

CHAPTERS 8 & 9

–THE SEVENTH SEAL–

Seven Angels, Seven Trumpets



“SEVEN ANGELS stood before God to pour out God’s wrath upon His enemies. Seven trumpets were given to the angels.

“THE SEVEN ANGELS received the trumpets, took their position, as directed, and prepared to sound.”

THE SEVEN ANGELS

Revelation 8:1

Introduction to the Seventh Seal

Revelation 8:1 - “And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence about the space of half an hour.”

INTRODUCTION & PREPARATION!

Here in ***Revelation 8:1***, something significant is about to happen, pull up a chair and take note for we are about to be launched and propelled into the midst of. It is what many are saturating the internet and countless blogs (chat rooms) in an attempt to find out about without finding the Saviour who is the only one who can be considered here, He is what all this is about. It is my hope and prayer that after seeing what we are about to see that many today will look to the one who has made a way, that way is to precede what is yet to come and His name is Jesus.

In this Chapter, the opening of the seals is resumed. The seventh seal, from which the seven trumpets come, is removed from the seven-sealed book. The seventh seal includes all that happens during the sounding of the seven trumpets, and also the pouring out of the seven vials, and extends down to the time when the Millennium is ushered in.

Let me illustrate what I mean: “I am sure that on the fourth of July, you’ve seen a rocket fired into the air. The rocket bursts into seven little rockets, and these seven burst into seven other small rockets.” In our scripture, the seventh seal includes the seven trumpets, and the seventh trumpet includes the seven vials. Three woes are also included.

It is very significant that Heaven was silent for the space of half an hour when the seventh seal was broken; and yet, when you read what occurs during the seven trumpets and the seven vials, you don’t wonder that all Heaven stood speechless when this terrible judgment was revealed.

Revelation 8:1 gives us the record of the opening of the seventh seal. When this happens, the seven judgments begin to sound. All the terrible judgments of the trumpets are hidden beneath the seventh seal, and the seven vials of the wrath are also there. If you read ***Revelation, Chapters 8-16***, you will not be surprised that all Heaven stood silent, speechless, and spell bound—for half an hour!

The Twenty-four (24) elders ceased to play their harps. Heaven’s angels hushed their singing. Heaven stood in pure awe.

Bob Ripley, in his “Believe It or Not” newspaper column, stated: “This verse proves there will be no women in heaven.” Ha!

Seriously, let us have the question—“What causes this breathtaking silence among angels and men?” Answer— “The contemplation of the forthcoming trumpet blasts by the Angels above the earth.”

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

Revelation 8:2-6

Preparation of the Soundings of the Trumpets:

Verse 2. ⁽²⁾*And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.*

These trumpet judgments were prophesied by Enoch as recorded in **Jude 14 & 15**, and were anticipated by the psalmist as well. That's why **Psalm 96:13** states: ⁽¹³⁾*Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.*

Paul also confirmed these judgments in **Acts 17:31**, mentioning a time when *the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men (Romans 1:18).*

Jude 14-15 (KJV)⁽¹⁴⁾*And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, ⁽¹⁵⁾To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.*

Psalm 96:13 (KJV) ⁽¹³⁾*Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.*

Acts 17:31 (KJV) ⁽³¹⁾*Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*

1. **SEVEN ANGELS** stood before God. They stood before God to pour out God's wrath upon His enemies. Seven trumpets were given to the angels.
2. **THE SEVEN ANGELS** received the trumpets, took their positions as "directed, and prepared to sound."

Verse 3. ⁽³⁾*And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.*

1. But before the sounding of the trumpets, John saw another angel with a golden censer in his hand, and he came and stood before the golden incense altar. We are told that this angel was given much incense, and that he offered the incense with the prayers of all the "saints." These saints were the saints of the tribulation period.

2. This angel is obviously the Lord Jesus Christ himself, because He ministers both to God and man. Note: ¹⁵*For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 1 Timothy 2:5 (KJV)*
 - a. The Saviour also appeared as the angel of the Lord in the Old Testament in many instances: He wrestled with Jacob, walked among Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego in the fiery furnace, and made numerous other Old Testament visits to His People.
 - b. The Mediator between God and men *ever liveth to make intercession (Hebrews 7:25)* and now stands at the altar adding incense (efficacy) to the prayers being offered by the saints of God on earth. They are imprecatory (*calling down judgment*) prayers for judgment, as in **Revelation 6:10**. They cry *How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?* At this point their prayers have reached the throne of God!
3. In closing let us note then that the service rendered by this angel proves that it could be none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. No ordinary creature could add to the prayers of the saints and their God. The saints are the converts of the Great Tribulation.

Verse 4. ¹⁴*And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.*

Now prayers are answered, and judgment is prepared.

Verse 5. ¹⁵*And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.*

What a contrast from the solemn silence of **Verse 1**. Now every noise imaginable is heard as judgment is prepared.

Verse 6. ¹⁶*And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.*

At this moment the heavenly military says, **“Ready! Aim! Fire!”**
This is it!



The Seventh Seal, The Seven Angels & Seven Trumpets

I. THE FIRST TRUMPET *“Revelation 8:7 ⁽⁷⁾The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.”*

A. We have no difficulty understanding this verse literally. The same kind of judgment occurred in **Exodus 9:22-23**:⁽²²⁾*And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt. ²³And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt. Exodus 9:22-23 (KJV)*

B. The first of the seven angels stepped into position, raised his trumpet, and the blast went forth. Immediately hail, fire, and blood... “not symbolic fire, not symbolic blood, but real ice, real fire and real blood... will fall from the sky upon the earth right here where you and I are today. One third of all the trees will perish and all the green grass will burn up. Can you imagine a sight such as that? If you find it difficult to believe that ice, fire, and blood can come down out of the sky upon the earth read **Exodus 9:18-25** and remember “that God Almighty is the same, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.”

