

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

A Verse by Verse Study

by

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CHAPTER NINE

The Fifth and Sixth Trumpet

Revelation 9:1-12:

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.**
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.**
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.**
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.**
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.**
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.**
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, and their faces were as the faces of men.**
8. **And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.**
9. **And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.**
10. **And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.**
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.**
12. **One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.**

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 after many years of study in the Word of God, comparing spiritual things with spiritual, I personally believe “he” is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. One commentator boldly states that this star is Satan, but I disagree.

The star John saw fall from Heaven had the key to the bottomless pit, and according to Revelation 1:18 **“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.

He is God’s star-deputy, God’s star chief of police. I believe this to be 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. Thank God, the devil will be on the chain-gang for one thousand years!

These facts make it very clear to me that the star-angel is not Satan, but the Lord Jesus Christ. It stands to reason that Almighty God would not trust the key of hell to a fallen angel nor to Satan.

The **“bottomless pit”** is hell . . . not the lake of fire. I will explain about the lake of fire further when we reach 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 up and down in the earth - sometimes as a roaring lion, other times as an angel of light (Job 1:6-12; I Peter 5:8; II Corinthians 11:13-15).

In Luke 16 we have the moving account of the rich man and Lazarus. This is NOT a parable; it is an actual account of a rich man and a beggar, both of whom died.

Father Abraham and Lazarus are named - and the Holy Spirit never uses proper names or names of departed saints of God in parables. This certain rich man died and opened his eyes in hell. He was tormented in the flames, he begged for water to cool his parching tongue.

The beggar Lazarus died, and was carried by angels into Abraham’s bosom . . . the place of rest.

A baby rests upon the bosom of its mother. Abraham’s bosom is the Paradise of God. Abraham is there, all the departed saints are there. Paul was caught up into Paradise (II Corinthians 12:1-4). When the rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to dip his finger in water and cool his tongue, he was reminded that Lazarus could not come where he was, because between the fire and the Paradise of rest, there was a great gulf fixed.

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, there was a great gulf. I believe that gulf has now been broken down, and what was Paradise in the Old Testament era is now a part of the burning inferno called hell. **“Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure . . .”** (Isaiah 5:14a).

I believe God simply removed the partition, and now the spirits of the damned occupy the entirety of the center of this earth. The earth is round, the center is a sphere, and therefore is bottomless. I believe hell is in the center of this earth.

At the Great white Throne judgment the spirits of the wicked will be brought out of hell in the center of the earth, and they will appear before the Great white Throne to receive their just reward according to their wickedness. Yes, there will be degrees of punishment in hell. God could not be a just God and permit some teenage boy or girl who was brought up in a bootlegger's home, to suffer the same intensity of punishment as Pharaoh or Hitler. God will give to Hitler and Pharaoh (and others) their just and due torment, according to their wicked works.

The heathen will be judged in righteousness. The teenager will be judged in righteousness. Whether you spend eternity in Heaven or in hell, my friend, you will receive from the hand of Almighty God exactly what is coming to you - no more, and no less.

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. We call these explosions "volcanic eruptions." There are boiling springs in the western part of our country.

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 and 15).

In Numbers 16:30-33 we have the account of an entire company dropping into hell alive. The Scripture tells 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. All the people of Korah - their houses and everything they had - dropped into hell and the earth shut her mouth. Why should I not believe, preach and teach without apology that hell is in the center of this earth? There was no hell in the beginning.

In Genesis 1:1 we read, "**In the beginning God created the heaven (singular) and the earth (singular).**" The Scripture does not say heavens (plural) nor earths (plural). There is no mention of hell here. There was no devil in the beginning. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were in the beginning. God created the angels, the cherubim, the seraphim, and the archangels.

There were probably three archangels, with Lucifer the chief of the three. Sometime . . . perhaps after millions of years . . . Lucifer decided to overthrow God and take His throne. He brainwashed some of the angels, led them to believe they could overthrow God, and they made such an attempt. But since the Creator is greater than the created, and since God created Lucifer and all the angels, God cast Lucifer and the fallen angels out of Heaven. Study Ezekiel 28:11-15 and Isaiah 14:12-14.

