

# Insights In Prophecy

*Unlock The Ancient Mysteries Of Daniel & Revelation*

## BIBLE DISCOVERY SERIES

# 16

## LESSON

### Lesson 16

### THE ABYSS: RELEASE OF THE DEMONS

Read Revelation 9

- Explore The Woeful Activities Of Demonic Creatures
- Search How The Destruction Of Evil Angels Is Foretold

Revelation 9 introduces the fifth and sixth trumpets, which are representative of God's wrath on the unrepentant leaders and residents of Israel that will succumb to the abominable idol worship. Paul wrote, "Concerning the coming of our LORD Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come



from us, saying that the Day of the LORD has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for (that Day will not come) until the rebellion ["falling away" (KJV) from Biblical truths and warnings] occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God," 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4.

By the time the fifth and sixth trumpets are blown during the appointed time of the end, Heaven's judgment in review of the opened books (Daniel 7:9-10) will have concluded (Revelation 8:2-5), with the prayers of retribution being answered with a fiery punishment on the oppressors. As the port was shut on Noah's boat of escape to the antediluvian civilization just days before the great deluge of rain, so too the door of mercy be shut on the sinful just preceding the trumpet plagues. Noah prophesied about the downpour that was about to destroy the earth and his generation, but few listened. Likewise, Heaven's prophets and the wise will warn the nations of God's final judgments. They will be ridiculed; and, when the religious leaders and politicians proclaim "peace and safety; destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you brethren, are not in darkness so that this Day should surprise you like a thief," 1 Thessalonians 5:3-4.

"THE END" (Matthew 24:14)—the final days known as the Great Tribulation—will be a devastating time of mass destruction and annihilation. At the voice of God, the planet will be rocked and jolted, great cities will fall into heaps of rubble, and uncontrollable plagues and pestilences will sweep across continents; fires, storms and high winds, tidal waves, earthquakes, wars and bloodshed will overtake Planet Earth. Nearly as quickly as the earth was created with its beauty and splendor, the planet will be brought to desolation and ruin (Jeremiah 4:23-29).

Demonic activity is potent and real, although mostly unseen in this day and age. Many fallen angels still are free to move about within the boundaries that God has set: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms," Ephesians 6:12.

The Word also speaks of the prison house of evil angels who are confined in a place called the "Abyss." Jesus confronted the demons who controlled the man of Gadarenes, and in fear they "begged

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Him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss," Luke 8:28. Evidently, not all demons are allowed to run loose, but are confined in a deep prison; otherwise, there would likely be total mayhem.

Peter wrote about a time before the ancient flood that evil angels were engaging in activities that were deplorable to God. Genesis 6:2-4 says "the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful and they married any of them they chose... the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown." God decided to destroy the earth with a flood and to imprison these vile angels. Because of Messiah's death, resurrection and ultimate victory over Satan and these evil angels in prison are subject to his final authority (1 Peter 3:19-22). "The angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these He has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for the judgment on the Great Day," Jude 6. "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell [Greek *Tartarus*], putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment... the LORD knows how to rescue godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the Day of judgment," 2 Peter 2:4-9. This indicates that their punishment is not additional jail time, but their ultimate fiery death.

Their final demise is foretold, but they are let loose for a short time by Almighty God's design to prove once again their evil ways: "In that Day the LORD will punish the powers in the heavens above [evil angels] and the kings on the earth below. They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon; they will be shut up in prison and be punished after many days," Isaiah 24:21-22. This is represented by the one thousand (1,000) year millennial delay found later in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 9 reveals there is a day of release, when the escape door will be opened, and all the imprisoned evil angels will be given freedom for a season to swarm from place to place and torture earth's inhabitants. This study will attempt to search out this terrible woe, and to bring some additional insights about the last moments of this beleaguered moaning planet.

### The Fifth Angel

**1. In Revelation 9:1 the fifth messenger of God sounds his trumpet of woe, and John saw a star fall to the earth. What does a "star" sometimes represent in the Word (Daniel 8:10)? \_\_\_\_\_**

*Stars can represent God's created beings or angels (both good and bad).*

The fallen star came from Heaven, which would indicate a loss of position and a loss of light. Jesus relayed to His disciples how He had personally witnessed Satan "fall like lightning from Heaven," Luke 10:18, signifying he was destined to lose his power and dominion. Revelation 12:7-9 describes a battle in Heaven where Satan and his malicious army attempts to overthrow God's kingdom, but Michael and His army of angels push back and expel Satan to be "hurled to the earth, and his angels with him," Revelation 12:9. In contrast, the wise—"who lead many to righteousness"—are promised that in God's Kingdom they will "shine like the brightness of the heavens... like the stars for ever and ever," (Daniel 12:3).