1. Can you picture such a sight? People will be screaming, running, begging, falling over each other.

2. It happened then; now it happens again!

C. Yet there are so many who say “I do not believe in that kind of God.”

1. I can only take literally what I read.

2. What I read is that there will be a terrible judgment of blood, ice, and fire to be rained out upon this earth when the angel sounds this *“the first trumpet.”*

II. THE SECOND TRUMPET

Revelation 8:8-9⁽⁸⁾*And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; ⁽⁹⁾And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.*

The Bible is true. It is verbally inspired. The Holy Spirit is careful to point out here that this is not a literal mountain – but “as it were” a great mountain. In other words, we can understand how it looked when we think of a giant mountain falling into the sea. What John actually saw was no doubt an immense meteoric mass, ablaze with fire, God simply turned loose one of the giant meteors and it plunged to earth in a blaze. The verse says, “The sea became as blood” (notice “sea,” not seas), probably referring to the Mediterranean Sea, because Israel is back in her own home land at this time, the Anti-Christ will be reigning from Jerusalem (I believe) and the center of all these judgments will be upon the land of Israel. They will reach to the ends of the earth, but will be most severe in the land of Israel.

This judgment is undoubtedly a giant meteor falling into the sea. Notice the phrase, *as it were a mountain*. This, again, is a symbolic description. Always take every word of the Bible literally unless God tells you to take it figuratively. This passage is an example of the latter. Something gigantic, *as or like a mountain*, is *cast into the sea* and causes *a third part of the sea to become blood*. A similar occurrence was experienced in Moses' day, let us note:

- A. God's second trumpet blast is so horrendous that a third (⅓) of the creatures in the sea die and a third part of the ships are destroyed. God only knows what horrendous plagues will result when nuclear war under, upon, and above the oceans takes place.
- B. When the great burning mass falls into the sea, it will turn a third part (⅓) of the sea into blood. If you doubt that this can be true, read **Exodus 7:19-21**. Read the account where God turned the waters of the Nile into blood. The only difference between this first Egyptian plague and the effect on the sea by the falling of the burning mass is that only one-third (⅓) of the sea shall become blood when the burning mountain strikes. Thus only one-third (⅓) of the living creatures shall die. Also one-third (⅓) of the ships shall be destroyed. This could happen by means of a giant tidal wave that occurs when the burning mass falls into the sea. (It was a giant storm that destroyed the Spanish Armada.)

Exodus 7:19-21 (KJV) ⁽¹⁹⁾And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone. ⁽²⁰⁾And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. ⁽²¹⁾And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

THE THIRD TRUMPET

III.

Revelation 8: 10-11 ¹⁰And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; ¹¹And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

- A. Strange that *Chernobyl* in the Ukraine Bible means "**Wormwood**." This judgment also occurred in Moses' day: **Exodus 7:17 (KJV)** ⁽¹⁷⁾Thus saith the LORD, In this thou shalt know that I am the LORD: behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood. Now the premonition is repeated. A star, or meteor, soaring through space, speeds toward earth. When it strikes devastation such as this world has never seen or experienced will be in play.

- B. Note the words “*burning as it were a lamp.*” Here, John uses a lamp to illustrate the tremendous burning light that fell from the sky, as he used the mountain to illustrate the burning mass under the second trumpet. When the third trumpet sounded, John saw a great star fall from Heaven, burning like a giant torch. No doubt this will be another heavenly body—a meteor or such like—that God turns loose; and as it falls it will assume the form of a giant torch, in its blazing path down through the heavens as it speeds toward earth at an unknown rate of speed. When the gaseous vapors are scattered throughout the atmosphere, and these vapors explode, they will be absorbed by the waters — and a third (⅓) of the rivers and fountains of water will be poisoned by the gasses from this burning. Think of it, a third of our planet’s water supply becomes a deadly poison. Rivers, springs, and wells are affected. The waters will be made very bitter. Many men shall die from drinking the poisoned water. “**Wormwood**” is a perennial herb, extremely bitter, used in the manufacturing of absinthe, which is used in France as a beverage, and is much more intoxicating and destructive to the human body than ordinary liquors known in America. Something similar to this occurred decades past. A volcanic explosion in the Aleutian Islands on March 21, 1823, caused the waters in that area to become bitter and unfit for human consumption. This could easily happen again.
- C. This time of judgment is foretold by the prophet, Jeremiah: ⁽¹⁵⁾*Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink. Jeremiah 9:15 (KJV)* Thank God I will not be here. God has created every star, knows their locations, and has named them. Job 9:9 states: [He] *maketh Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades, and the chambers of the south.* He also knows where the star, Wormwood, as we already know means “bitterness,” is located, because **Jeremiah 9:15** reports, ⁽¹⁵⁾*Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink. (KJV).* It will happen!

IV. THE FOURTH TRUMPET

Revelation 8:12-13 ⁽¹²⁾*And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. ⁽¹³⁾And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!*

- A. The fourth judgment has to do with earth’s luminaries—the sun, moon, and stars. We note interest that, on the fourth day of creation, God said, *Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens (Genesis 1:14)*. Now, at the blast of the fourth trumpet, one-third (⅓) of the light produced by these bodies is extinguished. This, too, happened in Moses’ day ⁽²¹⁾*And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. ⁽²²⁾And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: ⁽²³⁾They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. Exodus 10:21–23 (KJV)*

- B. In **Daniel 4:26** we learn that the Heaven rules. Here when the fourth angel sends out the trumpet blast: ⁽²⁶⁾*And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule. Daniel 4:26 (KJV)*
1. A third part of the sun is smitten,
 2. A third part of the moon is smitten,
 3. A third part of the stars are smitten,
 4. A third part of the day is blacked out - and the night likewise.
 5. That means that a third part of the daylight will be blacked out around the world, providing; that Heaven does rule and that God controls the affairs of Heaven and Earth.
- C. Eight centuries before the birth of Jesus, God spoke to Joel and gave to him a picture of the plagues that will accompany the day of the Lord. Re-read these verses and rejoice if we are saved, that you will not be here when these things come to pass. And then do your best to get every sinner saved that you possibly can. (**Read Joel 1:15-2:11**)
- D. The worst, however, is yet to come. An angel flying through the midst of heaven cries, *Woe, woe, woe!* This correlates with **Daniel Chapter 9**, where the Seventieth Week (discussed in **Revelation, Chapter 6**) is described. The first three and one-half years of the Tribulation are not nearly as severe as the final three and one-half years. In **Matthew 24:8**, our Lord described the first half of this time period as that *beginning of sorrows*. However, He referred to the final three and one-half years as the great tribulation (**Matthew 24:21**). As the Tribulation hour approaches its climax, the judgments become more severe and the loss of life greater. This is especially noticed as one observes that **two verses** cover the scope of each of the first **four trumpets**. However, **trumpet five (5)** requires **twelve verses** and the **trumpet six (6)** necessitates **nine verses**. These things are yet in the future... The angel announces problems that are yet to come to those who are in the Tribulation.