God literally threw Lucifer out of Heaven, and Jesus the Son said He witnessed it: "**And He (Jesus) said unto them, I BEHELD SATAN AS LIGHTNING FALL FROM HEAVEN**" (Luke 10:18). When Jesus made this announcement to His disciples, He spoke in the past tense, not future. This does not refer to the time when Satan will be eternally cast out. (We will study about this later in Revelation.) Luke 10:18 refers to the time when Satan was cast out of Heaven.

The devil is a self-made creature. He was not a devil in his original state, but when he decided in his own heart that he could overthrow God, and led some of the angels to believe the same, he became the Deceiver . . . the devil. God was forced to cast him out of Heaven, and since Lucifer (the shining one) had become the devil (the deceiver) God was forced to prepare a prison for the disobedient ones. Therefore, hell was prepared **“for the devil and his angels”** (Matthew 25:41). Jude tells us that the angels which left their first estate are now reserved in chains awaiting the day of judgment. Read Jude in its entirety.

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 this earth, and will remain there until the consummation of all things. Then all the wicked spirits since Adam, together with the evil angels and Satan himself, will 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).

If by chance there are some who still doubt that hell is in the center of the earth, let me give you one more Bible proof: When Jesus was here on earth, the scribes and Pharisees asked Him to give them a sign to prove that He was God’s Son. Jesus said, **“An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 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”** (Matthew 12:38-40).

Prophesying concerning the Lord Jesus, the Psalmist said, **“For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption”** (Psalm 16:10). The words are repeated in Acts 2:25-27: **“For David speaketh concerning Him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for He is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”**

And now, the capstone that proves the pyramid of truth that hell is in the center of the earth: **“Wherefore He saith, WHEN HE ASCENDED UP ON HIGH, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (NOW THAT HE ASCENDED, WHAT IS IT BUT THAT HE ALSO DESCENDED FIRST INTO THE LOWER PARTS OF THE EARTH? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things)”** (Ephesians 4:8-10).

There is no doubt in my mind, after comparing spiritual things with spiritual, 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.

Out of the smoke, millions of locusts will appear. . . billions of demon locusts will come out of the smoke that proceeds out of hell. They will have the power to sting men like the scorpions of the earth have power.

Do I believe this? Why should I not believe it? Why should I believe anything else? Why should I symbolize and spiritualize these locusts? The Bible plainly tells me that they have the power to sting like the scorpions of the earth. I know what a scorpion is; I have seen them.

I saw one person who was stung by a scorpion, and in a matter of moments that person turned black and blue, and went into convulsions of agony.

The torment of the locusts is as the torment of earth's scorpions when the scorpions strike a man. This terrible torment will last for five months. Think of it!

Five months of agony, five months of scorpions. Do I believe this is a literal five months? I answer with these questions: Do I believe John 3:16? Do I believe Acts 16:3-17 Do I believe the 23rd Psalm? Do I believe John 14:2 - **"In my Father's house are many mansions"**? I certainly do! Then why should I not believe this? Men will be stung and bitten by locusts for five months. They will swell and hurt, beg and scream; but they cannot die.

"And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them."

Are you capable of understanding that statement? Do you understand those words? Guns will not kill, razors will not sever arteries, poison will not poison, necks will not break, hearts will not stop! Men will go on their faces and beg God to kill them . . . to let them die. They will mutilate their bodies, but they cannot bleed to death. They will put guns to their temples and pull the triggers - but the bullet will penetrate the head with no harm . . . just more pain, no death!

I know it is humanly impossible to understand such fury, but since the Bible declares it, I have no alternative but to preach it.

Dear reader, will you be one of those who will fall on your face and beg God to kill you? Will you be one of those who drink poison but cannot die? Will you be one of those who will only add to your pain as you mutilate your body and seek for death? If you are not a child of God you may be one of those.

Thank God, you can escape it all! If you are not saved, you can be, right now - If will just bow your head and in your own words ask the Lord to come into your heart and save you. **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved . . . Whosoever shall call upon His name shall be saved . . . They that come to Me I will in no wise cast out . . . As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God!"**

Receive Him NOW, and you will not be here when the horrible plague of the locusts comes.

