

- I) V1-12 INTRO: Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the
- II) There have been many surveys conducted that have asked people Who Jesus is
One survey by the Barna Group sought to see what Americans believe about Him
- III) After conducting the survey they found that 92% believe He actually lived
They found that 35% of the millennials surveyed say He is only a religious figure
52% of those surveyed believe that He committed sins
- IV) Many Americans have a concept of Jesus that is formed by the two major holidays
They intellectually believe that He was born and did great things: Christmas
They intellectually believe that He died and was resurrected: Easter
- V) Though these two facts are true, what they fail to see is a more full picture
They do not realize that He was born that He might die as a sacrifice for sins
They don't really understand how deadly sin is and how much God hates it
- VI) The bible teaches that there are certain things that God hates
Dt 16:22 says He hates *idol worship*
Mal 2:16 says that He hates *divorce*
Is 61:6 says that He hates *robbery and wrongdoing*
Ps 11:5 says that He hates those *who love violence*
Pr 6:15-19 says that He hates arrogance, a lying tongue, killing of the innocent, those who plan and do evil, those who make wicked plans and run to execute them, those who lie in order to harm others and those who stir up strife
- VII) These are things that God says that He actually hates in part because they hurt others
- VIII) Today many think of Jesus as simply a good and kind man who forgives easily
Though this is true, such a view actually limits Jesus to one dimension
It emphasizes His love and goodness, but does not make room for righteous wrath
- IX) As we have been looking at the last few chapters we have seen Jesus' wrath
The meek and mild Lamb of God has revealed Himself to be the Lion of the tribe of Judah

- X) He has taken from the hand of God the title deed of the earth
The title deed is sealed with seven seals, and one by one He has opened them
- XI) Each seal has unleashed judgment on the earth
There are three sets of judgments, each set gaining in intensity
The Seal, The Trumpets, and then the very greatest, the Bowl judgments
- I) The opening of the seventh seal unleashed the second wave of judgment
The Trumpet Judgments, also known as the Judgment of Thirds
- II) Ch 8 revealed the sounding of four of the Trumpets
These trumpets were sounded by powerful angels and signaled *ecological disaster*
- III) As we read of nature coming under violent change, we need to keep one thing in mind
Why would God bring such harsh judgment on nature
- IV) We need to remember that the universe has been designed *to bring glory to God*
- V) It is part of how the Lord, through *general revelation*, draws the attention of man
Ps 19:1-2 The heavens *declare the glory of God*; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge.
Ro 1:20 For since the creation of the world His *invisible attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, *so that they are without excuse*
- VI) It is interesting that what is intended to *reveal glory* can also reveal His wrath
V7 One third of the trees and vegetation are destroyed by hail and fire
V8-9 A great mountain (asteroid?) is thrown into the sea
1/3 of the sea turns into blood, and 1/3 of ocean creatures die
V10-11 A star (meteorite?) falls to the earth
1/3 of the springs of water become poisonous, and many die
- VII) V12-13 One third of the sun, moon and stars are struck, and darkness now closes in
This is a temporary and partial blocking of the sun that later is removed (Rev 16:8-9)
Lu 21:25-26 There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men

will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for *the heavenly bodies will be shaken*.

VIII) These judgments are ecological: Man is impacted but the judgments have been *on nature*

Ch 9 records two judgments on *man himself*

IX) Last time we noted how the angel had cried "Woe, woe, woe" (Ch 8:13)
An angel warned of upcoming calamity, but man still refused to repent

X) This reminds me of the warning found in the book of Proverbs
Pr 29:1 He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, *will suddenly be destroyed*, and that without remedy.