Chapter Nine contains the lengthy portion of Scripture covering trumpet judgments **five and six (5 & 6)**. We will now investigate both in depth.

CHAPTER NINE

Revelation 9:1-12

I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET

Verse 1: ⁽¹⁾*And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. Revelation 9:1 (KJV)*

- A. The star John sees—a male personage—is without a doubt the devil of **Verse 11**. The Greek tense in **Verse 1** is not *fall*—present tense, but *fallen*—past tense. The Greek Interlinear reading for **Revelation 9:1** is as follows: *And the fifth angel sounded [his] trumpet; and I saw a star out of the heaven fallen to the earth there was*
 ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ πέπτωκότα
given to it the key of the pit of the abyss.

Isaiah describes this fall in **Chapter 14:12-14** ⁽¹²⁾*How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ⁽¹³⁾For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ⁽¹⁴⁾I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*

Allow me to interject here some observations that will at least lay the ground work for which we are about to study.

John hears the fifth angel sound, and beholds a fallen star in the earth. This is not a meteor like that which he beheld on the sounding of the third angel. He does not see the falling, but recognizes the star as a fallen one—*fallen*, he does not say when or how. This star is an intelligent agent, for things are distinctly ascribed to “him” which could not be said except of a living being. A key is given him. He takes that key. He uses it for the unlocking of a door, and he lets forth from their prison some of the tenants of the abyss. All this argues active and intelligent agency, and furnishes the Divine intimation that we are not to consider this star to be of the same kind as the star under the **third trumpet**. It is not a material but a spiritual star, and a fallen one—one fallen out of the heaven. We know of such spiritual and celestial stars. When the capstone of creation was laid, the Almighty himself hath declared that “the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.” (**Job 38:4-7**) These were angelic beings. We know, also, that here are “*angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation.*” (**Jude 6**) We read of “*the angels that sinned,*” whom God did not spare. (**2 Peter 2:4**) These are of various orders and degrees, “*principalities and powers.*” (**Ephesians 6:6; Colossians 2:14**) Among them is one of pre-eminent dignity, the leader and the prince of all the rest—“*the great dragon, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan.*” (**Revelation 12:9**) Hence, we read of “*the Devil and his angels.*” (**Matthew 25:41**)

Here then, are *fallen stars* of a spiritual sort, and one of particular distinction and magnitude, answering to the description of the text. For the present they have possession of the aerial or heavenly spaces. (**Ephesians 6:12**) Satan is particularly described as “*the prince of the power of the air.*” (**Ephesians 2:2**)* He is fallen morally, and fallen from the proper heaven of glory, and is eventually to be entirely ejected from the heavenly places now occupied by him and his angels, previous to the great binding which is to shut him up in the abyss. The Saviour refers prophetically to this, where He says: “*I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.*” (**Luke 10:18**) This ejection, in its final completeness, is described by John in **Revelation Chapter 12**, where he speaks of “*war in the heaven,*” and the ejection of “*Satan and his angels*” by Michael and his hosts. After that, these impure spirits have no more place in heaven forever. But, even after this massive fall from the aerial regions, their work on earth is continued for a time with augmented fierceness and wrath. There may also precede the falling from heaven of Satan into the earth, previous to the great battle between him and Michael, to which the *fall* spoken of in the text may refer.

It may be the result of a Divine force, or it may be that Satan himself voluntarily cast himself into the earth for augmented mischief. At any rate, Satan is a fallen spiritual star, and John beholds him fallen into the earth with particular malignity and great destruction, and bent on letting loose against men all evil powers which he can command. He also stands related to the inhabitants of the abyss as their chief lord, in a way which renders it congruous and fitting with all that we know of him, that we should see him in this “*star out of heaven fallen into the earth.*” Whatever the fall, whether moral or local, voluntary, or the result of force, it includes a will for mischief, and overflowing with spiritual and moral destruction toward the children of men.

And because of the wickedness of the world, special powers are granted him. As people prefer the service of the devil, God allows them a full experience of the Devil’s administrations. It has always been so. Because the nations before Christ, when they knew God, glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful, but He dropped the reins to them and gave them up to uncleanness, vile affections, and a reprobate mind, to be filled with all unrighteousness, and to receive in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. (**Romans 1:19-32**)

* Wordsworth has this note upon the place: “*Satan and his angels, being cast down from heaven, but not being yet consigned to hell, have their empire in this lower air, and are therefore called the powers of the air and of darkness.*” The word OURANOS οὐρανός DENOTES THE HEAVEN. The R. V. always renders it “*heaven.*” The A. V. translates it “*air.*” In Matthew 9:20. In the phrase “*the fowls (or birds) of the heaven*” the A. V. always has “*air;*” “*sky* in Matthew 16:2-3; Luke 12:56; in all other instances “*heaven.*” The word is probably derived from a root meaning to cover or encompass. So we can conclude that OURANOS is sometimes rendered heaven and sometimes air.

Because men receive not the truth and dislike it, God gives them what they love, and sends them strong delusions, that they may believe lies, and reap the reward of their perverse choice in its own line. And because men reject the Lordship of Christ for the lordship of Satan, God in judgment enlarges the powers of the lord of^l their preference that they may have the full benefit of the malignant will of their own chosen.

John beholds and describes how this is done. To this fallen star, he says “*was given the key of the well-pit of the abyss.*” It was “*given*” to him, as all that Job had was *given* to the same fallen one, to do with it as he might do. Though Satan has great power, he is under bonds and limitations, beyond which he cannot go without permission. He is now allowed to employ his demons, but not to bring forth all the evil agencies who would fain serve him in his work of destruction. But, in the great day of judgment, and in augmentation of the punishments of the ungodly, he will be allowed to call into his service multitudes of evil beings now restrained and imprisoned in the under-world. Nor will he fail to use this power any more than he failed to exert his full liberty against Job. With the key to the well-pit of the abyss, he opens it, breaks down in part the wall of separation between earth and hell, and evokes a plague, such as the world has never before experienced.

