

**THE COMING OF THE LORD**  
**THE BOTTOMLESS PIT OPENS—THE FIRST TWO WOES**  
**REVELATION 9:1-21**

**Introduction**

We have seen in Chapter 8 that the seventh seal has been opened which introduces the trumpet judgments of God. Four trumpets have been sounded thus far. The last three trumpets contain three woes. The word “*woe*” in the Scriptures refers to some great calamity, usually a judgment from God. This situation will be desperate indeed for those who don’t know Christ.

The tribulation period unmasks human character at its worst and also demonstrates the true character of Satan. In our modern day while Satan is still restricted, it is easy to forget the great conflict which is raging between the forces of God and the forces of Satan referred to in Ephesians 6:12.

In the great tribulation, and especially in the time of the fifth trumpet, the full character of Satan will be starkly manifested.

**I. THE STAR FROM HEAVEN. (9:1)**

The star that has fallen from Heaven is a personality, not an actual star. The word “*star*” can be used in a literal or a figurative sense as also is the case with the word “*fall*”.

The context here suggests that both of these are used in a figurative sense. Also note that this is in the perfect tense which signifies a completed action.

In reality, this “*star*” had fallen from Heaven long ago, but still had access to Heaven.

He has also been given the key to the bottomless pit which is the “*pit of the abyss.*”

Is this Satan? It is quite possible that it is. **Look at *Isaiah 14:12-17.***

Jesus said in Luke 10:18—“*And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.*”

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We know that Satan does have limited access to God’s presence. (*Job 1, 2; Revelation 12:10*). He is the “*accuser of the brethren.*”

The term “*bottomless pit*” or similar terms are found in the New Testament a number of times.

When our Lord was in the country of the Gadarenes, He met a man who had a legion of demons inside of him. Those demons begged not to be put into the abyss. Instead, they wanted to be put into the swine.

*Luke 8:31—“And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.”*

“*The deep*” is the same word found in ***Revelation 9:1***. It is the word for the abyss that means “*depthless.*”

Dr. Doddridge says, “*The abyss is the prison in which many of the fallen angels are detained; and to which some, who may, like these, have been permitted for a while to range at large, are sometimes by Divine justice and power remanded.*”

**Scripture indicates that there are two kinds of demons:**

**1. Those that are free, indwelling people or animals.**

**2. Those confined in chains of darkness to be reserved unto judgment.**

*Jude 1:6—“And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.”*

*2 Peter 2:4—“For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;”*

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The word “*Hell*” here is translated from the word *tartaros* which is the deepest abyss of Hades (or rather the pit of the abyss.)

**II. THE SUFFERING. (9:2-10)**

The pit or “*shaft*” of the bottomless pit is opened.

Evidently there is somewhere on the earth an opening leading to a shaft that goes from the surface of the earth to Hades.

When this shaft is opened, John says that smoke fills the air. The sun and air are darkened.

Unusual demonic-filled locust like creatures come out of this shaft that are under God’s restrictions.

They are not to hurt the grass or trees, but instead, they are to torment with their painful, scorpion-like stings, those individuals who have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

I’m told that the sting of a scorpion sets the nervous system on fire. It is very painful and some stings can cause a person to go into convulsions.

These creatures are to inflict pain and suffering for five months.

The pain from these creatures will be so intense that men will want to die because they are so miserable and are suffering so intensely. Men will suffer from these stings, but not enough to die.

In terror, men will seek to die because of these demonic invaders that can fly like locusts, run like horses, and sting like scorpions, but death will evade them.

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The appearance of these locust creatures is terrifying. John used the words “*like*” and “*as*” to try and describe those creatures the best way he knew how.

**Shape**—Like horses prepared for battle.

It is interesting to note that in Italy, locust are called *cavaletta*, (“*little horses*”).

In Germany they are called *heupferd* (*hay horse*).