This army of demon-locusts out of hell is described in verses 7-10. They had bodies like horses prepared for battle. (In Italy and some other foreign countries locusts are called “little horses” and some of them resemble a horse.) They had on their heads crowns like gold. These demon monstrosities had faces like men, with long, flowing hair like a woman. They had jagged, sharp teeth like a lion, and “as it were” breastplates of iron . . . durable and strong, comparable to our iron.

They could not be destroyed. Bullets would not penetrate these locusts. They had tails like scorpions of the earth, with stings in their tails, and they were to sting men for five months. Read Joel 2:4 very carefully, also Jeremiah 51:27 and Exodus 10:12-15. These hideous, savage, demon monstrosities will fill this earth for five months.

Think of it! This great army of locusts is organized . . . it has a king . . . a leader. The leader is the angel of the bottomless pit . . . the devil himself, in angelic form. The devil has a cheap counterfeit for everything God has that is good and great.

I said the angel in verse one of this chapter is none other than Jesus. Here, the angel is the devil . . . his name in the Hebrew is Abaddon, which means destruction. In the Greek it is Apollyon, which means destroyer. The devil is a deceiver, and has always wrought destruction. He is the destroyer of the souls of men.

The king over the locusts is the devil. He personally leads his army of tormentors. Jesus will personally lead the army of the saints when we, with Jesus, invade this earth, riding upon white horses, clothed in bright shining linen (Revelation 19:11-16).

Let me emphasize once more that these demon locusts are not to kill men. They are to torment them, tantalize them, sting them, for five months. **JUST A MINUTE! DO I HAVE YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION? DID YOU REALLY GET THAT PICTURE? ARE YOU SURE? ? ?**

My precious lady and my dear brother: If you are left here on this earth when the Rapture takes place, one morning you will awaken, prepare your breakfast, and as you sit at the breakfast table you will look through the window into your back yard - and you will not be able to believe your own eyes. You will wonder if you are losing your mind, for in your back yard you will see what resembles a group of midget horses.

They will have unique bodies.

They will be wearing crowns that look like gold. They will have a very unusual tail - and as you gaze out the window one of them will raise its head and look straight into the room. Your blood will run cold in your veins as you sit awe-stricken, dumbfounded, amazed - and you will see the demon locusts of hell, face to face!

When this demon locust lifts his head, you will see that his face looks like a man - and yet his hair looks like that of a woman. When he opens his mouth you will see that his teeth are sharp and slender, like those of a lion.

You will notice that the breast of this demon locust is protected by something that resembles iron, and as this monstrosity gazes at you and you gaze back at it, it will begin to fly straight to your window. You will run screaming - or possibly you will faint and fall flat on your kitchen floor.

I know this is a horrible picture - but beloved, I dare not soft-pedal the Word of God nor cut corners to prevent being called a religious fanatic. I believe that what I have suggested here will happen literally, right here on this earth. Get that picture if you can, and if you are not saved, fall down on your knees right now, wherever you are, and tell God in your own words that you want Jesus Christ to come into your heart and save you. He will do it!

THE SIXTH TRUMPET

Revelation 9:13-21:

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.**
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.**
16. **And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.**
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.**
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:**
21. **Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.**

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.”** In the tabernacle of old, there were two altars . . . one stood without, in the court - and one stood within the Holy Place directly in front of the veil which covered the Holy of Holies. The golden altar is twice referred to in Revelation - chapter 8:3 and chapter 9:13.

The brazen altar is six times mentioned in Revelation; it stood in the court. The golden altar stood in the Holy Place. The brazen altar was the altar of sacrifice.

Every morning and evening except on the annual Day of Atonement, incense (representing the merits of Jesus Christ, our Saviour) was burned on the golden altar in the Holy Place.

On the Day of Atonement, the Blood of sacrificial animals was put upon the four golden horns of the altar. The account of this ceremony is in Leviticus 16:18, 19 and chapter 4:7-18. The brazen altar, where the Blood was shed, points to the Cross and the shed Blood of Jesus Christ.

In verse 13 John said, **“I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar.”** In chapter 8:3 we hear the prayers of the saints of the earth. They are going through terrible, horrible persecution. In chapter 9:13 God is about to judge the persecutors of the saints who will be on earth at that time. The terrible slaughter is about to wipe out one-third of earth’s inhabitants. The sixth trumpet and the second woe are far more dreadful than the preceding trumpets. The voice John heard is either the voice of God or of one who has been commissioned by The Lord God. The voice is heard from the four horns of the golden altar. Why was the voice not from the altar itself, instead of from the four horns? In Revelation 16:7 the voice comes from the altar itself.