Jehovah once said to Job: “*Have the gates of Sheol been opened unto thee? Or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?*” (**Job 37:17**) There are worlds of being and of darkness upon which man has never looked. There is a tenanted abyss of which the demons know, and concerning which they besought the Saviour that He would not send them into it. It is a dark and horrible prison, in which many, many strange and evil things are shut up. Satan knows of that world, and would fain bring forth its destructive inhabitants into the earth if he only dared. At last, however, he receives permission to bring them, and the fifth trumpet gives the result.

Back to the outline!

1. Satan’s fall came through pride. He wanted to be co-equal with God. Jesus, in eternity past, beheld this fall and said to His seventy disciples, ^[18]*And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.* **Luke 10:18 (KJV)** This fallen one is presented with a key to the bottomless pit, and he uses it.
2. When the fifth trumpet sent forth its blast, John saw a star fall from Heaven. This was not a literal star. The Holy Spirit makes that very clear when he speaks of the star as “**he.**” This is not strange at all. In **Job 38:7**, angels were called stars. Bible scholars do not agree on who this is but I personally believe that there exist a vast number who believe this star to be **Jesus Christ**. I must disagree with many of my counter parts. Let me share just one:

"The star John saw fall from Heaven had the key to the bottomless pit, and according to **Revelation 1:18** ⁽¹⁸⁾ *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.* Therefore, I believe this angel to be none other than the Son of God in angelic form. I believe this is the same person who appears in **Revelation 20:1-3**, when He comes down having a key, and unlocks the bottomless pit. He has a chain in His hand, and He binds Satan and puts him into the pit."

The author will remain unknown here, let us return to the matter at hand.

Verse 2: ⁽²⁾ *And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.*

The term here *bottomless pit* does not refer to one who has a voluminous, appetite! Instead, the literal term is found nine times in the New Testament. In each case, it is a place to restrain or hold certain beings which have come under the judgment of God. For instance, when Christ went into the country of Gadarenes, He met a certain many who had a legion of demons. The demons within the man besought the Lord that he would not command them to go out into the deep [or abyss] (**Luke 8:31**) Their dread and terror of the pit (or abyss) was so great that they would rather become incarnated in swine. Oh, the pit of the abyss must be a terrible place!

How frightful, then, is the hour when the prison house of fallen angels is finally opened. As previously noted, the smoke ascending out of the pit darkens the sun and the air. Talk about pollution! The environmentalist had better get saved or they will be around for the greatest soot inundation in history. Then they will have a steady job of picketing the portals of hell—but it will be too late.

- B. The "*bottomless pit*" is hell... not the lake of fire. I will explain this matter concerning "*the lake of fire*" further when we study **Revelation 20**. Hell is the prison of the wicked spirits who have died since Adam. Demons are there, the wicked spirits are there; but Satan is walking on the earth.
- C. In the Old Testament era, all departing saints went into the heart of the earth. Hell was divided into two compartments. Between the fires of hell and the Paradise where Abraham was in (**Luke 16**), there was a great gulf. I believe that gulf has now been broken down, and what was Paradise in the O. T. era is now a part of the burning inferno called hell. ⁽¹⁴⁾ *Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it. Isaiah 5:14 (KJV)* I believe God simply removed the partition and now the damned occupy the entirety of this area.
- D. Today hell is in the center of the earth. The center of this earth is proven to be a rolling, tumbling mass of molten rock and liquid fire. Many times earth's surface bursts open, explodes, fire pours out and liquid lava (melted rock) flows down the side of a mountain. In the Bible, hell is always referred to as being "down." Isaiah tells us, "*Hell from*

beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming... yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit...” (Isaiah 14:9 & 15).

- E. In **Numbers 16:30-33** we have the account of an entire company dropping into hell alive. The Scriptures tell us that the earth opened her mouth, and those people went down into the pit... into hell... alive, and the earth closed her mouth upon them.
- F. There was no hell in the beginning. In **Genesis 1:1** we read, “*In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth.*” There is no mention of hell here. There was no devil in the beginning. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost was in the beginning. God created the angels, etc.
- G. There were probably three chief angels, with Lucifer the chief of the three. Sometime... perhaps after a million years... Lucifer decided to overthrow God and take His throne. God cast Lucifer and the fallen angels out of Heaven (**Ezekiel 28:11-15 and Isaiah 14:12-14 and Luke 10:18**). Therefore, hell was prepared “*for the devil and his angels*” (**Matthew 25:41**).

Ezekiel 28:11-15 (KJV) ⁽¹¹⁾Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ⁽¹²⁾Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. ⁽¹³⁾Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. ⁽¹⁴⁾Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. ⁽¹⁵⁾Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Isaiah 14:12-14 (KJV) ⁽¹²⁾How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ⁽¹³⁾For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ⁽¹⁴⁾I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Luke 10:18 (KJV) ⁽¹⁸⁾And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Matthew 25:41 (KJV) ⁽⁴¹⁾Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

- H. God did not create hell for man. God did not create man for hell; but all men who choose to follow Satan must spend eternity with him in hell. Hell today is in the center of the earth, and will remain there until the consummation of all things. Then will the wicked, together with the wicked angels and Satan himself, be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where they will remain throughout the ages of eternity, burning and begging in the lake of fire (**Revelation 20:10-15**).

I. Let's look at other Biblical proofs of hell and its location:

Matthew 12:40 (KJV) ⁽⁴⁰⁾*For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

Ephesians 4:8–10 (KJV) ⁽⁸⁾*Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.* ⁽⁹⁾*(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? ⁽¹⁰⁾He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)*

There is little doubt in my mind that hell is beneath the ground on which we walk. When the angel unlocks the bottomless pit, smoke will issue from it—and this will not be symbolic smoke. It *will* be real, just like the smoke that comes from your chimney. The Bible refers to it as the smoke issuing from a great furnace. It will completely black out the sun, and there will be darkness over all the land. When Jesus hung on the cross, the sun refused to shine and all the earth was in darkness for three hours. In this Scripture, the sun is “shining but the smoke of God’s judgment blacks it out.

Verse 3: ⁽³⁾*And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.*

These are not literal locust. Their power is too great. They are most likely fallen angels who have been restrained and imprisoned in the bottomless pit since their fall (described in **Genesis 6**). These wicked beings, chained in darkness are of these centuries (see **2 Peter 2:4**), can hardly wait to begin their acts of evil.

