



T H R E A D I N G T H E P E A R L S . o r g

Threading the Pearls of the Book of Revelation

An Expositional Study

Session 19: The Trumpets, p2. Trumpet 5
The Locusts

REVELATION 9:1 — 9:12

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The fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. ²And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace... ³Then *out of the smoke locusts came* upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. [REV 9:1-3]



REVELATION 9

1 And the fifth angel sounded the trumpet, and I saw a star fall from heaven upon the earth, and there was given to him the key of the bottomless pit.

The fifth angel sounded his trumpet

JER 4:3-6, ...⁵Declare in Judah and proclaim in Jerusalem, and say: "*Blow the trumpet in the land; Cry, 'Gather together,' And say, 'Assemble yourselves, And let us go into the fortified cities.'*"⁶Set up the standard toward Zion. Take refuge! Do not delay! For I will bring disaster from the north, And great destruction".

Star that had fallen from the sky to the earth

DAN 4:13, "I saw in the visions of my head while on my bed, and *there was a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven;*

PSM 53:2-5, *God looks down from heaven upon the children of men,* To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.³Every one of them has turned aside; They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one...

The star was given the key

LUKE 11:46-52, ...⁵²"Woe to you lawyers! For *you have taken away the key of knowledge.* You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered".

Shaftⁱ of the Abyssⁱⁱ

EZE 26:19-21, thus says the Lord God: 'When I make you a desolate city, like cities that are not inhabited, when *I bring the deep upon you,* and great waters cover you,²⁰then I will bring you down with those who descend into the Pit, to the people of old, and I will make you dwell in the lowest part of the earth, in places desolate from antiquity, with those who go down to the Pit, so that you may never be inhabited; and I shall establish glory in the land of the living.²¹I will make you a terror, and you shall be no more; though you are sought for, you will never be found again,' says the Lord God".

- * NOTE — i. φρέαρ = Phrear, feh'·ar, Strong# 5421: 1. a well; 2. the pit of the abyss (because the nether world is thought to increase in size the further it extends from the surface of the earth and so resemble a cistern, the orifice of which is narrow).
- ii. ἄβυσσος = Abussos, ab'·us·sos, Strong# 12: 1. bottomless; 2. unbounded; 3. the abyss; 3a. the pit; 3b. the immeasurable depth; 3c. of Orcus, a very deep gulf or chasm in the lowest parts of the earth used as the common receptacle of the dead and especially as the abode of demons.

CONSIDER THIS —

The Abyss

GEN 1:1-2 [LXX], In the beginning God made the heaven and the earth. ²But the earth was unseen and unready, and *darkness was upon the abyss,* and spirit of God bore upon the water.



REVELATION 9

2 And he opened the bottomless pit: and the smoke of the pit arose, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke of the pit.

He opened the Abyss

PSM 55:23, You, O God, shall bring them down to the pit of destruction; *Bloodthirsty and deceitful men shall not live out half their days;*

ISA 38:18, Sheol cannot thank You, Death cannot praise You; *Those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your truth.*

Smoke rose from [the Abyss]

PSM 74:1-4, O God, why have You cast us off forever? *Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?*

²Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old, The tribe of Your inheritance, which You have redeemed—This Mount Zion where You have dwelt. ³Lift up Your feet to the perpetual desolations. The enemy has damaged everything in the sanctuary. ⁴Your enemies roar in the midst of Your meeting place; They set up their banners for signs.

Smoke from a gigantic furnace

GEN 19:27-29, Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord. ²⁸Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, *the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace.* ²⁹And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt;

EZE 22:18-22, 18"Son of man, the house of Israel has become dross to Me; they are all bronze, tin, iron, and lead, in the midst of a furnace; they have become dross from silver. ¹⁹"Therefore thus says the Lord God: 'Because you have all become dross, therefore behold, I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem. ²⁰As men gather silver, bronze, iron, lead,

and tin into the midst of a furnace, to blow fire on it, to melt it; so I will gather you in My anger and in My fury, and I will leave you there and melt you. ²¹"Yes, I will gather you and blow on you with the fire of My wrath, and you shall be melted in its midst. ²²*As silver is melted in the midst of a furnace, so shall you be melted in its midst;* then you shall know that I, the Lord, have poured out My fury on you!"

