

Revelation Chapter 9

2 Thess. 1:5-9 – This is a plain indication of God’s righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you indeed are suffering. For after all it is only right for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted, along with us, when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God, and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These people will pay the penalty of **eternal destruction**, *away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power*,

“time-out” between the seal and trumpet judgments. Before unleashing the Trumpet judgments God reveals His heart in chapter 7 – the salvation of many souls. God always has a witness and always leaves a remnant. Before His judgment of the 7-year Tribulation begins we are called to be His witnesses to the world. Considering the terrible judgments to come upon the world we certainly don't want to see any of our loved ones experience these judgments.

[Chapter 9.] Progression in the various judgments: Seals (Ch. 6), Trumpets (Ch. 8 & 9), and Bowls (Ch. 15 & 16).

Chapter 8 – from silence in Heaven (vs. 1) to a great Earthquake (vs. 5) to Trumpet blasts – a call to war on God's enemies

Joel 2:1-4 – *Blow ye the trumpet in Zion*, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for *the day of the LORD cometh*, for *it is nigh at hand*; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; ***there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.*** A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land *is* as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them. The appearance of them *is* as the *appearance of horses*; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.

Nature of Earthquakes biblically – the natural order is being shaken by the spiritual

Jesus’s death: “And the earth shook” (Matthew 27:51b). So violent was the earthquake that Matthew adds “and the rocks were split,” demonstrating the power of God (Nahum 1:5–6; 1 Kings 19:11; Psalm 114:7; Isaiah 48:21). There is a linkage to Zechariah 14:4–5, where the Lord himself appears at His Second Coming and will split the Mount of Olives when His foot touches down.

Earthquakes were frequently representative of the movement of God in Revelation 6:12; 8:5; Page 11:13, 19; 16:18), but here Matthew draws from Ezekiel 37 - the valley of dry bones, where an earthquake (Ezekiel 37:7) precedes the opening of graves and the resurrection of people who return to the land of Israel (Ezekiel 37:12–13).

Matthew's statement that "the tombs were opened" (Matthew 27:52a NASB) recalls Ezekiel 37:12–13, where the Lord says through the prophet, "Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. . . . And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people."

The prophecy of Ezekiel has a clear 'End Times' progression:

Ch. 34 – God will physically regather His people (vss. 23-24 – Jesus will rule over them)

Ch. 35 – Judgment on Israel's enemies (vss. 5, 12)

Ch. 36 – Spiritual revival (vss. 25-27)

Ch. 37 – Valley of Dry Bones (vs. 10 – the 144,000???)

Ch. 38 – Magog invasion

Ch. 39 – God supernaturally defeats Magog invaders

Chaps. 40-48 – The Millennial Temple

Similarities in Judgments

The first four seals and trumpets presented judgments directed against the earth. In the first four seals, these were the "four horsemen" bringing tyranny, war, famine, and death on the earth. In the first four trumpets, these were the ecological destruction of the vegetation, seas, fresh waters, and sky.

the last three seals focused upon heavens: the cry of the martyrs, cosmic disturbances, and the heavenly prelude to the seven trumpets. The last three trumpets will speak of hell, in terms of the demonic.

Seal judgments – Chapter 6

Are the Seal judgments a comprehensive overview of the entire tribulation great Tribulation is the last 3-1/2 years spoken of by Jesus in Matthew 24

the 6th seal: 6:13-17 – sure sounds like the end of all things And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every

bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

The Seventh Seal then, introduces the 7 Trumpet Judgments of Rev. chps. 8-9

1] Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key to the shaft of the abyss was given to him.

Satan cast out of Heaven (Ch. 12:9) mid-point, knows his time is short, image in Holy Holies, enraged)

Isa 14:12-15 – “How you have *fallen from heaven, O star of the morning*, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! “But you said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ “Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.

Luk 10:17-20 – The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” And He said to them, “I was watching *Satan fall from heaven like lightning*. “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”

Rev 12:7-9 details this event. We will explore it in more detail at that point except to say that "cast down" in 12:9 is **the Greek word** (*ēblēthē*) and construction of the sentence means it is the first aorist passive indicative of *ballō*, cast down **for good**. (has to appear in heaven to give an account of himself). This vision of final victory over Satan was given by Jesus not only in Luke 10:18 but in John 12:31 as well.

John 12:31 – “Now is the time for the judgment of this world to begin. Now will the ruler of this world be thrown out.”.

ashamed, For the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, And His glory will be before His elders.

Aboussō: “bottomless pit”; 9X in NT; 30X in Old Testament; seven times in Rev (9:1,2,11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1,3). Angels that sinned (Gen 6:2,4; 2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6)

Demons beg to avoid aboussō:

The *abyssos* is a prison for certain demons:

2 Pet 2:4 –

Jude 1:6 –

Lk 8:31 – They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss. (demoniac at Gedara)

Satan will be imprisoned there in Rev 20:10.

