

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

### “Locusts Like Scorpions”

Revelation 9:1-12

#### Revision

1. Look again at the first four trumpets (8:1-13). Enormous judgments have come from God upon the earth (v. 7), the salt sea (vv. 8, 9), the fresh rivers and water fountains (vv. 10, 11), and the sky (vv. 12, 13).

2. As for God, His way is perfect (Ps 18:30). His steps from mercy to judgment are perceived to be slow, reluctant, and measured. But they are certain to be!

3. Believing the Bible to be a revelation from God (1:1 cf. 2 Tim. 3:16, 17) what is recorded here affirms God’s program following the Rapture of the Body of Christ (cf. 1:19; 4:1). We believe a believer of this Age of Grace (Pentecost to the Rapture) is spared the dreadful torture detailed in this chapter.

4. Consider the effects of the fifth trumpet. They focus on “locusts” ( ) which are like “scorpions.” Notice them:--

#### 1. ORIGINATION of the Locusts vv. 1-3

##### a. Associated with a Fallen Star v. 1

The perfect participle tells the story ( ) -- the star has already fallen. It was on the earth already. Various ideas have been advanced to identify this person (star). He is given ( ) the key to the bottomless pit. He is, therefore, referred to later (20:1-3).

##### b. Associated with an Opened Abyss v. 2

The reference here is to “well” of the abyss. It is a place lower than hades, sheol, or tartarus. Scriptures states demons are tormented in this place (Lk 8:27-31) and Satan will be confined here (Rev. 20:1-3). The long shaft to this horrible place is unlocked by the “fallen star.”

##### c. Associated with Bellowing Smoke v. 2

As out of a great smelting furnace, this smoke comes out of the abyss. The sun and air are darkened (aorist passive, ) by the smoke out of ( ) the abyss.

##### d. Associated with Powerful Locusts v. 3

Here is a specialized creation of God for judgment. These locusts come out ( ) of the smoke. “Power” (authority ) is “given” (aorist passive) to these locusts so they have (present tense, ) power (authority) as scorpions on earth have. What an amazing act of God to do all this.

#### 2. INTENTION of the Locusts vv. 4-6

The idea of intention is gained from the verb “commanded” ( ) which is an aorist passive of the verb “to say.” It is followed by a participle indicating:--

##### a. The Realm of Their Power v. 4

Vegetation is kept from the locusts and that is exactly their normal diet. They are not to hurt , any “green” (Greek: “all green), neither any “tree” (Greek: “every tree”). They are to attack only the men who do not “have” (present tense ) the seal of God on their foreheads (cf. 7:1-8).

##### b. The Extent of Their Power v. 5

These locusts are not allowed to “kill,” but they can torment ( ). This is the verb used to test metals. Moreover, the locusts are limited to five months for torture, the life span of the locust. This number is mentioned twice (vv. 5, 10). This torment is the same as when a scorpion strikes a man.

##### c. The Result of Their Power v. 6

Because the torture is so great, men (generic term ) will seek (search) death (noun), but will not find it. Beyond “seeking,” men will vehemently desire ( ) to die (infinitive) and “the” death (noun) will flee (futuristic present) from (away from, ) them. What a contrast with Paul’s testimony (Phil. 1:21-23).

#### 3. DESCRIPTION of Locusts vv. 7-11

##### a. Their Shape vv. 7-4

The noun used for shapes really means likeness ( ). It is only found three times in the New Testament (here, Ro. 5:14; Phil. 2:7). A cognate word ( ) states the “likeness was like” horses prepared (perfect passive verb for war. Their heads have something like “victory crowns of gold” on them. Their faces were as ( ) the faces of men. Their hair as the hair of women. Their teeth add to their horror were as lions. Their chests had breast plates of iron.

##### b. Their Sound

“Sound” is the noun voice ( ) and avers that their wings were as chariots of many horses rushing into war (present tense, ). Their numbers suggest the hopelessness of resisting them.

##### c. Their Tails

The power of these locusts is centered in their tails. They sting like a scorpion. The word sting is only found three times in the New Testament (here, Acts 26:14; 1 Cor. 15:55). Their power (authority, ) to hurt men is limited to five months. It might have been longer! What mercy from God!

##### d. Their Sovereign

Solomon said locusts to not have a king (Prov. 30:27), but these frightful creatures have one. He is the specific angel personally mentioned (v. 1). His name is Destroyer; in Hebrew Abaddon and in Greek Apollyon.

#### Conclusion

The account here suggests an enormous number of fierce creations released from the abyss into the earth. All is during the coming Tribulation Period. Thinking of the other horrible judgments (seals, trumpets) who will be able to stand (cf. 6:17). In summary, Scripture describes this as a “woe” from God upon godless men. There is only one way to escape this unspeakable suffering. It is to believe the record concerning eternal life through the cross work of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:3). Do this now and be sure you are safe! Amen.