⁽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; **2 Peter 2:4 (KJV)***

Out of the smoke, millions of locusts will appear... They will have the power to sting like the scorpions of the earth have power. This agony will last for “five months.” Do I believe that? Just as much as other statements I read in the Bible such as **John 3:16** or **John 14:2**. Men will be stung and bitten by locusts for five months. They will swell and hurt, beg and scream; but they cannot die. Men will beg to die. They will cut their bodies, but they cannot die.

This great army of locusts is organized... it has a king... a leader... the angel of the bottomless pit... the devil himself. His name in the Hebrew is *Abaddon*, which means “destruction.” In the Greek it is *Appollyon*, which means “destroyer.” The devil is a deceiver, and has always wrought destruction. He is the destroyer of the souls of men.

These locust are told what they can and cannot do:

Verse 4: ⁽⁴⁾*And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.*

In **Chapter 7**, we saw multitudes sealed. The locusts, or fallen angels, are not allowed to touch the sealed, only the unsealed—those who have worshipped the Beast and accepted his number, 666. Note also that the locusts are not allowed to kill the unsealed (the unsaved). They are permitted only to torture them.

I know this is a horrible picture – but I believe that what I have suggested here will happen literally, right here on this earth.

Verse 5: ⁽⁵⁾*And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.*

WHAT AN AGONIZING PERIOD OF TIME THIS WILL BE!

Verse 6: ⁽⁶⁾*And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.*

Verses 7 through 11 give us a vivid description of these locusts, or fallen angels.

Verse 7: ⁽⁷⁾*And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, [this speaks of royalty; a picture of conquerors], and their faces were as the faces of men. [denoting intelligence].*

Verse 8: ⁽⁸⁾*And they had hair as the hair of women [picturing attractiveness], , and their teeth were as the teeth of lions [portraying cruelty].*

Verse 9: ⁽⁹⁾*And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; [picturing invincibility]; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. [denoting calamity].*

Verse 10: ⁽¹⁰⁾*And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.*

These facts reinforce the gruesome portrait of life upon earth as the pit of the abyss is opened and the convicts of the ages—the fallen angels—are released. The next verse clearly identifies the fallen star who is the leader of these perverted angels.

Verse 11: ⁽¹¹⁾*And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.*

This king is named in both Hebrew and Greek. As noted in our discussion under **Verse 3**. It is important that one not forget that our adversary, the one with which we battle day in and day out deserves our fear, necessitates our realization that he is a powerful foe and without the invocation of spiritual power provided by God through Christ and Calvary we will become victims of the daily war in which we are involved. For that very reason we must recall these sobering facts:

Abaddon is Hebrew mean destruction, ours if he has his way. The term, found only this one time in our English Bible, is found six times in the Hebrew Bible: **Job 26:6; 28:22; 31:12; Psalm 88:11; Proverbs 15:11; and 27:20.**

Apollyon, is Greek and the term means “the destroyer”— a word that certainly describes Satan. Don’t ever underestimate this one fact that the Devil hates all of God’s creation and will stop at nothing in his attempt to destroy it and you as a child of God, a member of the body of Christ is at the top of his list slated for destruction.

Now we resume and note that there are yet two more things yet to occur!

Verse 12: ⁽¹²⁾*One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.*

II. THE SIXTH TRUMPET *Revelation 9:13-21*

Verses 13& 14: ⁽¹³⁾*And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,* ⁽¹⁴⁾*Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.*

- A. As the sixth angel sounds, John hears a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is in the presence of God. Isn’t it strange that many of the judgments are directly linked with God’s program of atonement?
1. Perhaps this is because so many have rejected the message of the altar which speaks of the shed blood of Jesus.
 - a. Paul warned the human race of the danger of refusing this teaching: ⁽²⁸⁾*He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: ⁽²⁹⁾Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? **Hebrews 10:28–29 (KJV)***
 - b. The rejection of God’s Word always brings serious consequences. Before us is a scene wherein even the altar (the only place where sin can be forgiven) and the horns of the altar (actually touched by the blood) unitedly cry out to God for judgment.
 - c. One should never treat the message of the precious shed blood of Christ lightly. Those who do will be sorry!
 2. In **Verse 13**, the sixth angel sounds his trumpet. John says, “*I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God.*”
 - a. The golden altar represents the presence of God,
 - b. The voice John heard is either the voice of God or the one who has been commissioned by God.
 - c. So we can conclude that the voice is heard from the four horns of the golden

altar and that the voice from the four horns denotes power over all the universe.

- B. In *verse 14* we learn the message given by the voice: “*Loose the four angels*” which are bound in the great river Euphrates.
1. Now because of rejecting the message, the voice from the altar tells the sixth angel to loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.
 2. The fact that they are bound proves that they are, the fallen angels who rebelled and fell with Lucifer at the time of his revolt (see *Isaiah 14:12-14*) Once the Church is safely in heaven, four denizens from the pit of the abyss are released upon earth.
 - a. Earlier we saw four unfallen angels holding back the judgment of God. So these four angels are not the same as the four angels in *Revelation 7: 1-3*.
 - b. In *Chapter 7* the angels stand on the extremities of the earth. Here in *Chapter 9* they are bound in the great river Euphrates.
 - c. The angel in *Chapter 7* let loose the human and satanic instruments of destruction and judgment.
 3. Now we have four wicked angels who are set free to wreak havoc upon planet earth.
 - a. They are commanded to execute their judgment in the area of the Euphrates River.
 - b. This body of water runs through Iraq and Syria and will become the point of origin for the battle of the ages in the future.
 - c. The great river Euphrates is mentioned twice in *Revelation 9:14* and *16: 12*. The Euphrates is 1,780 miles long. The Nile and the Euphrates form the borders of the Promised Land, the ground God deeded to Abraham for everlasting possession.