I) The three woes that the angel cries out are actually the *last three* Trumpet judgments

Ch 9:1-12 Is the Fifth Trumpet judgment, or the first woe

V13-21 Is the Sixth Trumpet judgment, or the second woe

After a parenthesis from ch 10:1 to ch 11:14, the Seventh Trumpet, or third woe sounds

II) Today we will look at the fifth trumpet judgment

III) V1-2 Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth

IV) The Seal and Trumpet Judgments have taken us deeply into the Tribulation period

We now see the sounding of the Fifth Trumpet

V) V1 I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To *him* was given the key to the
We have already seen unusual occurrences in the starry heavens (Rev. 6:13, 8:10, 12)

VI) All of these passages referred to *material stars*
Here, the scripture is speaking of a personality

VII) V1 Then the fifth angel sounded And I saw a star *fallen from heaven to the earth*
In this passage, it is obvious that John is not writing of an actual star, but a *living being*

This is a *star that has fallen* and it has great authority

VIII) In scripture, angels can be spoken of as stars

Job 38:7 When the *morning stars* sang together and all *the sons of God* shouted for joy

IX) The morning stars sang together in praise and worship to God

They did so at the direction of Lucifer, who was the heavenly choir director

X) There is one angel in heaven that is referred to as a fallen star

Is 14:12 How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!

Lu 10:17-18 The seventy returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." He replied, I saw Satan *fall like lightning from heaven*.

XI) Scripture gives us various names of this arch enemy of God

He is called *Satan* (adversary), the *devil* (slanderer) Lucifer, the accuser of the brethren, Beelzebub, the Prince of this world, the prince of the power of the air, the god of this age, the adversary, the dragon, the serpent, the deceiver, an angel of light, the prince of demons, and the wicked one

XII) He was the mightiest angel, the covering cherub intended to be close to God's glory

I) He was a model of perfection, wise, and incredibly beautiful

He was created by God and intended to guard God's glory as a covering cherub

II) It is believed that he was originally the heavenly choir leader, directing praise to God

III) Ezekiel 28:12-17 tells us that he was beautiful, but that iniquity was found in him

Ezek 28:17 tells us that Satan, was lifted up by pride and God cast him out of heaven

IV) By being close to the praise of God, Lucifer desired to receive praise for himself
By pride Satan fell, desiring to be worshiped even as God is worshiped

V) Satan had the ability to make choices and chose to rebel against God

This seems to be the testimony of Isaiah

Is 14:12-15 How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! *You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I*

will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.

VI) *I will ascend into heaven: (The sin of selfish ambition, self promotion)*
I will raise my throne above the stars of God (he desired to rule the angels)
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly (I will rule the earth, and over Israel)
I will ascend above the tops of the clouds (I will take the glory that belongs only to God)
I will make myself like the most high (I will be worshiped as a god)

VII) One music minister said: I can't imagine any other skill that would make a created being so full of himself as to think he could overthrow God himself.

VIII) The Devil was not created as *the opposer* of God, but became the opposer
Through pride he left his position voluntarily
1 Ti 3:6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil

IX) Satan possesses limited, but great power and influence on the earth
He bestows Kingdoms: Lu 4:6 I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.
He inflicts illness: Job 2:7 So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head.
He buffets believers: Luke 22:31 Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.

I) He can control the weather
Job 1:18-19 While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"
He keeps people in spiritual blindness, encouraging the rejection of Jesus the Messiah
2 Co 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

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III) He keeps people in fear of death

Heb 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death -- that is, *the devil*

IV) He is aided by demons, which are fallen angels

He is a created being and is limited: He is not omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent

He has legions of devils who fell, who aid him in his rebellion

V) At the present time he has limited access to heaven as we saw in Job 1 and 2

Ultimately he will be restricted from heaven

Rev 12:9-10 tells us that during the tribulation he will be cast down to earth

VI) Though he has great authority on earth, the fact is he is limited by God

God protects those who belong to Him

1 Jn 4:4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

1 Jn 5:18 We know that those who have become part of God's family do not make a practice of sinning, for God's Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot get his hands on them.

VII) V1 This fallen star was given the key to the bottomless pit (abussos; also tartarus)

The keeper of the keys has power to open, or to close

In the Nt a key is used to denote power and authority of various kinds

VIII) He is given the key to what is called the bottomless pit, or the abyss

Abyss of abussos: it speaks of the prison that some evil spirits are incarcerated

It is a temporary detention center until the Lake of Fire, which is the final judgment

Satan is spoken of as having the ability to summon evil spirits to spread desolation

I) V2 And he opened the bottomless pit and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke

II) V2 With the sounding of the fifth trumpet Satan is allowed to open the Abyss

III) V2 Smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace so the sun and air

A huge amount of smoke arises, darkening the sun and polluting the air
The corruption and impurity of hell overwhelms the atmosphere of the earth

IV) V3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth And to them was given power

Hordes of ferocious demons are allowed to escape and attack people

V) These are demons who have been incarcerated since the days of Noah
Jude 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

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

Lu 8:30-31 Jesus asked him, saying, What is your name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep (abusso).