At the same time, we notice that the **key** is **given** to this being, and that it is **given** at a specific time and for a specific purpose that furthers God's plan. This spirit-being serves God's purpose, whether he wants to or not.

d. **The bottomless pit:** Some wonder where this is. The most straightforward answer is that it is in the center of the earth

2] He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit.

Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah – **Genesis 19:28** – Abraham looked off toward Sodom, Gomorrah, and the entire plain, and he saw smoke rising from the land like smoke from a furnace.

Giving of the Law (Ex 19:18)

Peter's sermon on Day Pentecost – **Acts 2:19-20** – And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

3] Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Locusts

Joel; 2:25 - "Then I will restore to you the years that the locust swarm devoured, that great army of mine that I sent among you.

Exodus 10:14 – The locusts came up over all the land of Egypt and settled on all the territory of Egypt in great swarms. There had never been locusts like this before nor would there ever be

again.

Scorpions

Luke 10:19 – Look! I have given you the authority to trample on snakes and *scorpions* and to destroy all the enemy's power, and nothing will ever hurt you. (those with the seal (mark) of God were untouchable).

4They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

Rev. 7:3 – "Don't harm the land, the sea, or the trees until we have marked the servants of our God with a seal on their foreheads."

Job 1:10, 12 – Haven't you hedged him in on all sides?

Sealed of God. He knows who are His (2 Tim 2:19).

5And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man.

Tormented five months? 150 days: the worldwide judgment of Noah's flood (Gen 7:24).

These are obviously not natural locusts. They avoid plants and attack men like scorpions attack.

6And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them.

7The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.

8They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like *the teeth* of lions.

9They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle.

Supernatural armies have previously appeared in the Scriptures: (Cf. Joel 2:1-9,15,28; 3:2,9-16; 2 Pet 3:10, etc.)

- Horses and a chariot of fire separated Elijah from Elisha when Elijah was taken up into heaven (2 Kgs 2:11);
- When Dothan was besieged by the army of Syria, God opened the eyes of Elisha's servant and he saw the horses and chariots of fire (2 Kgs 6:13-17). [The Lord Jesus Christ will also be attended by the armies of heaven riding on white horses.]

“teeth of lions”: Cf. Joel 1:6.

10They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months.

11They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.

The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;
Proverbs 30:27

Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me; and, behold, he formed grasshoppers in the beginning of the shooting up of the latter growth; and, lo, it was the latter growth after the king's mowings. Amos 7:1 (MT)
The Lord hath shewn me and behold a swarm of locusts were coming, and behold one of the young devastating locusts was Gog the King. Amos 7:1 (LXX)

This illuminates “Gog” of Ezekiel 38. (More later, re: Chapter 20:8.)

12The first woe is past; behold, two woes are still coming after these things.

Abaddon (Hebrew), **Apollyon** (Greek). Abaddon: 6 X in OT (Job 26:6; 28:22; 31:12; Ps 88:11; Prov 15:11; 27:30). Apollyon: “destroyer,” Jn 10:10. “Prince of the Air”: Eph 2:2; Jn 14:30; Isa 14:15.

13Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

This is at the Altar of Incense featured in Rev 8:3-5.
The Avenger of Blood is about to answer those prayers.

This veil was made of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and finely twisted linen, with cherubim worked into it by a skilled craftsman (Exodus 26:31; 36:35).

Isaiah 37:16 – “O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, who is enthroned *above* the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

That veil is a type of Christ Himself (

14one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”

These are apparently wicked angels since they are bound and must be loosed. Since 1/4 were killed already (Rev 6:8), this means that over half of the world’s population will be dead by the time the 6th trumpet is completed.

15And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind.

16The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

17And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: *the riders* had breastplates *the color* of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone.

18A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths.

19For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm.

20The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; **21**and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

Euphrates

The river Euphrates is the eastern boundary of Israel (Gen 15:18; cf. Deut 1:7; Josh 1:4; 1 Kgs 4:21,24). Also, it's the traditional boundary of east and west—the Romans lived in constant fear

of the Parthian Empire on the other side of the river.

Reference to this river dates from Eden

Sin began here (Gen 2:14,15; 3:6,7); Nimrod – the first world dictator “We will rebel” (Gen 10, 11); Tower of Babel = Babylon: The fountainhead of idolatry and false worship. *Mystery of Babylon* – This appears to be a division in Satan’s kingdom. As far as Asia is concerned, demon religions are all east of the Euphrates. India is said to have 33 million gods. All the gods of the heathen are demons (Ps 96:5 LXX).

16] And the number of the army of the horsemen *were* two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

17] And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses *were* as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

Colors are as striking as the creatures are unnatural: fiery red, dark blue, bright yellow. Difficulties with the passage emerge from lack of belief. Demonic forces are at work here.