Let me correct some previous misconceptions regarding the days that we are studying:

In 1991 there were several serious students of Apocalyptic studies who made the statement that the Gulf War that took place was the fulfillment of prophetic scripture predicting the “Battle of Armageddon.” Let me state right here and now, the Gulf War was not the fulfillment of this prophecy but was simply the beginning of the end, as the final pieces of the puzzle were being assembled for the future. This is the part of the world where Satan performed his destructive work against our first parents, Adam and Eve (*Genesis 2:10-14*). It is the area where Cain murdered his brother Abel (*Genesis 4:8*), and where mankind made its first united move against God (*Genesis 11:1-4*). Later God made His unconditional covenant with Abraham in this location, saying, ¹⁸*In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: Genesis 15:18 (KJV)*

This land area belongs to Israel and no one but Israel. God will see that they get it. Proof?
⁽³¹⁾*And I will set thy bounds from the Red sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert unto the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand; and thou shalt drive them out before thee. **Exodus 23:31 (KJV)*** ⁽²⁴⁾*Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be. **Deuteronomy 11:24 (KJV)*** ⁽⁴⁾*From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. **Joshua 1:4 (KJV)***

At one point in history, the Euphrates River became the boundary of the old Roman Empire—which is being restored and will fall under the rule of the Antichrist (**Revelation 13:1**). This area will surely become the sore spot as history progresses, for it serves as both the frontier of the promised land and the boundary of the ten-toed, ten-horned, western federation of nations that produces the Antichrist. ⁽⁴⁰⁾*And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.* ⁽⁴¹⁾*And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. **Daniel 2:40–41 (KJV)*** ⁽²³⁾*Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.* ⁽²⁴⁾*And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. **Daniel 7:23–24 (KJV)*** ⁽¹⁾*And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. **Revelation 13:1 (KJV)*** The destruction unleashed upon the earth by the four evil emissaries is described in **Verse 15**.

Verse 15: ⁽¹⁵⁾*And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. **Revelation 9:15 (KJV)***

- C. In **Verse 15** the four angels bound in the river Euphrates are loosed. They are prepared for a specific moment, and they will perform their duty.
1. The population of earth is presently somewhere around five billion souls. In our study, we have seen one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) of this number die under the rider of the fourth, or pale horse (**Revelation 6:8**). Thus, at this point in time, earth's population is three billion, seven hundred fifty million 3,750,000,000. (Use of these numbers do not take into account how many will already be gone to be with the Lord after the Rapture. I am using these figures for an illustration of the devastation to living, breathing souls) Now an addition one-third (a) —or one billion, two hundred fifty million 1,250,000,000—perish as the four fallen angels are released.

2. These four executioners are undoubtedly waiting in the wings to begin the drama of the ages. They are prepared and eagerly anticipating their scheduled timetable. Remember, the Euphrates River is Middle East territory—the location of present-day Iraq and Syria. This is the world’s present and future tinderbox.
3. This holocaust will also include present day Russia and her allies posed against Israel (Read **Ezekiel 38 & 39**) The barbaric troops come against the nation of Israel from the north: ⁽¹⁵⁾*And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: ⁽¹⁶⁾And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes. **Ezekiel 38:15–16 (KJV)***
4. Russia is north of Israel. This is why Joel declared in **Joel 2:20** ⁽²⁰⁾*But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things.* Geographically, Russia alone meets the qualifications of this quoted text.
5. She strengthens her forces and then returns to the land of Israel once again. The scope and intensity of the offensive continues to increase until all nations become involved and are finally gathered together against Israel at Jerusalem. God says, ⁽²⁾*For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. **Zechariah 14:2 (KJV)**.*
6. At that point in the Battle of Armageddon takes place: ⁽¹⁶⁾*And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. **Revelation 16:16 (KJV)***
7. This Mid-east war numbers the largest armies in the history of mankind.

Verse 16: ⁽¹⁶⁾*And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. **Revelation 9:16 (KJV)***

- D. In **Verse 16** we learn the number in the army that will be led by the four angels, loosed for this specific mission at this appointed moment. The army numbers 200 million. It is said that the largest army ever to go into the field of battle was under Xerxes when he invaded Greece. He led 1½ million troops against Greece. The four angels will lead 200 million troops against the earth. It’s hard for the human mind to grasp such a figure.
 1. During World War II, at the height of the conflict, America had approximately 12 million men under arms. Compare that with an army of two hundred million.

2. Think of it! Two hundred million soldiers! No wonder the ancient prophet said ⁽¹⁶⁾*And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes. Ezekiel 38:16 (KJV)* This army advances in the latest and best of equipment: ⁽³⁾*The shield of his mighty men is made red, the valiant men are in scarlet: the chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of his preparation, and the fir trees shall be terribly shaken. ⁽⁴⁾The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings. Nahum 2:3–4 (KJV)*
3. Many Bible Scholars associate the army of two hundred million with Red China and her oriental allies by tying this text concerning the Euphrates together with **Revelation 16:12** ¹²*And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east [or the kings of the sunrising] might be prepared.* Such an assembly of military might is quite feasible considering China's present population of nearly one billion. Other Bible commentators believe this army is a supernatural one in light of the three verses which follow:

Verses 17–19 ⁽¹⁷⁾*And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. ⁽¹⁸⁾By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. ⁽¹⁹⁾For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. Revelation 9:17–19 (KJV)*

E. In following commentaries as previously mentioned we find the following:

1. In “**Verse 17**” John said, “*I saw the horses in the vision.*” He further states: “*I saw them that sat on them.*” He describes both. What a description! The riders of the horses had breastplates of fire and brimstone. The riders undoubtedly will be super human and probably demented... a great army of demons out of hell. The riders are mounted upon horses that cannot be stopped, cannot be conquered.
2. “**Verse 18**” further describes them by saying, “*by these (fire, smoke and brimstone) one third of all men shall be killed.*” The army of locusts did not kill men – they only tormented them. But this army leaves one third of earth's population dead.
3. In “**Verse 19**” we learn that the power of these hideous monstrosities is in “*their mouth and in their tails.*” Some believe this to be the modern airplane bombers but again I believe it to be exactly as it says. Just as the locusts came from the smoke out of the bottomless pit, these horsemen will come out of hell.

Let me interject a few facts from today's news and modern events.

