



# The Trumpets Unvield: Part 2

*Revelation 9*

## ORDINATION

### Jonathan,

Today we entrust to you the pastoral office and affirm the calling of God in your life to “Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as an overseer, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as lording over those entrusted to you, but being an example to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity... give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Midweek Study - begins Wednesday at 6:30 - What God Says: A biblical discussion about love, judgment, and sexuality.

◦ **[Hos 4:6 NKJV] 6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.**

- Evangelism 101 - This evening at 6:30 pm in the Chapel
- Next Sunday will be a special service that it's very important for you to attend!

## APPLICATION

There are people who, the Bible says, conscience is have been seared with a hot iron. Their singular goal is to bring everyone else in to subservient to their worldview and lifestyle. They will take advantage of politics, religion, or any other platform where they can take the moral high ground and put everyone else on the defensive. the tragic thing is, they have no moral dilemma with lying, manipulating, deceiving, aligning and slandering, in order to bully their way over other voices that are speaking the truth. But we have news! The church will not become subservient, or bow their knee to anyone other than Jesus Christ.

Jesus said that he sends us out as Jesus said that he sends us out as sheep among the wolves. We are to be as gentle as doves, but also as wise as serpents. No, we will not use the enemies tactics against the enemy. We will not choose the path of pride, manipulation, or deceit. But we will, with our boldness, wisdom, and courage, engage the lies that are bringing people into bondage. And whether we are victorious, or whether we are crushed, we will not back down from standing in, and speaking forth the truth.

## BIBLE PASSAGE

**[Rev 9:1-21 NKJV] 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.

## REVIEW

We've journeyed with John from the island of Patmos to the heavenly throne room. John, being in the spirit, begins to see the things that must still take place after the church age is completed.

- **As we look again at our timeline**, we find ourselves right now in the middle of the final seven years of the world as we know it. We have seen that once the restraining force of the Holy Spirit is released, and the antichrist comes to world power, the woes from heaven are released upon the earth at a rate and scale the world has ever seen or known up to that point.
  - The earth begins to break loose with massive earthquakes and major volcanic activity. The atmosphere is filled with smoke and ashes, hail and lightning.
  - There seems to be an unexpected meteor or asteroid activity that brings its destructive power to the earth, killing a third of mankind and poisoning a third of the waters.
- This is a time of great deception, but in the midst of the devastation, God's gospel is once again going forth. 144,000 Jewish remnants are divinely selected and protected to carry the mission of Christ. Many come out of the tribulation with faith in Christ, but their call during that time is not to live for Christ but to do for Christ as they face the satanic wrath of the antichrist.

## BIBLE PASSAGE

**1 Corinthians 7:31 - ...For the form of this world is passing away.**

## BIBLE PASSAGE

**[1Jo 2:17-19 NKJV] 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but [they went out] that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.**

## APPLICATION

The seven trumpets have begun to sound, and with each trumpet, another woe is released upon the earth and its inhabitants. The 5th angel with the 5th trumpets enters a new realm, and a demonic realm is unveiled and unleashed upon the earth.

- Understandably so, there are many proposed interpretations of what this 5th trumpet brings forth. Some suggest that these locust-type creatures are figurative for world leaders, others religious deception, and still others that these are actual creatures that will be physically present on the earth.
- I'll be honest, I don't know for sure, but I think there are clues here that can give us some certainties about what's going on, and should even grant us some warning about spiritual warfare today.

## BIBLE PASSAGE

**[Rev 9:1-21 NKJV] 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.

## 1 The Angels

### BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 9:1-21 NKJV] 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.

### THEIR DESCRIPTION

Star –Greek word “Aster” - Here, it is given a masculine suffix and is referred to as a HE. In a literal interpretation of verse 1, we would say that this is an actual star, but in the context of verse 2 and in conjunction with other scriptures, we see that this is a personage, most likely an angelic being.

- This “star” or angelic/demonic being may or may not be Satan. In this chapter, we see two angelic beings. This one is here in verse 1, and one called "Abaddon" or “Apollyon.” Both names mean destroyer."
- Many believe that one of these angels is Satan, but it’s debated on which one. Some believe that John is seeing a past event describing the original fall from Satan to the Earth:
  - Fallen from Heaven – is actually in the past tense. It would read, “...had fallen from heaven.” There are those who believe that this refers to Satan’s fall from heaven.
  - Ezekiel 28:13-19 – Satan was lifted up with pride and was cast from heaven to wander the earth.

