

Prayer:

In the OT from Genesis 12 on the FOCUS is on God building and working through nation of Israel. Israel was the one chosen nation. They were God's witness nation. They were the nation that received the Scriptures. And in those Scriptures Israel was the key focal point nation. The Messianic prophecies were centered in Israel. The coming kingdom prophecies were centered in Israel – although Gentiles also would have a part.

The OT Jews knew NOTHING about the Church or that there would even be a Church. That is because it wasn't revealed in the OT. They knew of a coming Messiah. They read of a coming terrible time of suffering before the coming reign of Messiah, but they didn't put it all together.

They didn't see there would be TWO comings of the Messiah. They didn't see the Church Age. Now with the completion of the canon of Scripture, we see the BIG picture. We see that God has temporarily set Israel aside and is right now building a forever family of both Jews and Gentiles called the Church. When the Church is completed, it will be raptured, and then God will resume and complete His program for Israel.

God outlined His special program for Israel in what is called the 70 weeks of Daniel Prophecy as found in Daniel 9:24-27. This amounts to 490 years of special dealings with Israel. 69 weeks of years (that is 483 years) were completed at the triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem just a few days before He was crucified. And then there was to be an indefinite parenthesis period that we now know essentially corresponds to the Church Age.

At the completion of the Church Age, Antichrist will sign a 7-year (1 week) covenant with Israel, as indicated in Daniel 9:27. Again, Israel will be the FOCAL point. This 7-year period is often called the Tribulation Period. But note, according to Daniel, this has NOTHING to do with the Church and everything to do with Israel! In Daniel 9:24 it very specifically says that all 70 weeks (490 years) ***“are determined for your people [Jews] and for your holy city [Jerusalem].”*** This last 7-year period involves the whole world, but it especially targets Israel.

Slide # 1

Jeremiah 30:7 (NKJV)

7 Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.

Jesus, building on Daniel, showed there would be two parts to the 7-year tribulation period.

Slide # 2

Matthew 24:8 “beginning of birth pangs.” [**Beginning**]

Matthew 24:15 “ ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel” [**Middle** see Daniel 9:27]

Matthew 24:21 “then there will be great tribulation” [**End**]

Slide # 3



What the book of Revelation does is take the whole of redemptive history and present the end of the matter in a sequential manner. The basic order of things is given in the inspired outline of Revelation 1:19.

Slide # 4

Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

- “have seen” – Past (Vision of Christ) – **Ch. 1**
- “which are” – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- **“after this” – Future (Post-Church Age)** – Ch. 4-22
- - Scene in heaven – Ch. 4-5
- - **Tribulation – Ch. 6-18**
- - Second Coming – Ch. 19
- - Kingdom – Ch. 20
- - Eternal State – Ch. 21-22

In the section we are in (Rev. 6-18), the church is heaven while the tribulation period is taking place on earth. In Revelation 5, Christ takes the scroll, representing the title deed of the earth. It is layered with seven seals.

Those seven seals represent a series of 7 judgments which Christ unleashes one at a time involving a process of judgments in which He takes back the rule of earth for mankind.

The first four seals take place in the first half of the tribulation. Seals 5 and 6 are introductory to the second half of the tribulation. The seventh seal introduces the trumpet judgments, which take place in the second half of the tribulation. And out of the seventh trumpet come the climactic bowl judgments. These judgments come with increasing frequency and intensity.

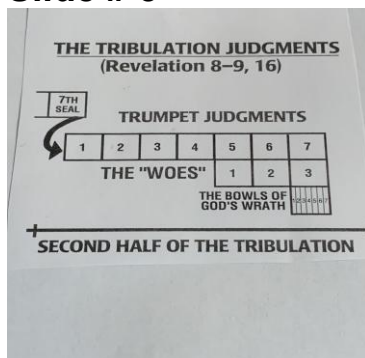
As we now come to the fifth trumpet judgment in chapter 9 a dramatic shift takes place. As seen at the end of chapter 8, the scene is set by an eagle flying through the midst of heaven, pronouncing ominous woes in conjunction with the final three trumpet judgments.

In the first four trumpet judgments, we saw the repeated emphasis on 1/3 of nature being devastated in various spheres. But now, under the first trumpet/WOE judgment, we see the release of a demonic army that comes out of the pit to inflict indescribable torment on the unsaved of the world. And that brings us to chapter 9.