It is no secret that I believe the vast movement against Israel in these last days will be headed up by the Muslim nations along with their allies. As of the current revisions are being made to this study (May 2006) America has been in Iraq for several years, having overthrown Saddam Hussein. Before the invasion of Iraq became a reality the United States responded to the deplorable, deliberate act on 9/11/2001. A day that will never be forgotten when the so called Talaban led by Osamu Bin Laden hijacked four airliners that became flying bombs in an act of Jihad (*Holy War*). Their targets: The two World Trade Centers, the Pentagon and the White House with the Capital building being an alternate target. We know that three out of the four were successful strikes and no longer was America safe from foreign attack. Soon after the military of the United States was mobilized and sent to Afghanistan to find Bin Laden and the other leaders of the Talaban. It was at that time we made a shaky alliance with Pakistan and it's President Pervez Musharraf who had taken over the country in a military coup in 1999. News media stated that, and I quote, "President Musharraf was thrown into a marriage of convenience." "He argued that for strategic reasons he had little choice but to join the American "war on terror," even though it meant abandoning support for the Taleban. Pakistan had previously been one of only three countries to recognize the Taleban diplomatically." "The president of Pakistan has often been described as walking a tightrope as he has sought to balance demands from the U.S. to crack down on extremism in Pakistan and the demands from an increasingly vocal, and anti-American, Islamist constituency."

Prior to and under his administration Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, Pakistans nuclear designer made Pakistan the seventh nation to secure "The Nuclear Bomb" and that isn't the end. During his work and testing in 1998 he insisted ". . .that the program had no military purpose," but following the 1998 tests admitted: "I never had any doubts I was building a bomb. We had to do it." Since then He went on to work on the successful test-firings of the nuclear-capable Ghauri I and II missiles.

As he was carrying out his program, Dr Khan was also being investigated in the Netherlands for taking enrichment technology during his time in the country. In 1983, he was sentenced in absentia to four years in prison by an Amsterdam court for attempted espionage, although the sentence was later overturned on appeal.

All this attracted US suspicion and in 2003 Washington imposed sanctions on the Khan's firm for the alleged transfer of missile technology to North Korea. Other investigations have revealed that these nuclear capabilities have been shared with Saudi Arabia, Iran, China, North Korea, not to mention that these capabilities have been given to the Talaban in some form or fashion.

One might ask why I interject this information at this point in my study? I believe that it is obvious. In this act Muslims have formed a friendship with North Korea and China. It is China's desire to unite all oriental nations under her rule and this is being formulated right now by the European Union and the World Trade Organization as a trade alliance in the fast-approaching one-world economy. Be on the look out! It is important that as we study the scriptures that we also keep our eyes fixed upon global happenings such as I have just given. Now back to the study outline!

F. The advocates of literalism believe that these same verses portray the latest inventions

stockpiled in the military arsenals of the world. Either way, it will be a devastating period of time as the remaining third of earth's inhabitants are destroyed by fire, smoke, and brimstone—a sulfurous, poisonous gas.

1. At this point several verses predicting the final ware of fire should be considered:
⁽³⁾A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about. Psalm 97:3 (KJV)

⁽¹⁵⁾For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. Isaiah 66:15 (KJV)

⁽¹⁸⁾Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land. Zephaniah 1:18 (KJV)

⁽³⁾A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. Joel 2:3 (KJV)

2. Who! The Russian army coming from the north. Then God states: *⁽²⁰⁾But I will remove far off from you [Israel] the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great [or terrible] things. Joel 2:20 (KJV)*

- a. This is the point that the Soviets are pushed back to Siberia.

- b. Joel continues: *⁽³⁰⁾And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. Joel 2:30 (KJV)*

3. This sounds similar to the report mentioned in **Malachi 4:1** *⁽¹⁾For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven. . . Note also **Revelation 8:7** ⁽⁷⁾. . .and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.*

- a. Again—whether the means are natural or supernatural—it is catastrophic.

- b. I, personally, believe that both the natural and the supernatural—men and demons—will be involved in the Tribulation woes.

4. Now, what about the remaining sixty-five percent of the population?

Verse 20: *⁽²⁰⁾And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: **Revelation 9:20 (KJV)***

- G. “**Verse 20**” tells us that even though one third of earth's population is dead, having been slain by the 200 million horsemen, the other two thirds refuse to repent.

1. It seems that certainly after this terrible slaughtering there would have been a season of repentance and turning to God; but if you will carefully read **2 Thessalonians 2: 8-12** you will learn that people who have had the opportunity to be saved before the Rapture will be sent strong delusions they will believe the “lie,” and *they* will be damned.

*⁸⁾And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: ⁹⁾Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, ¹⁰⁾And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹⁾And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: ¹²⁾That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. **2 Thessalonians 2:8-12 (KJV)***

Now read **Verse 20** again.

2. At the time of the sixth trumpet, the Holy Spirit is with the church in Heaven. There is no resistant power after the Rapture. The devil and all the “*forces of hell*” will run wild engulfing the entire earth, with the teeming millions given up by God and given over to Satan. There is no wonder that all hell literally breaks out on earth. But thank God, those of us who are born again will not be here.



The First Six Trumpet Judgments (Revelation 6-13 & 9)

Verse 21: ⁽²¹⁾*Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts. Revelation 9:21 (KJV)*

H. We have now witnessed the release of thirteen judgments—seven seals and six trumpets. One would think that after experiencing such devastation, mankind would begin considering eternity. Not so! Those who are still alive continue to rebel. Wicked sinners do not give in or give up easily. In fact, God’s Word tells us that men won’t repent even after they have been in the regions of the doomed and damned for centuries. Even then they continue gnashing their teeth in an expression of their hatred toward God.

1. Proof? ⁽⁴¹⁾*The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; ⁽⁴²⁾And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 13:41–42 (KJV)*
2. **Verses 20 and 21** present five major sins which permeate the Tribulation scene—and for which men would rather die than switch:

- (1) occultism,
- (2) murder,
- (3) drug abuse,
- (4) fornication (sexual orgies),
- (5) stealing.

Let’s investigate them further.

Occultism

The Tribulation will be a time of pronounced devil worship. Anton LaVey began the church of Satan movement in San Francisco. Estimates reveal that tens of thousands in California alone are connected to this or some other type of occult organization. Stores where satanic objects may be purchased are presently springing up everywhere nationally and internationally. God hates this sin!

Listen to the Almighty: *Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God (Leviticus 19:31). And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people (Leviticus 20:6).* Anything that smacks of demonic-related practices has the *anathema* of God upon it. Look at the listing found in **Deuteronomy 18:10-12**: *There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times [astrology], or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord.*

In addition to worshipping devils, earth dwellers of the Tribulation hour also use idols made of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood. God hates idolatry! This practice breaks His holy law—the second commandment—given to Moses in **Exodus 20:4–5** which declares, *Thou shall not make unto thee any graven image...Thou shall not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God.*

There are those today who, knowingly or unknowingly, break God's commandment by worshipping lifeless, man-made idols. Their worship, however, is meaningless to God. The psalmist says in **Psalm 115:4-8**, *Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. They that make them are like unto them [helpless and hopeless]; so is every one that trusteth in them.* God condemns idolatry—past, present, and future!