**[Eze 28:17 NKJV] 17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.**

It could be that in this last period of time, Satan is given an extra measure of authority to unleash the armies of hell onto the earth.

In Chapter 20, however, we do see another angel with the key to the bottomless pit that shuts Satan back up. Perhaps this is that same angel and not Satan.

***The main and important point here is that there are spiritual beings who have the power to unleash hell on Earth. And we aren't talking about men just making a mess of things under Satan's influence. That's what we mostly have today. We are talking about actual demonic beings being manifest and physically tormenting humanity.***

## THE KEY

This bottomless pit is the Greek word Abusso, or the abyss.

- Bottomless pit - Many believe that this could be the center of the earth where gravity intersects and there is neither up nor down. The centrifugal force of the spinning earth would create an equal amount of gravity coming from every direction, which would cause suspended animation.

## WHAT IS IT:

- We can gather from scripture that it is a prison for fallen angels (Luke 8:31, Jude 1:6). It has a key which means it is locked and can not be entered or exited without God's authority.

## BIBLE PASSAGE

**[Luk 8:30-31 NKJV] 30 Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. 31 And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.**

**[2Pe 2:4 NKJV] 4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;**

**[Jde 1:6 NKJV] 6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;**

The idea we get about angels and spiritual being confined to the prison of the bottomless pit is that they are the worst of the worst. The most vile, perverted, rebellious of the entire bunch. This is the death row, solitary confinement crowd. These were the angels that sought to sexually pervert humankind by sleeping with women.

- Left their proper domain. In other words, angels were in a spirit I domain, and they left their proper domain to engage in lascivious, lewd, and sexually perverted acts in the physical domain.
  - God is not happy when sexual domains are crossed. This is not new. It's the same language we see in Romans 1: **[Rom 1:26-28 NKJV] 26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;**
  - **Why do I bring this up? Because sexual immorality that is outside of God's natural order comes from demonic influences that were so bad that God locked them up!**

## 2 The Locusts

### APPLICATION

**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.**

First we see the attack from hell, literally. Notice four things about these creatures:

- 1. Their Origin (2-3)**
- 2. Their Objective (3-6)**
- 3. Their Optics (7-10)**
- 4. Their Overlord (11)**

### 1. THEIR ORIGIN

The bottomless pit – this tells us that they are probably some form of demonic force. These are probably not the exact fallen angels that are bound until the day of judgment, but we get the idea that those demons confined to the bottomless pit are not as tame as the ones roaming around Earth today.

John Phillips writes:

***"Picture what the world today would be like if we were to open the doors of all the penitentiaries of earth and set free the world's most vicious and violent criminals, giving them full reign to practice their infamies upon mankind. Something worse than that lies in store for the world. Satan, cast out of heaven, is now permitted to summon to his aid the most***



***diabolical fiends in the abyss to act as his agents in bringing mankind to the footstool of the beast."***

- Smoke – Smoke is often associated with judgment in the Bible.
- Locust – at first glance, we would take this literally, that God is going to send a locust. But as we look further, we see that the locust are linked to different things. In other words, the descriptions indicate that these are not literal locusts. This tells us that John is using a lot of figurative language.
  - Like scorpions, like horses, like men's faces, like women's hair, like lions' teeth.
  - We get the sense that in his descriptive language, the demons are like locusts in their vast number and destructive force.

In the context of scripture, what do locusts represent? Judgment. God used locusts as one of his plagues to judge Egypt. Locust can also represent the nature of an enemy attack.

- Even today, Locusts can completely overwhelm complete populations. They eat and destroy all crops in their path.
- A swarm can tower 2 miles in height and cover an area of 155 square miles, and number in the tens of millions.
- They still have swarms like these in **Africa and Australia [image]**.
- The idea is that these forces of hell come in major numbers, destroying everything in their path and not ceasing until their time is up. They are relentless and destructive.