Revelation 9:1–12 (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.

Slide # 5



“Fallen” here is in the perfect tense, meaning completed action with continuing results. This “star” had already fallen from heaven to earth.

Note that this star is a PERSON, a being of some sort, because he is given the key to the bottomless pit, and we find in verse 2 that he opened it.

Scholars are divided as to whether this individual is an angel, a special messenger from God, a fallen angel or even Satan himself.

– **David Levy**

Most think it is probably an angel of some sort, either holy or unholy. Angels in the Bible are occasionally called “stars” (cf. Job 38:7; Isa. 14:13).

Because of Rev. 20:1-2 some think this is a good or holy angel dispatched to do this. But note the contrast...

Slide # 6

Revelation 9:1 (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.

Revelation 20:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Then I saw an angel **coming down from heaven**, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

There is a distinction between the holy angel coming down from heaven and this angel being “fallen” from heaven (cf. Isa. 14:12, 15; Lk. 10:18). I take it this “star” is likely Satan himself, who has recently been expelled from heaven as seen in Rev. 12:7-9. Rev. 12:9 says he “was cast to the earth.”

Some have taken issue with this being Satan because Christ has the keys of “Hades and Death” as seen in Rev. 1:18. Yes, He does, but everything that Satan is allowed to do, he does by permission, and this would be no different. Satan can only go so far as he is allowed.

The fallen star is a person, the king over the beings in the pit (Rev. 9:11). He does not have complete authority, for the key to the pit had to be given to him before he could loose his army. This “star” is probably Satan and the army, his demons (Eph. 6:10ff).

– **Warren Wiersbe**

“The bottomless pit” is more literally “***the shaft of the abyss***”. The meaning of abyss is literally “***without a base***” or the idea of the “***unfathomable deep***”. The word ***shaft*** denotes the entry channel to this place, which is shown as having a lid of some sort that is locked (cf. Num. 16:33).

“The use of the word “shaft” gives the picture of a pit entered by a shaft or well that is guarded under lock and key.” – ***Charles Ryrie***

This bottomless pit is the temporary holding place of especially bad demons. It is a demon prison as they await final judgment. This exact word is used in Luke 8:31 (cf. Rev. 9:2, 11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1, 3; Rom. 10:7).

Slide # 7

Luke 8:31 (NKJV)

31 And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

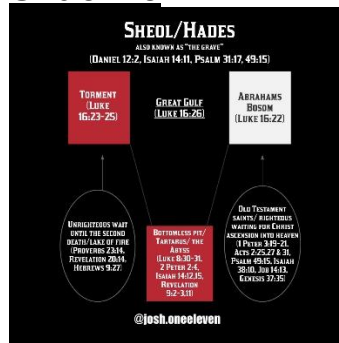
The word Abyss is found 7 times in the book of Revelation – 3 times in this chapter, where it denotes the abode of demons (11:1-2, 11). In Rev. 11:7 and 17:8, it denotes where the antichrist goes at the time of his temporary death. In Rev. 20:1 and 3, it denotes where Satan will be bound for the 1000-year reign of Christ. Outside of Revelation, it is found only two other times in the N.T. – once in Luke 8:31, where it is shown to be the abode of demons, and once in Rom. 10:7, where Christ is said to have descended into the deep – into the realm of the spirit world.

The word abyss can be used as a general word corresponding essentially to Hades, referring to the underworld, which is the realm of departed spirits. However, the word abyss is most often used specifically to speak of the lowest netherworld located in the center of the earth, which is the special abode of demons.

Therefore, this place refers to the underworld, which is a prison house of demons (cf. Lk. 8:31; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6) and to the realm of departed spirits of lost souls (Rom. 10:7)

The Bible uses different terms to refer to a special prison for demons that evidently, after the flood, were so bad that they were no longer allowed to run free. 2 Pet. 2:4 speaks of fallen angels who are being held in “chains of darkness” and Jude 6 speaks of those being held in “everlasting chains”. But as we will see, there are some who are being held presently who will at this future point be released.

Slide # 8



I take it that it is probably Satan who has just recently been kicked out of all aspects of heaven and confined to earth who is now given the key to the bottomless pit and thus granted permission to loose his demonic army on the earth.