During the Tribulation hour, the world—steeped in occultism and idolatry—progresses to the worship of the image of the beast, or Antichrist, who proclaims himself as God (see **2 Thessalonians 2:4**).

⁽⁴⁾Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 2 Thessalonians 2:4 (KJV)

This image, made in his likeness (see **Revelation 13:15**), is undoubtedly the *abomination of desolation* spoken of in **Matthew 24:15**, which is placed in the Temple in Jerusalem and which brings great heartache to the Jews of that day. One can see that the world's present surge of occultism is paving the way for the coming of the greatest religious imposter in history.

Murder

During this same time, murder becomes a sport and judgment does not change the situation. The wicked refuse to turn from their brutalistic manner of living. They find pleasure in killing people, perhaps because terrorism is rampant. Jesus said, *But as the days of Noe were, so shall the coming of the Son of man be (Matthew 24:37)*. Noah's day was characterized by violence: *The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence (Genesis 6:11)*. Our twentieth century is certainly leading us to this terrifying hour.

Drugs, Fornication, and Stealing

The final three sins prevalent during the end time are interrelated and have to do with sorceries—drug abuse, fornication (the practice of every conceivable sex sin), and theft. These sins indicate that bodies are being sold (through prostitution) and burglaries are being committed in order to support the drug kick. Present news headlines indicate that this day is already dawning! Surely our time as the Church upon earth is about to end

and we must prepare to meet [our] *God (Amos 4:12)*. In concluding this chapter, let's spend some time on the matter of drugs.

There are a number of words used in the Bible to describe the subject of sorcery. Altogether there are at least twenty-seven (27) references to sorcery, sorceries, sorcerers, witches, witchcraft, and the art of bewitching. Of these, at least five in the New Testament are especially pertinent, for they have a direct bearing on the day in which we live—the present day of drugs and drug addiction.

In the books of the Old Testament and the Book of Acts the term *sorcery* always means “witchcraft” or “magic”—and one should note that the practice is continually and constantly condemned! Five occurrences of the word *sorcery* in the New Testament, however, have to do with drug addiction. In these instances, the original Greek word is *pharmakeia*—from which we get our English term *pharmacy* or *drugstore*. The literal meaning of the Greek is an “enchantment with drugs,” or to “get high on” or “get a kick out of” drugs. Medications prescribed by doctors are not part of this condemnation. The literal rendering of *Verse 21*, then, is that men repent not of their enchantment with drugs during the Tribulation hour. Each of the **five** references must be carefully considered in the light of its context. Collectively, they clearly reveal: (1) the present world condition as foretold in the prophetic scriptures; (2) the inevitable result of drug addiction; (3) the certain and definite judgment upon the drug pusher as well as (4) the drug victim; and finally (5) the appraisal of this terrible sin in the sight of God Almighty.

As previously stated, we can already see the dawning of the day of drugs in the spread of drug use throughout all levels of society. Such a widespread use of drugs cannot help but bring its own destruction. Even amid all the trips in mind expansion propaganda, not one user has ever been able to actually do more or be more efficient than he was before experimenting with drugs. This steady downward retrogression will be climaxed at the close of the Great Tribulation, when the full cup of its own judgment is measured.

The closing chapters of the Book of Revelation graphically portray the terrible consequences of mankind's enchantment with drugs. What we are presently witnessing is only the beginning of the coming disintegration of society during the Tribulation period. **Revelation 18:23** states: *For by thy sorceries were all nations deceived*. The Greek word for *sorceries*, as already mentioned, is *pharmakeia*. Thus, “by their enchantment with drugs, or getting high on drugs, were all nations deceived.” This is the result of mankind's first mass usage of drugs.

Now there is a change in the next occurrence of the word translated *sorcerers*. This change reveals a class of people who are doomed and is found in **Revelation 21:8**: *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death*. The Greek word for *sorcerers* in this text is *pharmakeus*. Whereas the word *pharmakeia* meant “enchantment with drugs,” *pharmakeus* means “the enchanter with drugs”—the pusher or the seller of drugs. This text plainly declares that eight distinct groups of people will

never get into heaven but will rather be assigned to the lake of fire (a description of a literal hell). One of these groups is composed of those who are enchanters, or pushers of drugs. What a solemn warning against having anything to do with the soul-damning drug traffic of the present hour!

But wait! There is another reference to sorcerers in this book of the **Bible—Revelation 22:15**: *For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.* Here again the word is *pharmakeus*. Although the word is the same as the one found in **Revelation 21:8**, it has a deeper meaning in this context. By extension, it includes both the drug pusher and user! Take notice—these individuals are kept out of heaven. (Heaven would not be heaven very long if they were admitted.) There is only one place to which they can go and that is the place of eternal separation from the presence of God—the place prepared for Satan and his angels (*note Matthew 25:41*).

⁽⁴¹⁾*Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: Matthew 25:41 (KJV)*

The Bible is explicit in stating that there is no heaven for those who refuse to repent of their sins. In hell, they will keep on sinning forever. They never repent or get saved there. Notice also that of the six groups named in **Revelation 22:15**, sorcerers (drug pushers and users) occupy second place—immediately following the term which describes outlaws as wild dogs. Oh, God hates this sin!

An additional word, *witchcraft*, with the same meaning is found in **Galatians 5:19–21**: *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.* The word *witchcraft* in our English Bible is again *pharmakeia* in the Greek. We also see that this sin is number six in this listing of seventeen kinds of sinners who shall not—*shall not*—inherit the kingdom of God. The drug user and the drug pusher are both excluded from heaven!

Is there no hope or escape from the clutches of this binding habit? Praise God, there is a source of liberation—it is the Lord Jesus Christ: *For this purpose the son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8)*. Beloved, it is by the way of the cross of Calvary that Jesus has broken Satan's grip. Now, when any—*any*—guilty sinner calls upon Him for salvation, Jesus Christ immediately frees that person from the shackles of sin and death which bind him. Try Him. There is no limit to the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now Chapter 10! “The Mighty Angel — The Little Book”