Sun and sky were darkened

EXO 10:13-15, Moses stretched out his rod over the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought an east wind on the land all that day and all that night. When it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. ¹⁴And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested on all the territory of Egypt. They were very severe; previously there had been no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them. ¹⁵For they covered the face of the whole earth, *so that the land was darkened;* and they ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left. So there remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt.

Smoke from the Abyss

JUDG 20:38-41, Now the appointed signal between the men of Israel and the men in ambush was that they would make a great cloud of smoke rise up from the city, ³⁹whereupon the men of Israel would turn in battle. Now Benjamin had begun to strike and kill about thirty of the men of Israel. For they said, "Surely they are defeated before us, as in the first battle." ⁴⁰But when the cloud began to rise from the city in a column of smoke, the Benjamites looked behind them, and there was the whole city going up in smoke to heaven. ⁴¹And when the men of Israel turned back, the men of Benjamin panicked, for *they saw that disaster had come upon them.*

CONSIDER THIS —

Smoke as a warning of disaster

JUDG 20:40-41, when the cloud began to rise from the city in *a column of smoke*, the Benjamites looked behind them, and there was the whole city going up in smoke to heaven. ⁴¹And when the men of Israel turned back, the men of Benjamin panicked, for they saw that disaster had come upon them.



REVELATION 9

3 And from the smoke of the pit there came out locusts upon the earth. And power was given to them, as the scorpions of the earth have power:

Out of the smoke

JOSH 8:15-25, ...²⁰when the men of Ai looked behind them, they saw, and behold, *the smoke of the city ascended to heaven*. So they had no power to flee this way or that way, and the people who had fled to the wilderness turned back on the pursuers. ²¹Now when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city and that the smoke of the city ascended, they turned back and struck down the men of Ai. ²²Then the others came out of the city against them; so they were caught in the midst of Israel, some on this side and some on that side. And they struck them down, so that they let none of them remain or escape...

Locusts came down upon the earth

EZE 38:1-13, Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ²"Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him... ⁸"After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely. ⁹"You will ascend, *coming like a storm, covering the land like a cloud*, you and all your troops and many peoples with you"...

[Locusts] were given power

PSM 62:9-11, ...¹¹God has spoken once, Twice I have heard this: *That power belongs to God*;
2KING 18:19-25, ...²³"Now therefore, I urge you, give a pledge to my master the king of Assyria, and I will give you two thousand horses-if you are able on your part to put riders on them! ²⁴"How then will you repel one captain of the least of my master's servants, and put your trust in Egypt for chariots and horsemen? ²⁵"Have I now come up without the Lord against this place to destroy it? The Lord said to me, '*Go up against this land, and destroy it*'".

Power like that of scorpions of the earth

DEUT 8:11-16, Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God... ¹⁴"when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; ¹⁵"who *led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions* and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; ¹⁶"who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end;
EZE 2:2-7, ...⁶"you, son of man, *do not be afraid of them nor be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with you and you dwell among scorpions*; do not be afraid of their words or dismayed by their looks, though they are a rebellious house. ⁷"You shall speak My words to them, whether they hear or whether they refuse, for they are rebellious.

CONSIDER THIS —

Locusts are given power from the Lord, just as the enemies of Israel were:

2KING 18:23-25, "Now therefore, I urge you, give a pledge to my master the king of Assyria... [He asked Jerusalem]: ²⁵"Have I now come up without the Lord against this place to destroy it? [The King of Assyria boasted]:The Lord said to me, '*Go up against this land, and destroy it*'".



REVELATION 9

4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree: but only the men who have not the sign of God on their foreheads.

[Locusts] were told

EXO 10:3-6, Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me. ⁴Or else, if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow *I will bring locusts into your territory.* ⁵And they shall cover the face of the earth, so that no one will be able to see the earth; and they shall eat the residue of what is left, which remains to you from the hail, and they shall eat every tree which grows up for you out of the field...; PSM 105:34, *He spoke, and locusts came, Young locusts without number.*

Not to harm the grass

JOEL 2:20-25, ...²¹Fear not, O land; Be glad and rejoice, For the Lord has done marvelous things! ²²Do not be afraid, you beasts of the field; *For the open pastures are springing up, And the tree bears its fruit; The fig tree and the vine yield their strength...*;

MARK 4:26, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. ²⁸"For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. ²⁹"But *when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come*".