18] By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

19] For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails *were* like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

20] And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

21] Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

These judgments are not remedial, but retributive. Men persist in their sins. “There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God” (Rom 3:11). This is demon worship (1 Cor 10:19-21). ***The insanity of worshipping the 'gods' who are not which are actually demons.***

Idols can include work of their own hands, buildings, machines, cities, et al. Dead sinners worshipping dead gods (Ps 115). We become like what we believe and worship (Ps 135:18).

Characteristic of Today

- Murders: we even subsidize murders prior to birth (abortion).
- Sorcery: *pharmakia*, use of drugs (used in ecstatic ancient worship of the gods).
- Fornication: the preoccupation of today's culture (being controlled by your own flesh).
- Theft: institutional as well as individual

It is interesting that even ancient pagan cultures had laws to protect the family since it was the source of young men to man the armies. Population growth was a primary strategic resource.

Drug trade is the largest economic constituency in Washington D.C., and the primary source of funds to the covert intelligence community which some believe presently control the affairs in political life.

Theft includes socialism – the cancellation of property rights. Socialism is institutionalized theft of the productive by the unaccountable.

Exodus vs. Revelation

- 1) Jacob's trouble: affliction (Isa 60:14; Jer 30:5-8).
- 2) Cry to God; heard (Jer 31:18-20).
- 3) God will command oppressors: let them go (Isa 43:6).
- 4) 2 witnesses, with miracles before enemies (Rev 11:3-6).
- 5) Enemies will also perform (Rev 13:14,15).
- 6) Sore judgments from God (Jer 25: 15,6).
- 7) God will protect His people (Rev 7:4; 12:6; 14-16).
- 8) Water turned to blood (Rev 8:8; 11:6; 16:4,5).
- 9) Satanic frogs (Rev 16:13).
- 10) Plague of locusts (Rev 9:2-11).
- 11) Boils and pains (Rev 16:2).
- 12) Hailstones from heaven (Rev 8:7).
- 13) Darkness (Isa 60:2; Rev 16:10).
- 14) Hearts hardened (Rev 9:20, 21).
- 15) Death to multitudes (Rev 9:15).
- 16) Israel to be delivered (Zech 14:3,4; Rom 11:26).

Trumpet Judgments

- First Trumpet (8:7) 1/3 of vegetation burned up
- Second Trumpet (8:8-9) 1/3 of sea turned to blood
- Third Trumpet (8:10-11) 1/3 of fresh water contaminated
- Fourth Trumpet (8:12-13) 1/3 of Sun, Moon and Stars darkened
- Fifth Trumpet (9:1-11) Locust loosed to torment, but not kill for 5 months
- Sixth Trumpet (9:13-21) Army of 200 million destroy 1/3 of mankind
- Seventh Trumpet (11:15-19) Introduces the Bowl Judgments

Bowl Judgments

- First Bowl (16:1-2) Terrible sores on all followers of the Antichrist
- Second Bowl (16:3) Turns all of the sea to blood, killing everything in it
- Third Bowl (16:4-7) Turns all of the fresh water to blood
- Fourth Bowl (16:8-9) People scorched by intense sunshine (people curse God)
- Fifth Bowl (16:10-11) Complete darkness over the kingdom of the Antichrist
- Sixth Bowl (16:12-15) Euphrates river dried up (Battle of Armageddon is set)
- Seventh Bowl (16:17-21) Greatest earthquake ever, Babylon destroyed, Earth pounded by 100 pound hailstones

	<u>The Judgment</u>	<u>Trumpet</u>	<u>Bowl</u>	<u>Egyptian Plague</u>
1.	Vegetation/sores	8:1-7	16:1-2	6 th - Boils
2.	The Sea	8:8-9	16:3	1 st – Nile to Blood
3.	The Rivers	8:10-11	16:4-7	1 st – Nile to Blood
4.	Sun, Moon, stars	8:12-13	16:16:8-9	9 th - Darkness
5.	Mankind (physical torment)	9:1-2	16:10-11	8 th - Locusts
6.	Demon-army Assembled	9:13-21	16:12-16	2 nd - Frogs
7.	King Jesus Enthroned	11:15-19	16:17-21	10 th – Death Firstborn Israel led out in triumph 1 Cor. 5:7

Job

The role Satan plays in Job's life illustrates the role Satan plays in the overall plan of God for creation. Satan is the enemy of God. He is neither humble nor submissive to God. He challenges God, thinking that afflicting Job will result in Job's desertion from the ranks of those who worship God. But God is sovereign in Job's sufferings. Satan can only afflict Job with God's permission-- and only within the limits God Himself has established. Job's sufferings, while inflicted by Satan, are ultimately from the hand of God. Through Satan's opposition, God's purposes are fulfilled, and Satan's purposes are frustrated. In spite of his failures, Satan never learns. Instead, he hastens on in his rebellion.

David

Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel.

Joshua

Zechariah 3:1-2 – Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. And the Lord said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, Satan! Indeed, the Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?”

The unsaved

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest