



## REVELATION 9.1-11

### THE FINAL TRUMPETS SOUND

The late **Dr. Wilbur M. Smith**, who made the Book of Revelation his special study, once wrote: "It is probable that, apart from the exact identification of Babylon in Revelation 17 and 18, the meaning of the two judgments in this chapter represents the most difficult major problem in the Revelation" (*Wycliffe Bible Commentary*, p. 1509). <sup>1</sup>

- Revelation 9 describes two frightening armies that are liberated at just the right time and permitted to judge mankind. <sup>2</sup>
  - Demonic Army of creatures from the Pit of Hell. (vvs 1-12)
  - Demonic Army from the East. (vvs 13-21)

**Revelation 8:13** 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!"

- Three great woes to come!
  - You haven't seen anything yet!
- Three remaining blasts of the trumpets!
  - Prepare, by the Grace of Christ He warns the world
  - Heralding the warning across the skies!

**1** Then the **fifth angel sounded:**  
And I saw **a star** fallen from heaven to the earth.

<sup>1</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. 1996, c1989. *The Bible exposition commentary*. "An exposition of the New Testament comprising the entire 'BE' series"--Jkt. Victor Books: Wheaton, Ill.

<sup>2</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 594.

**To him was given** the key to the bottomless pit.

**2** And 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.

- **HE** – was given the keys – not a “star” in the twinkling sky – a being from Heaven that has fallen!
  - Again – an allusion to Lucifer?
- **Given the key** – he did not possess this key of his own – it had to be given to him – the Keys are held by Jesus.

**Revelation 1:18** I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. **And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.**

- **Bottomless Pit.**<sup>3</sup>

- “Abyss” (abyssos) is the home of demons (cf. Luke 8:31; Rev. 9:11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1, 3; in Rom. 10:7 it is translated “deep”).<sup>4</sup>
- Lucifer? – he has no power except by permission
  - Spirit divine beings – quite territorial – occupying certain geographic and political boundaries – is it possible that borders are not determined by man but rather by territorial entities?
  - Fallen Angels – have ability to appear and disappear at will.
  - Demons – a different class of entity – are only capable of occupying earth by possessing creatures.

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<sup>3</sup> ἄβυσσος, ου, ἡ (orig. adj., Aeschyl., Hdt.+; so also Dt 33:13. The fem. sg. is used freq. in LXX, w. art. or adj. Gen 1:2; Job 41:23; Ps 77:15; Am 7:4; also En passim; TestSol 2:8 BC; TestJob 33:6; TestLevi 3:9 v.l.; JosAs 12:3, 10; 4 Esdr 8:23 Fgm. c; ApcEsdr 4:21 p. 28, 24 Tdf.; Just. A I, 60, 9 [for ἄδου Dt 32:22]; without art. or adj. LXX; Mel., P. 28, 614. Fem. pl. w. art. or adj. Ps 134:6; 148:7; Prov 8:24; TestLevi 3:9; without art. or adj. freq. LXX; PsSol 17:19) lit. ‘deep hole’, hence: ‘immense depth’ (Diog. L. 4, 5, 27; Iambli., Myst. 6, 5 p. 245, 15 Parthey; Herm. Wr. 3, 1; 16, 5; PGM 1, 343; 3, 554; 4, 1148; 1350; 2835; 7, 261; 517; PWarr 21, 29; 31; LXX; En 21:7; Philo, Op. M. 29; SibOr 1, 223).

- **an immensely deep space, depth, abyss**, gener., contrasted w. sky and earth (Did., Gen. 30, 8) 1 Cl 28:3 (pl. as Dt 8:7; Ps 32:7; 76:17 al.; TestLevi 3:9; Cat. Cod. Astr. VIII/2 p. 173, 29); Dg 7:2. Dark (Gen 1:2), hence unfathomable to the human eye 1 Cl 20:5, and discernible only by God 59:3 (Theoph. Ant. 1, 6, p. 70, 23; cp. Da 3:55 Theod.).
- **a transcendent place associated with the dead and hostile powers, netherworld, abyss**, esp. the abode of the dead **Ro 10:7** (Ps 106:26) and of demons **Lk 8:31**; dungeon where the devil is kept **Rv 20:3**; abode of the θηρίον, the Antichrist **11:7; 17:8**; of Ἀβαδδών (q.v.), the angel of the underworld **9:11** (cp. PGM 13, 169 and s. Ael. Aristid. 38 p. 724 D. on Philip: ἀνὴρ ὑβριστῆς ἐκ τοῦ βαράθρου τ. γῆς ὀρμώμενος κακῆ μοίρα τ. Ἑλλήνων); φρέαρ τῆς ἀ. **9:1f**; capable of being sealed **9:1; 20:1, 3**.—JKroll, Gott u. Hölle '32; KSchneider, RAC I 60–62.—DELG. s.v. βυθός. M-M. TW. Sv  
William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 2.