## 2. THEIR OBJECTIVE

**[Rev 9:4-6 NKJV] 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.**

They are like locusts in their numbers and devastating force, but unlike locusts, they also have an excruciating sting upon the individual. Normal locusts consume vegetation, but not these. These consume humanity. Their scorpion nature causes their effect to bring about the desire for death within the unbelieving world.

- There have been women stung by scorpions going on record saying that giving birth was a walk in the park compared to a direct sting by a deadly scorpion.
- The sealed will be protected - the 144,000 Jews along with those who have the name of God written on them because of their faith in Christ, will be immune to these demonic stings and havoc.

### They will seek death and not find it:

- Personally, I believe that much of the increase in suicide has to do with demonic lies and activity. But here, mankind will be so tormented that death would be the preferable option, but it will not be found.
- Sadly, you could say that these people on earth get a foretaste of what eternity will be like. Hell will be forever torment but never death.
  - **[2Th 1:9 NKJV] 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,**
  - This foretaste was allowed by God to wake mankind out of their stupor, but alas, at the end of all of this, they still refused to repent of their wickedness.
- How do you seek death and not find it? Part of me wonders if this implies direct demonic possession. The people, in their hearts and minds, will desire death when they experience everything going on around them and within them, but the demonic forces controlling them will not allow them to do anything that would result in death. Instead, they must endure torment.

### 3. THEIR OPTICS

**[Rev 9:7-10 NKJV] 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.**

Whether John is describing their actual physical appearance or not, I'm not sure. If he is, they are among **the ugliest creatures imaginable**. Here's what we can gather:

- *They are prepared like battle horses (intent is war)*

- *They have crowns (authority – humanity, without God’s protection, will have no authority to control them.)*
- *Their heads seem to be human-like with sharp, vicious teeth (deception – it’s possible that something about these creatures will be initially perceived as good until they open their mouths).*
- *They have long-flowing women’s hair (Now, don’t get upset with me here, but John’s language is specific on purpose. The gender in these sentences is clear. Their faces are like MEN, and their hair is like WOMEN. In other words, these demons are non-binary, a gender-neutral mix.)*
- *Breastplates of iron protect them (they cannot be affected by human attempts to stop them)*
- *Stingers that they use to inflict pain on people. Their sting is in their tale. Perhaps this speaks to the reality that you don't see their devastating intentions until it's too late.*

*Five months is the typical lifespan of a locust. This demonic army is given this power for 5 months during these final 3 1/2 years or so.*

#### QUOTE

“ I can't imagine what this will materialize as... none of us can. I have to agree with Warren Wiersbe when he concludes:

***"It is unnecessary to try to “spiritualize” these symbols, or to interpret them in light of modern means of warfare. John is heaping image upon image to force us to feel the horror of this judgment."***

Wiersbe, W. W., The Bible exposition commentary (Vol. 2, p. 595). Victor Books.

#### 4. THEIR OVERLORD

**[Rev 9:11 NKJV] 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.**

#### APPLICATION

Unlike natural locusts, which have no head or ruler, this demonic army has a king. This implies they have a will, they have a rank and order, and they have a strategy and plan. Their actions reflect the name of their leader.

- **Abaddon (Hebrew) / Apollyon (Greek) - Destroyer.**
- Again, some maintain this is Satan, because Satan, by nature, is a destroyer. However, Satan is identified at other points in Revelation by name, so it could be that this is another fallen angel.
- Whoever it is, it is part of the satanic force, and it is an incredibly evil creature.

**But here's the point we need to remember. Even the most powerful, evil, destructive beings in existence are under the authority of God. This destroyer has no power to do anything until God gives the green light, and even then, God gives parameters and boundaries that this angel and his demonic army cannot cross.**

## APPLICATION

I find this incredibly consoling and strengthening.

- Sometimes it feels as though the wrong will triumph. Sometimes it appears as though the righteous are trampled and the enemies of truth stand as conquerors.
- But Christian, we can't forget the end of the story. Yes, for reasons that are sometimes beyond our grasp or comprehension, God allows evil to win temporary victories, but when we feel defeated, become deflated, or are on the verge of giving up hope, let us remember this:
  - **Romans 8:31 - If God be for us, who can be against us?**
  - **Romans 8:37 - We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.**
  - **2 Corinthians 2:14 - 14 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.**
  - **Colossians 2:15 - 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them...**

