment of the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet.**
- **During the first 6 seals and through the 4<sup>th</sup> trumpet God used angels to execute judgment when He needed a spiritual entity, but starting with the 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet He also includes fallen angels.**

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- **So how do we know these four beings described as angels, are demons?**
- **Because they are described as being bound and no where else in scripture do we see angels being bound, unless they are fallen angels, or demons.**
- **Some say the 200 million with them are the Red Chinese Army that is able to march west because of dried up Euphrates river, but that event does not happen until the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet blows and the bowl judgments begin.**



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- **Probably the best explanation of the players in this judgment is that the 4 angels are demons and the army of 200 million are additional demons.**
- **Why can't they be people? Well, I suppose it is possible they are, but there are some logistical problems to engage if this is a human army.**
- **Specifically, how does a 200 million man army march around the world on horses to kill 1/3 of the Earth's population? (latest study was in 2007 when the world's horse population was just 58 million)**

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- **17 And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: the riders had breastplates the color of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone.**
- **These are some very unusual horses because out of their mouths they can shoot fire, smoke, and brimstone. (The elements of hell)**
- **Are they really horses? Perhaps, but they may also be some other creature of hell that John simply does his best to describe.**

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- **Some teach that these are not really horses at all, but some sort of weaponized military vehicle.**
- **That too is possible because we are dealing with images of the future that are at best uncertain entities.**
- **Part of the reason for these more modernized conclusions is that smoke, fire, and brimstone could also have been John's best attempt at describing nuclear explosions.**



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- **Of this we can be certain – whatever these ‘horses’ (as described by John) turn out to be the affect of the judgment is the same.**
- **They will kill 1/3 of the world’s population with the powers they are assigned by God.**
- **It will be a dreadful time for all on the Earth – even the survivors will have to deal with what it means to have 1 of every three people on Earth die and either be buried or begin to decay.**

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- **18 A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths. 19 For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm.**
- **Now we are told even more about the ‘horses’ John sees – they not only spew smoke, fire, and brimstone from their mouths, but their tails have what appears to John as multiple sneak heads that can also do harm and kill.**



Revelation 9:14 thru 21

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- **20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; 21 and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.**
- **Try to imagine at this point all that the unbelieving survivors of all these judgments have been through.**
- **Now imagine a frame of mind that still will not be converted, and what that says about the power of sin.**

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- **By this point in the Tribulation those living unbelievers have evidently hardened their hearts beyond the point where they will ever be saved.**
- **They are warned (again) to turn from their idols (the works of their hands), their murders, their sorceries, and their thefts.**
- **These are perhaps the dominant sins of the day – free to murder without restraint because the judicial systems of the world have been broken down.**

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- **The word that is translated sorceries (pharmakeia) could just as easily be translated ‘drugs’.**
- **In his broad deception of the world, Satan, has possibly been introducing more and more narcotics and hallucinogens to dull the senses of his followers.**
- **If you keep a society in drunken or drugged stupors you have a better chance of controlling them.**



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- **The 4<sup>th</sup> sin John addresses is immoralities.... Probably a reference to sexual sins, and again it is a time when all restraints have been cast aside. Just look at what has been normalized in our day.**
- **The 5<sup>th</sup> sin that is mentioned is their ‘thefts’ – one can imagine that when huge swaths of humanity are killed, tortured, or taken that a lot of ‘stuff’ is available for the taking.**
- **Is it not interesting that “thou shall not steal” still matters?**

# Questions