<sup>4</sup> John F. Walvoord, “Revelation,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 952.

- Apparently by permission granted
  - **By the Lord** – pigs at Galilee
  - **By humans** – through open gateways, satanic involvement, witchcraft, drugs, seances, demonic movies, etc.

**Revelation 12:10–12**

**10** Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for **the accuser of our brethren**, who accused them before our God day and night, **has been cast down.**

**11** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

**12** Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! **For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.**”

- Now Lucifer would like to hold onto these keys because he will soon be cast into this same prison he is opening here.

**Revelation 20:1–3**

**1** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

**2** He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

**3** and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

We don't know much about the Angelic host – but we do know something about Lucifer:

**Isaiah 14:12-17**

**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!

**13** For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven,  
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation  
On the farthest sides of the north;

**14** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’

**15** Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

16 "Those who see you will gaze at you, And consider you, saying:  
'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms,  
17 Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities,  
Who did not open the house of his prisoners?'

### **Ezekiel 28:11-19**

11 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him,  
'Thus says the Lord GOD:

"You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering:  
The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper,  
Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and  
pipes

Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you;  
You were on the holy mountain of God;  
You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created,  
Till iniquity was found in you.

16 "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within,  
And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing  
Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub,  
From the midst of the fiery stones.

17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;  
You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground,  
I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.

18 "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities,

**By the iniquity of your trading;**

**Therefore I brought fire from your midst;**

**It devoured you,**

**And I turned you to ashes upon the earth**

**In the sight of all who saw you.**

19 All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you;  
You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever." ' "

**3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth.  
And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.**

- In 2012, [Madagascar](#) had an upsurge in the size of its Malagasy [migratory locust](#) (*Locusta migratoria capito*) populations. In November of that year, the government issued a locust alert, saying that conditions were right for [swarming](#) of the [pest insects](#). In February 2013, [Cyclone Haruna](#) struck the country, creating optimal conditions for locust breeding.<sup>[4]</sup> By late March 2013, approximately 50% of the country was infested by swarms of locusts, with each swarm consisting of more than one billion insects. The authorities changed the situation to plague status.<sup>[1]</sup> According to one eyewitness, "You don't see anything except locusts. You turn around, there are locusts everywhere".

- News of the infestation went global the week before Passover, inspiring comparisons with the Biblical Plagues of Egypt, one of which was a swarm of locusts. It was the worst locust outbreak in Madagascar since a 17-year-long outbreak which began during the 1950s. <sup>5</sup>

**4** They were commanded not to harm **the grass of the earth** (what grass? – all burned up!),

or any green thing, or any tree (2/3 of the remaining forests),  
but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

**5** And 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.

- **Given power** – given by God for an expressed purpose.
  - **Book of Job** – God's expressed authority for a season, for a reason, under VERY specific constraints.
  - **Under certain restraints** – specific rules of engagement with humans
    - **SPECIFIC HUMANS ONLY** - ONLY who DO NOT have the seal of GOD on their foreheads!
    - **Allusion to Ezekiel:**  
*Ezekiel 9:4* and the LORD said to him, “Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and **put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.**”
- **NOT given authority** – they are given and NOT given – all by the will of Jesus!
  - **AUTHORITY** –
    - **Specific time** span – 5 months
    - **Specific capacity** – like a Scorpion's sting – extremely painful but **cannot be fatal**.
    - **Specific purpose** – to torment, to bring woe – sufficient pain that men would beg to die!

<sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013\\_Madagascar\\_locust\\_infestation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013_Madagascar_locust_infestation)



**Scorpion**, common name for arachnid having a flat, narrow body, two lobster-like claws, eight legs, and a segmented abdominal tail. Terminating in a venomous stinger supplied by a pair of poison glands, the tail is usually curved upward and forward over the back. About 1400 species of scorpion exist; about 40 of them occur in the United States. Scorpions are usually brown in color and range from about 2.5 to 20 cm (about 1 to 8 in) in length.