Not to harm... any plant or tree

1KING 8:37-40, When there is famine in the land, pestilence or blight or mildew, locusts or grasshoppers; when their enemy besieges them in the land of their cities; whatever plague or whatever sickness there is; ³⁸whatever prayer, whatever supplication is made by anyone, or by all Your people Israel,

when each one knows the plague of his own heart, and spreads out his hands toward this temple: ³⁹"then hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and forgive, and act, and *give to everyone according to all his ways, whose heart You know (for You alone know the hearts of all the sons of men)...*; MATH 15:13-14, He answered and said, "*Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.* ¹⁴"Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch".

People who did not have the seal of God

EZE 9:1-6, Then He called out in my hearing with a loud voice, saying, "Let those who have charge over the city draw near, each with a deadly weapon in his hand."...⁵To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity. ⁶"Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but *do not come near anyone on whom is the mark*; and begin at My sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were before the temple;

LUKE 10:17-21, the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." ¹⁸And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹"Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and *nothing shall by any means hurt you.* ²⁰"Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven"...

On their foreheads

PSM 105:14-15, He permitted no one to do them wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes, ¹⁵Saying, "*Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm*".

CONSIDER THIS —

These are not normal locusts:

DEUT 28:41-43, "You shall beget sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours; for they shall go into captivity. ⁴²"*Locusts shall consume all your trees and the produce of your land.* ⁴³"The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower.



REVELATION 9

5 And it was given unto them that they should not kill them; but that they should torment them five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion when he striketh a man.

Not given power to kill

GEN 37:18-22, when they saw [Joseph] afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him. ¹⁹Then they said to one another, "Look, this dreamer is coming! ²⁰"Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!" ²¹But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him." ²²And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him"-that *he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father.*

Only to torture them

MATH 18:32-35, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ³³'Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' ³⁴"And *his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.* ³⁵"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses".

Five months

LUKE 1:21-25, ...²⁴Now after those days [Zacharias'] wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, ²⁵"*Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people*".

Agony they suffered

LAM 1:7-9, ...⁸Jerusalem has sinned gravely, Therefore she has become vile. All who honored her despise her Because they have seen her nakedness; Yes, she sighs and turns away. ⁹Her uncleanness is in her skirts; She did not consider her destiny; Therefore *her collapse was awesome; She had no comforter.* "O Lord, behold my affliction, For the enemy is exalted!"

The sting of a scorpion

1COR 15:55-57, "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" ⁵⁶*The sting of death is sin*, and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

When [a scorpion] strikes a man

EZE 32:15-16, 'When I make the land of Egypt desolate, And the country is destitute of all that once filled it, When *I strike all who dwell in it*, Then they shall know that I am the Lord. ¹⁶This is the lamentation With which they shall lament her; The daughters of the nations shall lament her; They shall lament for her, for Egypt, And for all her multitude,' Says the Lord God".

CONSIDER THIS —

The scope: idiomatically, Egypt represents the world.

EZE 32:15, 'When I make the land of Egypt desolate, And the country is destitute of all that once filled it, *When I strike all who dwell in it*, Then they shall know that I am the Lord.

We could conclude that the scope is worldwide, and that the earth-dwellers are the target.



REVELATION 9

6 And in those days men shall seek death, and shall not find it: and they shall desire to die, and death shall fly from them.

During those days

LAM 4:9-18, ...¹⁶The face of the Lord scattered them; He no longer regards them. The people do not respect the priests Nor show favor to the elders. ¹⁷Still our eyes failed us, Watching vainly for our help; In our watching we watched For a nation that could not save us. ¹⁸They tracked our steps So that we could not walk in our streets. *Our end was near; Our days were over, For our end had come.*

Men will seek death

JER 19:9, I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and everyone shall eat the flesh of his friend in the siege and in the desperation with which their enemies and *those who seek their lives shall drive them to despair;*

JOB 3:20-22, Why is light given to him who is in misery, And life to the bitter of soul, ²¹*Who long for death, but it does not come,* And search for it more than hidden treasures; ²²Who rejoice exceedingly, And are glad when they can find the grave?