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.

This pit is obviously a dark hot place and it is not even the final lake of fire which is the eternal home for Satan and all those who follow him. As he opened the lid on this abyss smoke poured out so thick that it darkened the sun and the air was polluted.

At this point you might say that a little bit of hell is being unleashed on earth.

Jesus spoke of hades as a “***furnace of fire***”.

Slide # 9

Matthew 13:49–50 (NKJV)

49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just,

50 and cast them into the **furnace of fire**. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

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.

As we will see these are not normal locusts – rather these metaphorically speaking are demonic locusts.

These creatures are described as being very real, so we must not consider them as merely “symbolic representations of judgment.” They are animal creatures, like locusts, though not ordinary locusts, for they are demonic in nature. – **Charles Ryrie**

Satan at this point is restricted to the earth, and he will seek to marshal all his demonic forces, including those who had previously been roaming the earth, those cast down from heaven with him, and those especially bad ones now released from the bottomless pit. Hell is literally being unleashed on earth! This is literally a demonic invasion of planet earth! The aliens have arrived!

Locusts in the Bible often symbolize judgment, especially in the book of Joel, which has a Day of the Lord judgment theme (cf. Ex. 10:4-15; Deut. 28:38, 42; 1 Kg. 8:37; 2 Chron. 7:13; Joel 1:2-4, 15; 2:25; Amos 4:9). Locusts are known for devouring everything in their path.

Again, note they are “given power”. Everything Satan and his demons are able to do is only because God allows them to do it. They can only go as far as God allows. This was demonstrated very clearly in the book of Job.

Scorpions are known for their painful and often lethal stings.

The symptoms of a sting from one of the deadly species, including severe convulsions and paralysis, resemble those of demon-possessed individuals (cf. Mk. 1:23-27; 9:20, 26). – **John MacArthur**

Imagine if all the doors of the world’s penitentiaries were suddenly thrust open, and out came the most vicious, violent criminals in the world, and they were allowed to once again inflict the world with their cruelties. But something much worse is in store for the world. That is demons so notoriously evil that they had previously been locked up from other demons that still roam free – these will be unleashed to go forth with scorpion-like power to inflict stinger pain on people.

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.

Clearly, these are not merely normal locusts. They have the cognitive ability to be commanded on what they cannot do. They are commanded not eat vegetation, which is what normal locusts do.

The grass previously destroyed under the first trumpet judgment (8:7) has now grown back. And they are restricted from harming those who have the seal of God on their foreheads. This certainly includes the 144,000 as seen in 7:1-8).

Slide # 10

“Although this judgment is literally hell on earth, the overruling power of God is interwoven throughout this passage.” – **Charles Ryrie**

However, they are allowed to go after unbelievers, which they will do so with a voracious vengeance. And in that regard, they will be unstoppable!

Most probably those who have God’s seal will be witnessing powerfully during this time, and many will actually get saved and are probably part of the great throng seen in heaven as noted in Rev. 7.

Ironically, it is rebel demons who go after the rebels on the earth! There is no loyalty among Satan’s followers. Demons are only out to hurt people – sharing in the nature of their leader, the devil, who comes to steal, kill, and destroy (Jn. 10:10). They show no mercy – ever!

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.

Once again, a limit is placed on them in terms of the harm they can inflict (cf. Job 1:9-12).

These locust demons were not allowed to kill their unsaved victims, but only to torment them for five months. It is noted that this is about the average life span of a locust (May – Sept). Their torment was exceedingly painful – like that of a scorpion.

It is noted that whenever Jesus encountered a demon-possessed person, they were always being tormented (cf. Mk. 9:14-29; Lk. 8:26-29). Demons specialize in tormenting people. They NEVER help them!

6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

What an amazing reality! People will want to die and not be able to. They will be in such misery that they want to die, and yet somehow, supernaturally, God will not allow it to happen.

Here you have a world full of people invaded by demons out of the bottomless pit who are so afflicted by them that they want to die and yet can't.

Christ warned...

Slide # 11

Matthew 24:21 (NKJV)

21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

This statement that this will be an unparalleled time of tribulation was also stated by Daniel and Jeremiah (cf. Dan. 12:1; Jer. 30:7).