**Heads**—Had golden, crownlike objects on them.

**Faces**—As the faces of men.

**Hair**—As the hair of women.

**Teeth**—As the teeth of lions.

**Breastplates**—As breastplates of iron.

**Wings**—Sounded like chariots and horses in battle.

**Tails**—Like scorpions.

**III. THE SATANIC LEADER. (9:11-12)**

The Satanic king of the bottomless pit is *Abaddon* or *Apollyon*. I believe this demon is Satan himself or if not, one of His leaders. “*Abaddon*” means “*a destroying angel.*” “*Apollyon*” means “*destroyer.*”

Such is the nature of Satan and his followers. Satan is out to destroy what God has done and he is out to destroy your life if you’ll let him!

**He wants to destroy this Church!**

**He wants to destroy this Pastor!**

**He wants to destroy this Nation!**

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**He wants to destroy our Families!**

Including Our Marriages!  
Including Our Children!

**He wants to destroy Us!**

He Wants Our Souls! (But praise God he can't get those who are saved!)  
He Wants Our Lives!  
He Wants Our Testimonies!

*1 Peter 5:8-9—“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”*

**Read verse 12!**

**IV. THE SOLDIERS OF DEATH. (9:13-15)**

When the sixth angel sounds his trumpet he is instructed to loose four angels that are bound in the Euphrates river.

These wicked angels have been prepared for the exact day, hour, month, and year to be unleashed on the earth in order to destroy 1/3 of the population of the world.

This means that about half of the world's population is destroyed after this trumpet. One fourth of the population is destroyed in Revelation 6:8.

That leaves 75% of the original population after the Rapture. If we take off another 1/3 or 33% of what is left that leaves slightly more than 50% (50.25%).

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If we take into account others that have died in the meantime, over half the world's population is gone at this point. With the present population that would be over 3.5 billion people who have perished!

The judgment here depicted, that of slaying the third part of men, is one of the most devastating mentioned anywhere in the book of Revelation prior to the second coming.

Never since Noah has such a substantial proportion of the earth's population come under God's righteous judgment.

*Matthew 24:22—“And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.”*

The Euphrates River is in the Middle East, which today is the most volatile spot in the world.

These angels lead a huge demonic controlled army. Two hundred million cavalry will go to battle on horse-like creatures that have heads like a lion and have mouths that spue forth fire, smoke, and brimstone.

It is interesting to note that in a Time magazine article in the , May 21, 1965, edition on page 35 it stated that Red China alone claims to have a man-and-woman militia of 200,000,000.

Will this be the army, we can't say for sure. Some have interpreted the descriptions as John's understanding of a scene in which modern warfare is under way.

What we do know is that 1/3 of the population at that time will be killed.

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What we do know is this— there can be no peace until the Prince of peace rules.

**V. THE STUBBORN SINNERS. (9:20-21)**

As bad as things are on the earth, men in their stubbornness and rebellion will not repent. Such is the case when people get hard-hearted.

**Six major sins will permeate the Tribulation Period:**

**A. Occultism—Devil Worship**

*Leviticus 19:31—“Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.”*

**B. Idolatry**

Idolatry deceives men. The most prevalent idolatry in the world today is the worship of Mary and images of the saints by the Catholic church.

**C. Murder**

When the Gospel’s influence is unknown or weak, life is cheap.

Violent murders will be common in the Tribulation. It will be the survival of the fittest and meanest.

**D. Sorcery**

In the Old Testament, this was associated with witchcraft. The last five occurrences in the New Testament deal with drug addiction. The Greek word that is translated as “*sorcery*” means “*enchantment with drugs or to get high on drugs.*”

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Drunkenness and drug addiction will be wide spread as men seek some kind of relief from their sufferings.

**E. Fornication**

Sexual perversion in all of its forms will be prevalent.

**F. Thefts**

Lawlessness will abound as men and women try to survive.

**Conclusion**

The world is not getting any better. It is getting worse. As bad as things are, men still refuse to repent. They are saving up wrath for themselves.

*Romans 9:22—“What if God, willing to show his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:”*

*Romans 2:5-6—“But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6Who will render to every man according to his deeds:”*