

# Revelation Part 8 | 6/11/17

- Transition from God's wrath on nature to God's wrath against man
  - The first 4 trumpets were directed towards nature, but now we have a shift to mankind
  - We now see a demonic devastation directed at those living in the world.
- 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet revealed a key to a bottomless pit that was opened. | Revelation 9:1-11
  - **Read Revelation 9:1-11**
  - The bottomless pit is a place for demons
    - The bottomless pit as seen referenced in Scripture and Revelation shows us that it is a place for the demons.
      - The demons came from the abyss
        - Luke 8:30-31
          - "And Jesus then asked him, What is your name? and he said, Legion, for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss"
      - Satan was bound in the pit
        - Revelation 20:1-3
          - "Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while."
      - The beast (antichrist) came from the pit
        - Revelation 11:7
          - "And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them,"
    - This is not the final jail for Satan and the demons as this is the lake of fire.
      - Revelation 20:10
        - "and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."
  - The "star that fell" and opened the bottomless pit
    - **The identity of the "star that fell" is not universally agreed upon and there are a couple of mainstream views for this.**
    - One thing is clear however, that this is not a "star" in the literal sense as it is a "he" and not a thing.
      - The star that fell was given the prefix "he" and "he" turned the key to the bottomless pit, so this was not a star like in the description of things that fell to the earth.
    - This "star" could be one of God's angels who opened the pit.
      - Since it was a star from heaven it would seem to imply an angelic being.
      - It could just simply be a reference to one of God's angels who was given the key to open the pit.
      - There is a similarity to this in Revelation 20:1 of an angel with a key.

- This “star” could be a fallen angel (demon) or even Satan himself.
  - Instead of one of God’s holy angels, this may be a fallen angel or even Satan.
  - Credibility to this being a demonic angel is given in Revelation 9:11 where the “angel” over the bottomless pit is king and his name means “destroyer”.
    - Revelation 9:11
      - “They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name In Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.”
    - Abaddon in Hebrew and Apollyon in Greek. Both of these mean “destroyer” or “perishing” or “going to ruin”
    - In the Old Testament, it is mentioned along with “Sheol” to describe the underworld.
  - Satan is a fallen angel
    - **What do you know about Satan and demons? Where did they come from?**
    - **How are they generally pictured if you were to draw them or imagine them in your mind or see them in a movie?**
    - Contrary to popular cutler and Hollywood, Satan was once an angel who lived with God, but He sought to put himself above God and was cast out.
      - Isaiah 14:12-14
        - “How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’
    - Jesus saw Satan fall from heaven
      - Luke 10:18
        - “And he said to them, I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”
    - We know that Satan’s “demons” were other fallen angels
      - Matthew 25:41
        - “Then he will say to those on his left, depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”
- The giver of the key
  - **It is also important that when we look back to the beginning of this passage that regardless of who this “fallen star” is the key was GIVEN not taken.**
  - If God did not want the abyss to be opened it would not have been opened.
    - Revelation 1:17b-18
      - “Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore and I have the keys of Death and Hades.
- **If the evil being was given the key to the pit what does that tell us about who “ultimately” is in control?**
  - **Remember Luke 8:30-31**
    - “And Jesus then asked him, What is your name? and he said, Legion, for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss”

- **Does that mean that God is somehow evil, since He allowed the pit to be opened?**
- **What does that tell us about how we deal with evil and Satan in our lives today? Does it mean that because we are Christians that we will be protected?**
- The demonic locusts – Revelation 9:2-11
  - ***Read Revelation 9:2-11***
  - At the fifth trumpet God’s wrath is poured out upon the world and He allowed the demonic beings to torment the unbelievers of the world.
  - The locusts were demonic and not “normal” locusts.
    - The locusts that God sent in the plagues against Pharaoh were actual locusts. These are not, they “resemble” locusts but are actually demonic.
  - John describes their unique features.
    - John had difficulty describing what he saw
      - Throughout his description he used the words “is” and “like” numerous times.
      - John did his best to describe what he saw.
    - They appeared like horses prepared for battle, with human faces and crowns of gold.
      - This is of course very unique imagery and nothing living on earth resembles this image.
    - Their hair like women’s hair and have lion’s teeth
      - They came not to be annoying insects but to do real harm.
    - They had breastplates of iron
      - They were made to have defenses, to make them difficult if not impossible to harm.
    - They had the power of scorpions
      - Not only did they have vicious teeth but they have stingers like that of a scorpion and they inflict the same type of damage.
        - Victims of severe scorpion stings roll around in agony, foam at the mouth and causes one to grind their teeth.
    - They likely came in mass swarms that appeared like smoke.
      - This smoke could also indicate the sheer number of them that when they swarm it appears like smoke.
    - **Can you think of anything in the present day that is even close to the description of these demons?**
  - The locusts were told to stay away from the vegetation.
    - This is the diet of a traditional locust, but not these demonic beings.
  - **The locusts were told to harm those who did NOT have the seal of God on their foreheads (144,000).**
    - **What do you think about those who are saved during the tribulation, would they be spared or will they also suffer the same punishment?**
  - They will be allowed to torment for 5 months.
    - In verse 5 we see that they were allowed to do this for 5 months which is actually the lifetime of a locust.
  - The afflicted will seek death but not find it.
    - Revelation 9:6
      - “And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.”
    - If this doesn’t tell us how painful their stings will be nothing will. The people will be under such pain and suffering they will wish to die.
    - **While they seek death, and do not find it, it does give them a chance for repentance.**