Found in warm and dry tropical regions, including the southwestern United States, the scorpion is nocturnal and feeds mainly on spiders and insects. The young are born live and remain with the mother for a short period. When capturing a victim with its claws, the scorpion inflicts a disabling sting with its tail.

**In most species the sting is painful, but not fatal, to humans, although the sting of one species found in the United States has proved fatal to young children and is potentially fatal to adults.**

Other areas of the world have more dangerous scorpion species; the poison involved is a neurotoxin, attacking the nervous system. **Some two dozen species of scorpions carry venom that is potent enough to kill people. But such fatalities are rare; a North African species, often ranked as the world's most dangerous, kills only 2 percent of its human victims.**

"Scorpion," Microsoft® Encarta® Online Encyclopedia 2002 <http://encarta.msn.com> © 1997-2002 Microsoft Corporation..  
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- **The symptoms of being stung by a scorpion:** *Immediate and intense burning, an excessive sensitivity of the skin to clothing and bedding and even noise, a lack of muscle coordination with a stiff legged or drunken walking action, involuntary movements, tremors and muscle weakness. An increased pulse rate of 100 to 150 beats per minute, raised blood pressure, difficulty in swallowing and excessive salivation, speech difficulty, excessive perspiration, headaches, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, restlessness and anxiety, and respiratory distress.* <sup>6</sup>

**6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.**

- Many say to die and sometimes carry that out selfishly
- Imagine no capability of dying!

<sup>6</sup> "Scorpion Stings and Venoms," Iziko Museums of Cape Town [Internet]; available from [http://www.museums.org.za/bio/scorpions/stings\\_and\\_venoms.htm](http://www.museums.org.za/bio/scorpions/stings_and_venoms.htm); accessed 17 May 2007.

- Horrible motorcycle crashes – can't die!
- Cancer pain – can't die

**7** The 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.

**8** They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

**9** And 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.

**10** They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.

**The stinger works much like a hypodermic needle.**

In fact, physicist Robert Schofield of the University of Oregon recently learned that it is similar to a needle in one remarkable respect: **About a quarter of the mass of the stinger's tip consists of metallic zinc, manganese and iron metabolized from the scorpion's prey. Metallic armor also coats other scorpion appendages, protecting them from abrasion.**

**"We have not the slightest idea how the metals get from meals to these structures,"** notes Oregon State University biologist Philip Brownell.

"Nowhere else have we seen such high concentrations of metals, especially zinc, in the animal kingdom. **We can't account for it."**

National Wildlife, April-May 1998 v36 n3 p16(2)

"In the game of survival, the scorpion is a superstar." (Examining the scorpion) (Brief Article) Peter Friederici. COPYRIGHT 1998 National Wildlife Federation

**11** And 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**.

- Abaddon = "destruction" <sup>7</sup>
- Apollyon = "Destroyer" <sup>8</sup>

**John 10:10** The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and **to destroy**. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

- Solomon observed that the Locust seems to have no order or leader: **Proverbs 30:27** The locusts have no king, Yet they all advance in ranks;

7 Enhanced Strong's Lexicon, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1995.

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- In this case – the ANGEL of the Abyss leads them to harm ALL who are not sealed by the Holy Spirit with an apparent mark of God on their forehead.

## Chuck Missler – re: Gog and Magog, Ezekiel 38-39

**Amos 7:1** Thus the Lord GOD showed me:

Behold, He formed locust swarms at the beginning of the late crop; indeed it was the late crop after the king's mowings.

- Septuagint rendering of this verse:

**Amos 7:1** Thus has the Lord God shewed me; and, behold, a swarm of locusts coming from the east; and, behold, one caterpillar, **King Gog**.<sup>9</sup>

## Ezekiel 38:1-2

**1** And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,

**2** "Son of man, set your face toward **Gog** of the land of Magog, the head leader of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him."<sup>10</sup>

- **Is it possible that at the end of the Millennial reign of Christ that Gog emerges from the Abyss again to mount up the armies against Israel one last time?**

## Revelation 20:7-10

**7** And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison

**8** and he will go out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, **Gog and Magog**, to assemble them for battle, whose number is like the sand of the sea.

**9** And they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the fortified camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and consumed them.

**10** And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet also are, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

<sup>9</sup> Lancelot Charles Lee Brenton, *The Septuagint Version of the Old Testament: English Translation* (London: Samuel Bagster and Sons, 1870), Am 7.

<sup>10</sup> W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., *The Lexham English Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), Eze 38:1-2.