Have you ever thought about this? How can this be true when everyone in the whole world died in the flood of Noah's day except for the eight people in the ark? Isn't that the absolute worst? The answer is NO!

The issue is the level of suffering, misery, and torment involved on a worldwide level! This is not just some localized misery; this is total worldwide anguish on a scale unmatched in the annals of history.

Think about what we have here in just the first part of Revelation 9 involving lingering torment and misery so bad that people just want to die and can't. This may involve billions of people with ongoing excruciating PAIN and TORMENT that just won't leave!

People drown in a relatively short amount of time. The whole world drowned (except for eight people) in a relatively short amount of time. But this misery in the great tribulation goes on and on – month after month – year after year. The level of misery experienced during this time will be unprecedented! It is unequalled torment that just won't quit.

Really, what you have here is a taste of HELL, only HELL truly is forever.

People have really been hard on God for bringing this on the world, but He is totally justified in doing so. However, it might actually be a measure of GRACE! In giving these people a real sample of HELL, many might actually repent and be saved! Perhaps this is part of the reason God does not allow them to die! They definitely are going to have some time to think about it.

Slide # 12

The fact that they could not kill these unsaved souls may indicate that the purpose of this judgment is to lead the undecided to faith in Christ. – **Tim LaHaye**

As the rebellion grows stronger the judgments become more intense but even in this there is perhaps a measure of mercy. In wrath God remembers mercy (Hab. 3:2).

As we come to verse 7 he shifts from talking about what these demon-locusts do to what characterizes them.

Slide # 13

Vss. 1-6 - The **Impact** of the Locusts

Vss. 7-12 - The **Characteristics** of the Locusts

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.

Note the predominance of the words “like” and or “as”. It’s hard to describe these demons with precision.

They look like war horses rushing to battle.

Although the description resembles locusts, these locusts are apparently much larger than normal. In effect, they are supernatural locust-demons.

On their heads were crowns of gold evidently reflecting their position of dominance.

They had faces like men.

A man's face is the index of his soul. It is mobile and expressive and gives countenance to his emotions and intelligence. No beast has a face so expressive of the hidden life within. Faces like men is a symbolic way of telling us that these fiends are highly intelligent.

– **John Phillips**

What scary-looking creatures they are, and it would seem that their very appearance relays the misery they are going to inflict.

8 They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

A woman's long hair is her glory, but on these demons it is paired with teeth like lions'. That is quite a combination – a frightful sight!

Lion teeth are able to inflict terrible wounds that would normally be fatal. The size of lions' teeth would seem to indicate that these creatures are quite large – perhaps comparable to the size of a real horse.

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.

Breastplates speak of the protection of vital organs. This seems to indicate they are invincible at least in terms of the torment they are allowed to carry on for five months.

John Phillips thinks breastplates of iron may also speak to the fact that they are insensitive to the pain they are causing.

They know no mercy. Even the most insensitive person has some tender spot, some chord that can be touched, but these alien creatures are merciless. They feast on human pain as on a tasty morsel. – **John Phillips**

The sound of wings like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle was the most fearsome sound of warfare in the ancient world.

Everything about them is terrifying! How they look, how they sound, and what they do!

10 They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.

This is essentially a repeat of verse 5 where we found that their sting was so severe that people want to die and yet can't. And this lingers continually for five months.

What scary creatures these are. In appearance, they are a combination of horse, man, locust, lion, and scorpion. They are a combination of human intelligence and beastly ferociousness.

They combine characteristics of horse, chariot, lion, man, and scorpion. This full description is sufficient of itself to demonstrate that the locusts cannot be literal, but are symbolic. Mark you, they are none the less real for their figurative character. – **Charles Feinburg**

“There are more occurrences of the words “as” and “like” here than in any other chapter in the Bible. This shows how difficult it was for John to describe the scene he saw in the vision.” – **Charles Ryrie**

John is piling image upon image to make us feel the horror of this judgment!

Slide # 14

Shape: like horses prepared for battle
 Heads: crowns like gold
 Faces: like men's
 Hair: like women's
 Teeth: like lions'
 Breastplates: like iron
 Wings: like the sound of chariots of many horses
 Tails: like scorpions

We don't need 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.