- **What is the worst pain you have ever experienced? Do you think it could even come close to this?**
- The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still to come.
  - And God’s wrath and judgment keep getting worse. If torture from these demons weren’t enough there is still more to come.
- The sixth trumpet will release a demonic war against humanity that kills 1/3 of mankind – Revelation 9:13-19
  - **Read Revelation 9:13-19**
  - Demonic war against humanity
    - In a nutshell, this sixth trumpet released fallen angels who commanded an army of 200 million demonic force that would wipe out 1/3 of the world.
    - Some take this to be a human army, but that is what we have with the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet.
  - The bound fallen angels
    - These four angels who are bound were likely fallen angels or demons and not God’s angels.
    - **God’s angels are never bound but the fallen who followed Satan were.**
      - **2 Peter 2:4**
        - **“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;”**
  - The angels were bound at the Euphrates River
    - While it’s not clear why this was the location they were bound we do know this is known as the cradle of life as it was a location of the Garden of Eden.
      - Genesis 2:10
        - “A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.
      - Genesis 2:14
        - “And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.
    - This area is also where many evil things have occurred including false religions.
      - Tower of Babel
      - Region where Noah came from where God flooded the earth.
      - Many of Israel’s enemies came from here, Babylonians and Persians.
  - They were prepared for the hour, day, month and year to be released.
    - This tell us a very specific time table was planned for their release.
    - **So, what does that tell us about how far in advance God had this time of tribulation planned out?**
    - **Does God make decisions on a whim or does He see everything?**
  - This army is demonic and not an earthly army.
    - Some relate this to an earthly army as we see that comes later with the kings of the east in chapter 16, but this likely describes demonic forces.
    - **These two “woe’s” are together and clearly the previous was demonic.**
    - The description of this army points to demonic as well and not something earthly.
  - The army would be 200 million in size
    - The size of 200 million in army is a bit difficult to imagine but let’s compare that to modern day military size.
    - Comparison
      - US – 1.4 million

- Russia – 800K
  - China 2.3 Million
  - Population of US over 300 million
- Their purpose is to kill (not torture) 1/3 of the world.
  - Unlike the demonic locusts this army would kill 1/3 of the world’s population.
  - This in combination with the last ¼ killed in 6:8 so now half of the world’s population at the beginning of the tribulation have died.
  - This could be something around 2 billion depending on “when” it takes place.
- The stubborn lost who still refuse to repent | Revelation 9:20-21
  - **Revelation 9:20-21**
  - Amazingly those who survived still did not repent, they continued with their lives of sin and denied Christ.
  - **Scripture is very specific about what types of sins that are holding the people back from repenting.**
    - **These things go on even today**
    - Worshipped demons
      - While we may not think to many people actually “worship demons”, if we think about it we can find that there are many things people worship today that certainly isn’t God.
        - And if they are not worshipping God they are benefiting Satan.
      - There will be many false religions still that will lead people astray.
      - **What do think might fall into this category of worshipping demons?**
    - They will worship their possessions
      - **What does this look like?**
      - There will be those in that time that still care more of their possessions than anything else.
    - They will continue with sexual immorality, murders, stealing and sorceries.
      - In other words, the sins that the world still commits today will still even in the face of divine wrath and justice will continue to be defiant.
  - **Why are some people so stubborn? Even when they know what is right they just won’t do it? Why do you think these would still deny Christ?**
  - **Why do these sins keep people from God?**
  - **How important is it that we as Christians who believe in Christ should stay away from them?**
- Mid-way through the tribulation.
  - At this time, we are mid-way through the 7-year tribulation.
  - We are coming into the middle section of the tribulation with some important events.
  - Then this leads us into the final 3.5 years of the Great Tribulation beginning with the 7 bowls.