

THE BOOK OF REVELATION 43

The Plague of the Demon Locusts

I. Review

A. The seven trumpets release the wrath of God's judgments coming on the Christ rejecting world beginning at the Mid Point of the Tribulation Period.

B. A. The first trumpet is described in (Rev. 8:7) ⁷*The first angel sounded: and hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.*

C. The second trumpet is described in (Rev.8:8, 9) ⁸*Then the second angel sounded: and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. ⁹And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.*

D. The third trumpet is described in (Rev. 8:10, 11) ¹⁰*Then the third angel sounded: and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. ¹¹The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.*

E. The fourth trumpet is described is (Rev. 8:12) ¹²*Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.*

F. The three woes of the final three trumpets are more terrible and grievous than the first four. (Rev. 8:13) ¹³*And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"*

II. Text: (Rev. 9:1-12 NKJV) ¹*Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. ²And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So, the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. ³Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵And they were not given*

authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. ⁶In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. ⁷The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. ⁸They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. ⁹And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. ¹⁰They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months. ¹¹And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. ¹²One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

III. The star fallen from heaven.

A. (Verse 1) says ¹Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.

B. This is not referring to a shooting star or meteor, but to a fallen angel.

C. Notice that personal pronouns and actions are ascribed to him.

D. Only an intelligent being could be given a key to a material place and a command to obey.

E. Angels are referred to symbolically as stars. (Rev. 12:3, 4 NKJV) ³And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴His tail drew a **third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth**. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

F. When the devil fell, one third of the angels fell with him.

G. So this star fallen from heaven to earth is one of the fallen angels of Satan. The blowing of the fifth trumpet allows the devil to release a torment on the human race that he was heretofore prohibited from releasing.

IV. The Bottomless Pit

A. In (Verse 2) the abyss or bottomless pit, or Sheol-Hades, commonly known as hell, is substantiated to be a real place of fire and smoke. ²And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So, the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

B. There has been only one other time in history when hell was opened. This can be found in (Num. 16:23-34 NKJV) ²³So the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁴"Speak to the congregation, saying, 'Get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.' ²⁵Then Moses rose and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him. ²⁶And he spoke to the congregation, saying, "Depart now from the tents of these wicked men! Touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins." ²⁷So they got away from around the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; and Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the door of their tents, with their wives, their sons, and their little children. ²⁸And Moses said: "By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own will. ²⁹If these men die naturally like all men, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, then the LORD has not sent me. ³⁰But if the LORD creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the LORD. ³¹Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them, ³²and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. ³³So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly. ³⁴Then all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, "Lest the earth swallow us up also!"

C. Hell is the fate of all those who reject God.

D. Then (verse 3) says, ³Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth...

V. Eight Proofs that these are not natural locusts, but demonic creatures. (Dake's)

1. They will eat no grass, vegetables, or trees, as ordinary locusts do (v4) ⁴They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree...The 8th Egyptian- plague of ordinary locusts in the days of Moses destroyed every green thing (Ex. 10.3-20).

2. They have a king who is a fallen angel. (v 11) ¹¹And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. Ordinary locusts do not have a king over them. (Pr. 30:27) ²⁷The locusts have no king, yet they all advance in ranks.

3. They are not stifled by the smoke, or burned by the fire of the abyss, as ordinary locusts would be (v 2-11).

4. These creatures are now confined to the infernal regions because of their sins (Luke. 8: 28-31) ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" ²⁹For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. ³⁰Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. ³¹And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Satan and other fallen angels presently have their abode in the heavenlies surrounding this planet. There are demons who walk on the earth, such as Legion, who have not yet been confined to the abyss, but they know that their time to be confined in the abyss in torment is coming, and they are afraid of it. But there are some fallen angels and demons who have already been confined to the pit, such as these demon locusts. No creature is confined to prison unless he has sinned. Ordinary locusts are not in the abyss.

5 They are spirit beings and therefore indestructible by mortal men. Otherwise, men would not fear them, as they do here (v 5-6). ⁵And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. ⁶In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. Men can destroy ordinary locusts regardless of their number.

6. They are intelligent beings, capable of commands and following leadership (11). ¹¹And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon which means Destroyer.

7. They have power to torment men like scorpions (v 3-10). Ordinary locusts do not have this power.

8. Their description proves them to be intelligent spirit beings, not ordinary locusts of the earth: They have bodies like horses, heads like men, crowns of gold, hair like women, teeth like lions, breastplates of iron, wings, tails, and scorpion stings. These are literal beings, for every statement about them proves them to be real and capable of bodily contact with man. They are objects of sight for men see them and flee. They make a thunderous noise as they fly. They could not possibly be symbolic, for all symbols in Scripture are explained and made clear as to their meaning.

VI. Conclusion.

A. At this point the *Great Multitude* of those who became believers during the first three- and one-half years of the Tribulation Period have been caught up to heaven, but the 144,000 are still on the earth. However, we learned in Revelation 7 that they have Divine Immunity from these plagues by being sealed with the seal of God in their foreheads.