**2. What does Isaiah 14:12 add to what we've learned so far? \_\_\_\_\_**

The fallen demon is given the key, by Heaven's authority, to unlock the shaft of the Abyss—the prison of evil angels (Luke 8:28). The earth will erupt like a volcano. So great was the smoke of the Abyss that the sky was darkened, and out of the smoke John saw locust with tails like scorpions that could hurt.

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**3. What areas are excluded from their destructive behavior (Revelation 9:4); and, who are to be the recipients of their wrath?** \_\_\_\_\_

*God's devastating plague of locust is recorded in Exodus 10, to try to convince Pharaoh to let God's chosen people leave Egypt on their way the Promised Land. The locust swarmed the land stripping all the crops. However, Revelation introduces us to swarm of demonic stinging locust. In this case, the evil angels are not to harm the crops, but to vent their anger on the immoral population of Planet Earth. We learn that they cannot harm those who are sealed; only those without the seal of God can be punished. By this we know that the fifth trumpet does not blow until after the sealing process takes place, based on the record of Revelation 7:1-4.*

**4. How important is the seal of God during the trumpets and plagues?** \_\_\_\_\_

*The seal is the only means of protection from the global turmoil at the climax of human history. All men and women without the seal are doomed.*

**5. What group specifically receives the seal of God, according to Revelation 7:2-4?** \_\_\_\_\_

*The 144,000 of the twelve tribes of Israel are the only ones said to be sealed.*

**6. By this point, the "great multitude" of all nations (overcomers) is safely located where, just before the seven angels with the seven last plagues are sent out (Revelation 15:1-2, 7-8)?** \_\_\_\_\_

**7. The "great multitude" (in contrast to the 144,000 of Israel) comes out the midst of what (Revelation 7:9, 14)?** \_\_\_\_\_



When Michael—the Seventh Angel trumpeter stands and with the loud voice of the Archangel and trumpet of God raises up the martyred tribulation believers (Daniel 12:1-2) along with the two witnesses (Revelation 11:11), He will take them to Heaven's safety. There, these victorious overcomers see all seven messengers preparing to emerge with God's wrath (Revelation 15:1-2). Only the 144,000 elect, who are alive and remain (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17)—but are sealed for protection (Revelation 7:4), endure the catastrophic days of the final judgment plagues, while the sinful inhabitants of earth are tortured and ultimately destroyed.

Revelation 9:5-6 says the horde of demonic locust is given limited power. Locusts are likely used to represent demons in that their life cycle involves a hatching and emerging from the ground; and, they travel in large groups. When the demons emerge, they could kill their human victims; however, God limits their punishment to painful stings like scorpions. The pain will be so intense that whoever is stung will long for death, but it will elude them. Why is death preferable? The pain of a typical insect sting goes away after a short period of time, but this scorpion-like attack will cause lengthy suffering. Their fiery throbbing sting is torturous, and men and women would rather die than continue day and night with no rest in such excruciating pain.

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The *five months* may be a literal period; but more likely this symbolizes an important truth: five months is the longest possible life-span of a locust from conception, through the larva stage and to death. Therefore, the last generation of demonic locust that emerge from their prison will torture with a sting and will cause insanity for the period God assigns them, but afterwards their doom is certain. They will not live beyond their prescribed rampage; their final death is certain.

**8. Ephesians 6:12 identifies the struggle we have today with demonic powers. How is it described?**

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*We struggle with demonic forces, powers in high or heavenly realms, against powers of darkness.*

**9. Revelation 9:7-10 depicts demons, and reveals several aspects about their abilities and nature. What does the following attributes portray about the demonic foes?**

"like horses prepared for battle"— \_\_\_\_\_

"crowns of gold"— \_\_\_\_\_

"faces resemble human faces"— \_\_\_\_\_

"teeth were like lion's teeth"— \_\_\_\_\_

"breastplates of iron"— \_\_\_\_\_

"wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots"— \_\_\_\_\_

"tails and stings like scorpions"— \_\_\_\_\_

*These characteristics reveal the demons' war-like readiness and muscular build, their positions of authority, intelligence and beauty, immense danger to their prey, battle-worthiness and swiftness of flight in mass numbers, and the painful injury they will bring upon unrepentant men.*