– **Warren Wiersbe**

John has painted a horribly frightening picture of these invading creatures. The very portrait describing them is terrifying. To think about being attacked by them is overwhelming.

Slide # 15

“I have not exaggerated the horrors of the coming judgment upon the earth, which judgment is but a foretaste of an eternal hell to follow. OH, trust the Lord Jesus Christ at once.” -**Leman Strauss**

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.

Here it plainly says these demonic creatures have a king over them who is said to be the angel of the bottomless pit. Normal locusts have no king.

Slide # 16**Proverbs 30:27 (NKJV)**

27 The locusts have no king, Yet they all advance in ranks;

There are various ideas as to who this fallen angel is but my view is that it is Satan. In all the Scriptures, ONLY Satan is said to be “the ruler of demons” (Mt. 12:24). Jesus spoke of “the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Mt. 25:41).

Even though at this point Satan has not been in the bottomless pit, he has exercised authority over all those who have been.

He is the reason they are there! They follow him in his rebellion! My view is that the king over these demons is Satan himself. I don’t see anyone else in the whole of Scripture that would qualify.

Slide # 17

Hebrew: Abaddon – meaning destruction or ruin

Greek: Apollyon – meaning destroyer

This is what the devil does! God is a Creator, a Redeemer, the devil is a destroyer (cf. Job 26:6; 28:22; 31:12; Ps. 88:11; Prov. 15:11; 27:20). That defines him and as king over these demons it is also what defines them.

By the way this is why the ministry of Jesus was so convincing that He was from God. He constantly went about doing good! No demon ever does this. Yes, they might, for deceptive purposes, appear as angels of light (2 Cor. 11:14), but consistently the fruit of their doings is destructive!

Slide # 18

Acts 10:38 (NKJV)

38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Jesus went about doing good, the devil goes about oppressing people. The contrast could not be greater. And this is why saying what Jesus did was by the power the devil (blasphemy of the Spirit) was so serious as to be unforgivable!

Although this judgment is literally hell on earth, the overruling power of God is interwoven throughout this passage. He allows this judgment to occur; He sets the limits on the destructive power of these demon-locusts; He brings it to a conclusion when His purpose is finished. He is in complete control. – **Charles Ryrie**

12 One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

What we have seen in Revelation 9:1-12 is the first WOE!

Two more “woes” remain containing even more severe suffering and pain.

Hell is real! In this section, we see that in the Great Tribulation, earth will get a foretaste of what hell will be like.

Thank God for common grace in this age of grace, and that the most evil of the demons are currently locked up. Woe be to the earth when they are released.

Slide # 19

2 Thessalonians 2:6–7 (NKJV)

6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.

The restrainer I take to be the Holy Spirit working through the church.

For God's people, there is a hedge around us (cf. Job 1-2) constantly protecting us. Satan and his demons can only do what they are permitted to do.

Slide # 20

1 John 5:18–19 (NKJV)

18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

Four Fisherman – Niagara River

A number of years ago, four fishermen were fishing in a boat on the Niagara River, some distance above the famed falls. The fish were not biting, and the men got into a controversy about hell. Three of them contended that there is no such place.

The fourth argued that there is a real hell based on the testimony of Scripture.

The discussion became so heated that they failed to notice the signs warning of getting perilously close to the sweep of the current, which, if caught in its grip, would carry them over the falls.

Suddenly perceiving their danger, they rowed with all their might, barely escaping to a safe spot on the river.

"If there is no such place as hell said the believer why were you so afraid to go over the falls?" One of them replied, "The no-hell doctrine is good enough to go fishing with, but very poor to go over the falls with".

People often talk big when the pressure is not on! They have no fear of God and brag about it! “Such people are playing the fool! The Bible says the fool says in His heart “no God” which is really a statement of defiance (Ps. 14:1). The fool says NO to God! But God will have the last word.

Deut. 7:10 says God “**repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them.**” The Bible says, “**Do not be deceived, God is not mocked**” (Gal. 6:7).

The old preacher said: “**Pay day some day!**” Judgment day some day! It’s coming! It’s as sure as the Word of God!

Jesus said...

Luke 21:34–36 (NKJV)

34 “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

We have been warned. We have no excuse! God in grace is still waiting for more to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)

9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

John 3:36 (NKJV)

36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

Come to Jesus! Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!