Why, here, does the voice come from the four horns?

Why not from one horn? All numbers in the Bible have spiritual significance. Four expresses universality the world over. For instance, four metals are mentioned in Daniel 2. Four beasts are mentioned in Daniel 7. Four divisions of the human family are mentioned in Revelation 7:9. Four points of the compass (north, south, east and west) are mentioned in Revelation 7:1. The voice coming from the horns denotes power over all the universe (Psalm 118:27, Psalm 89:17-24, Psalm 92:10, Psalm 132:17 and Revelation 5:6).

In verse 14 we learn the message given by the voice: **“Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.”** These four angels are not the same as the four angels in Revelation 7:1-3. In chapter 7 the angels stand on the extremities of the earth. Here in chapter 9 they are bound in the great river Euphrates. The angels in chapter 7 hold back the forces of evil.

The four angels in chapter 9 let loose the human and satanic instruments of destruction and judgment.

The great river Euphrates is mentioned twice in Revelation - chapter 9:14 and chapter 16:12. The Euphrates is 1,780 miles long. The Nile river and the Euphrates form the borders of the Promised Land - the ground God deeded to Abraham for an everlasting possession (Genesis 15:18).

In verse 15, the four angels bound in the river Euphrates are loosed. They are prepared for an hour, a day, a month and a year. Greek scholars tell us that they are prepared for the hour, and day, and month, and year. That is, they are prepared for a specific moment, and they will perform their duty and follow the command of God at that hour, day, month and year. Read Acts 15:18.

The mission of these angels is to slay one-third of the inhabitants of the earth.

Think of it! One-third of all persons on earth will be butchered at that time.

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 two hundred thousand thousand . . . that is, 200,000,000.

It is said that the largest army ever to go into the field of battle was under Xerxes when he invaded Greece. He led one and a half million (1,500,000) troops against Greece. The four angels will lead two hundred million troops against the earth. It is hard for the human mind to grasp such a figure. It is hard to think in such terms. (Read Psalm 68:17 concerning God's chariots.)

During World War II, at the height of the conflict, America had approximately 12,000,000 men under arms. Compare that with an army of 200,000,000.

In verse 17 John said, **"I saw the horses in the vision."** He further states, **"I saw them that sat on them."** He saw the horses and their riders, and he describes both. What a description! The riders of the horses had breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone. The riders undoubtedly will be super-human, and probably demented . . . a great army of demons out of hell. The heads of the horses were as the heads of lions (the lion is king of the beasts). The riders are mounted upon horses that cannot be stopped, cannot be conquered. Out of the mouths of the horses issue fire, smoke and brimstone!

Verse 18 further describes them by saying, **"by these three** (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.

In verse 19 we learn that the power of these hideous monstrosities is in their mouth and in their tails: **"Their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt."** Some Bible teachers have interpreted these horses to be modern airplanes and bombers, with their powerful guns spurting fire; but I cannot see the modern bomber here. I believe these are literal horses, demented - and that the riders are demon monstrosities.

I believe these horses are creatures from the regions unknown. Just as the locusts came from the smoke out of the bottomless pit, these horsemen will come out of hell. I refuse to spiritualize or symbolize any part of Revelation that is not clearly stated to BE a symbol, or spiritual.

Verse 20 tells us that even though one-third of earth's population is dead, having been slain by the 200,000,000 horsemen, the other two-thirds refuse to repent. 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 II Thessalonians 2:8-12 you will learn that people who have had the opportunity to be saved before the Rapture will be sent strong delusion, they will believe **"THE LIE,"** and they all will be damned.

We read in verse 20, **"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: neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts."**

The sins of these people in this particular hour are “**the works of their own hands.**” (Read Isaiah 2:8, Jeremiah 1:16-25, Jeremiah 6:14, Deuteronomy 4:28, Psalm 115:4-7 and Psalm 135:15.)

- They worshipped demons - that sounds like modern spiritualism. (Read Matthew 8:28,29 and Revelation 16:14.)
- They were idolaters.
- They were murderers,
- They committed sorceries,
- They were fornicators,
- They were thieves.