VI) Demons taking the form of locusts are swarming the sky

VII) V4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth or any green thing or tree

This command would not be from Satan, who desires to kill, steal, and destroy

VIII) The command would be from God, who controls everything and directs the outcome

They were not to destroy vegetation but to attack people

IX) They were to attack those who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads
The seal of God is speaking of them being identified as belonging to God

X) Believers will be spared even as the Jews were spared in the plagues on Egypt
This includes the 144,000 evangelists as well as the redeemed, in general

XI) These demonic locusts attack unbelievers as God protects those who belong to Him

They have a scorpion sting, and they harm those who reject Jesus

XII) V5 And they were not given authority to kill them but to torment them for five months

They are not permitted to kill but they inflict incredible pain on men

XIII) The pain is suffered for 5 months which interestingly is the normal lifespan for locusts

I) The torment that they inflict is like the torment of a scorpion

A scorpion sting can produce pain for several days, and even kill children

II) These five months are actually an act of mercy because they can still repent

The 144,000 are still preaching the message of salvation

III) For many people, these five months will be the last time that they can repent

Many will die for various reasons, and others will simply harden their hearts

IV) V6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it they will desire to die

The pain will be intense and people will want to die for escape it, but cannot

V) They will look upon the earth and see devastation from so many ecological disasters

The earthquakes, fires, volcanoes will make the world into a wasteland

The sea will be filled with rotting animal carcasses, the atmosphere will be polluted, and water supplies will be poisoned and the vegetation will be wiped out, bringing intense famines

VI) The destruction of the world and the intense pain they suffer will crush them

They will desire the escape of death, but it will evade them and they must live on in it

Imagine living in such intense pain but being unable to escape it in any way

VII) V7 And the shape of the locusts was *like* horses prepared for battle

They are like locusts because they bring terrible devastation

What he is seeing can only be described in terms that he is familiar with

VIII) His using the word *like* may indicate something other than literal is intended

They are portrayed as fierce, evil and powerful: Women's hair and lion's teeth

IX) Their shape is like battle horses, their heads are crowned with something like gold

The gold crowns are victor's crowns, meaning they are unstoppable

Their faces are like faces of men, meaning that they are rational beings not insects

X) V8 They have hair like women's hair and their teeth are like lion's teeth
Their hair is long, which can actually describe attractiveness
Their teeth are like lion's teeth, which speaks of being deadly

XI) V9 And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron and the sound of their wings
The iron breastplates speak of their being impossible to destroy or overcome
The sound of their wings is like the sound of chariots or horses, and none escapes

XII) V10 They had tails like scorpions and there were stings in their tails Their power was

I) This has led some to speculate this as a first century description of Cobra helicopters
Is it possible that John is describing military helicopters spewing nerve gas?
They are portrayed as being immune from destruction because they have armor

II) V11 And they had a king over them the angel of the bottomless pit whose name
Unlike actual locusts the demons have a king over them
This enables us to know they are not *literally* locusts
Pr 30:27 The locusts have no king, yet they all advance in ranks

III) The king that they serve is named: Abaddon in Hebrew and Apollyon in Greek
Abaddon is Destruction, Apollyon is Destroyer

IV) Many believe that this is speaking of Satan
One reservation about this is that Satan is referred to a prince of the power of the air
He is not identified with the abyss until he is cast into it (Rev 20:1-3)

V) Other's believe this is speaking of a high ranking demon in Satan's hierarchy

VI) What we do know for sure is this figure is identified as destruction and destroyer
I personally think it is speaking of Satan, the ruler over a demonic army

VII) V12 One woe is past Behold still two more woes are coming after these things

This refers to Rev 8:13 and speaks of the fifth Trumpet Judgment
Two more woes are coming, concluding the Trumpet Judgments and bringing
the Bowls

VIII) He is saying: If you think it is over, think again
It is going to get even worse