**10. What name is assigned to the commander who rules over the locust in Revelation 9:11? \_\_\_\_\_**

*His name is Abaddon in Hebrew and Apollyon in Greek. These names mean "destruction" or "destroyer" in the original language.*

The book of Joel, chapters 1 and 2, begins with many parallels to what we see in Revelation 9. The prophet, in speaking of the "Day of the LORD," mentions locusts bringing judgment on the land with "wine, oil, wheat and barley" being in short supply. They have teeth like lions. Notice the connection between the "locusts" and "*a nation*" that has overrun the land of Israel. Joel also speaks of the "*meal offering and the drink offering is cut off from the house of the LORD*" (relating to Daniel 9:27), with vines, trees and water streams drying up.

### The Sixth Angel

In Revelation 9:12-15 the sixth angel blows his trumpet, and the four angels who were restrained at the river Euphrates are released. Land beyond the Euphrates signified heathen nations and demonic powers; therefore, at this moment in time events begin to transpire that lead up to the battle of Armageddon.

**11. How many angels of Heaven are signified as controlling the earth's governments and militaries (Revelation 4:6-8; 7:1)? \_\_\_\_\_**

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*Four angels; also known as the four living creatures. Now four angels are released to move great numbers of demonic and world militaries toward Armageddon.*

**12. How precise is Heaven's time-table for the final military battle, and the size of the army that will be positioned to enter the Middle East (Revelation 9:15-16)?** \_\_\_\_\_

*At the very hour on a specific day, month and year, 200,000,000 troops are to be released to complete their hostile engagements against Israel and the returning Messiah and His army.*

In the language of days gone by, the prophet John sees horses and riders clad with red, blue and yellow breastplates, and horses spewing fire, smoke and sulfur. In the physical world, modern military machinery—tanks; helicopters, bombers, missiles, etc. will release their fiery and destructive artillery.

As seen earlier in verse 15, Revelation 9:18 states "a third" of mankind will be killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur; the "third" symbolism points to events in the Middle East (Ezekiel 5:2, 12, 14; Revelation 16:19). This signifies the death of millions in this short but forceful period of the trumpet plagues.

**13. The remaining people on earth will not repent of their evil deeds (Revelation 9:20-21). What are their sins and the spotlight of their wickedness at the very end of time?** \_\_\_\_\_

Demonic worship in the last days will increase through worldwide visions and apparitions—miraculous signs and wonders (Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:9; Revelation 13:13); and, along with it the adoration of Marian idols. When one gives reverence to any kind of icon—even religious idols admired within Catholicism, that individual is truly worshiping Satan and the demons that are behind the idolatry, according to the Scriptures. That's why the Ten Commandments specifically warn against shaping idols of anything, or anyone, in Heaven or on earth (Exodus 20:4-6).

In 1 Samuel 15:22-23 it says, "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has rejected you." Ezekiel 23:48 warns, "You will suffer the penalty for your lewdness and bear the consequences of your sins of idolatry. Then you will know that I am the Sovereign LORD."

The Word of God says in times past the Israelites "did wicked things that aroused the LORD's anger. They worshiped idols, though the LORD had said, 'You shall not do this.' The LORD warned Israel and Judah through all His prophets and seers: Turn from your evil ways. Observe My commands and decrees, in accordance with the entire Law that I commanded your ancestors to obey and that I delivered to you through My servants the prophets." But they would not listen and were as stiff-necked as their ancestors, who did not trust in the LORD their God. They rejected His decrees and the covenant He had made with their ancestors and the statutes He had warned them to keep. They followed worthless idols and themselves became worthless. They imitated the nations around them although the LORD had ordered them, "Do not do as they do," 2 Kings 17:11-15.



The warning is clear. Do not get involved in worthless idols; lifeless images do not see, hear or walk. Therefore, if an idol ever bleeds, weeps or begins to animate and move, then know that a demon is working through the gold, silver,

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bronze, stone or wood (Revelation 13:14-15). In addition to demonic worship, the wicked will also be involved in murders, sorcery (magic arts by the use of drugs, spiritual incantations, and psychic powers), sexual immorality (spread by the proliferation of pornographic content through every form of sexual sin, including homosexuality, incest and bestiality) and robberies. If men and women want to worship idols and demons, and commit abominable acts, then God will open the Abyss and give mankind the desire of their heart.

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