They were committing and practicing the fulness of wickedness. Seven sins are named here - seven is the Bible number of perfection. So they were completely given over to the devil.

These people were spiritually blind . . . they could not see. They were sent strong delusion, they did believe The Lie. They had reached the perfect standard of ungodly living. Their cup of sin was full and running over.

At the time of the sixth trumpet, the Holy Spirit is with the Church in the sky at the marriage supper. There is no resisting 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. We will not go through this terrible time of suffering and chaos. But if you are not a believer, you may be here! You may witness the invasion of the two hundred million demon monstrosities.

God deals in blood and fire. Either get under the Blood - or you will end up in God's fiery judgments. There is no need to spiritualize Revelation 9:13-21. These verses mean exactly what they say. These things have happened on the earth before; they will happen again. This is the fulfillment of Joel 2:30-31. Part of the prophecy of Joel was literally fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, so why should not the rest of his prophecy be literally fulfilled? Read it. He tells us that in the latter days God will show wonders in Heaven, and in the earth blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, In the great and terrible day of the Lord. That day, of course, is the day when Jesus comes in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God.

“And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt. And 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. So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field.”

ONLY IN THE LAND OF GOSHEN, WHERE THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WERE, WAS THERE NO HAIL” (Exodus 9:22-26).

The God of Israel is my God. The God of Israel is the God of today. He is the same omnipotent One . . . the same God who sent hail and fire upon the land of Egypt. God does not change. The hail and the fire that fell upon Egypt was literal ice and literal blazes of fire.

So why not again, during the last days of the Great Tribulation?

In verse 14 the Spirit mentions the great river Euphrates. This is a literal river . . . it is not spiritual.

Why mix the literal and the spiritual in the same passage? Just as surely as the Euphrates is a real river still known today, the angels will be literal (Hebrews 1:14).

The army of 200,000,000 horsemen will be real. They will have bodies. They will spew literal fire, smoke and brimstone from their mouths. They will have heads like lions, and by the fire, smoke and brimstone from their mouths one-third of the people will die.

I know you do not understand such terrible judgment, and neither do I understand it. But the thing for us to do is prepare to meet God, and let God run His affairs.

We are not commanded to understand God’s ways - His ways are not our ways. He wants us to believe on Him and be saved. Every time a sinner refuses to receive the Lord Jesus and be saved, that refusal causes the sinner’s heart to become harder and harder. It is a fact that the same Gospel that softens the heart and prepares it for salvation (John 5:25, Romans 10:17, I Peter 1:23) also serves to make the heart harder if that Gospel is rejected.

Every time a sinner says “No” to the Holy Spirit and “Yes” to the devil, this act makes it easier to say “No” to God the next time, and “Yes” to the devil.

Over a period of time the sinner’s heart becomes so hard, so calloused, that the Gospel does not penetrate or disturb the sinner any more. And God finally gives up that soul.

In Romans chapter 1 we have itemized three sins that will cause God to give up the person who commits them.

- The first one is that **“they knew God, but refused to glorify Him as God.”** Therefore, God gave them up (Romans 1:21-24).
- The second sin is that **“they changed the truth of God into a lie and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections”** (Romans 1:25,26).
- The third sin is that **“even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God GAVE THEM OVER TO A REPROBATE MIND”** (Romans 1:28).

When people know God, but refuse to worship Him as God; when people hear the Gospel but refuse it, by their very actions saying, "I do not believe it," thereby making God's truth a lie; when people do not like to think about God and entertain God in their minds - then God gives them up! And when God says to the Holy Spirit, "**Ephraim is joined to idols, let him alone**" (Hosea 4:17), that person is forever doomed and can never be saved. John 6:44 clearly teaches that no man can come to God except the Holy Spirit convict and draw him. If God gives up a soul, the Holy Spirit will not convict that soul any more. The most dangerous thing any person has ever done is to hear the Gospel - and reject it.

If you are not a believer, bow your head and trust the Lord Jesus with all of your heart this very moment.

"Today is the day of salvation, now is the accepted time . . . Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." Read carefully John 5:24, Romans 10:9, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5, I John 1:9, Matthew 10:31-33.

~ end of chapter 9 ~

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