Seek death, but will not find it

LEV 26:27-29, after all this, if you do not obey Me, but walk contrary to Me, ²⁸then I also will walk contrary to you in fury; and I, even I, will *chastise you seven times for your sins.* ²⁹You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters.

They will long to die

JER 8:3-5, "Then *death shall be chosen rather than life* by all the residue of those who remain of this evil family, who remain in all the places where I have driven them," says the Lord of hosts. ⁴"Moreover you shall say to them, 'Thus says

the Lord: "Will they fall and not rise? Will one turn away and not return? ⁵Why has this people slidden back, Jerusalem, in a perpetual backsliding? They hold fast to deceit, They refuse to return;

ECC 7:13-17, Consider the work of God; For who can make straight what He has made crooked? ...¹⁶Do not be overly righteous, Nor be overly wise: Why should you destroy yourself? ¹⁷Do not be overly wicked, Nor be foolish: *Why should you die before your time?*

1KING 19:1-4, Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword... ⁴But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And *he prayed that he might die,* and said, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!"

PSM 88:8-18, ...¹⁴Lord, why do You cast off my soul? Why do You hide Your face from me? ¹⁵I have been *afflicted and ready to die* from my youth; I suffer Your terrors; I am distraught. ¹⁶Your fierce wrath has gone over me; Your terrors have cut me off. ¹⁷They came around me all day long like water; They engulfed me altogether. ¹⁸Loved one and friend You have put far from me, And my acquaintances into darkness.

Death will elude them

EZE 18:23-29, "Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord God, "and not that he should turn from his ways and live? ...³¹"Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? ³²"For *I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,*" says the Lord God. "Therefore turn and live!"

CONSIDER THIS —

Zombies? Unable to die.

JER 8:3, "Then *death shall be chosen rather than life* by all the residue of those who remain of this evil family, who remain in all the places where I have driven them," says the Lord of hosts.



REVELATION 9

7 And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle: and on their heads were, as it were, crowns like gold: and their faces were as the faces of men.

Locusts looked like horses

JOEL 2:25, "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, *My great army which I sent among you;*

NAH 3:15-17, ...¹⁷*Your commanders are like swarming locusts, And your generals like great grasshoppers, Which camp in the hedges on a cold day; When the sun rises they flee away, And the place where they are is not known.*

Horses prepared for battle

PRO 21:31, *The horse is prepared for the day of battle, But deliverance is of the Lord;*

JER 8:6-7, I listened and heard, But they do not speak aright. No man repented of his wickedness, Saying, 'What have I done?' Everyone turned to his own course, *As the horse rushes into the battle.* ⁷"Even the stork in the heavens Knows her appointed times; And the turtledove, the swift, and the swallow Observe the time of their coming. But My people do not know the judgment of the Lord.

On [the locusts'] heads

By contrast to Israel in —

JER 2:14-17, Is Israel a servant? Is he a homeborn slave? Why is he plundered? ¹⁵The young lions roared at him, and growled; They made his land waste; His cities are burned, without inhabitant. ¹⁶Also the people of Noph and Tahpanhes Have *broken the crown of your head.* ¹⁷Have you not brought this on yourself, In that you have forsaken the Lord your God When He led you in the way?

Something like crowns of gold

PRO 27:24, riches are not forever, *Nor does a crown endure to all generations;*

EZE 21:25-27, 'Now to you, O profane, wicked prince of Israel, whose day has come, whose iniquity shall end, ²⁶thus says the Lord God: "*Remove the turban, and take off the crown; Nothing shall remain the same.* Exalt the humble, and humble the exalted. ²⁷Overthrown, overthrown, I will make it overthrown! It shall be no longer, Until He comes whose right it is, And I will give it to Him".

[The locusts'] faces resembled human faces

PRO 21:29, *A wicked man hardens his face,* But as for the upright, he establishes his way.

CONSIDER THIS —

The army of wickedness

NAH 3:17-19, Your commanders are like swarming locusts, And your generals like great grasshoppers... ¹⁸Your shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria... ¹⁹Your injury has no healing, Your wound is severe. All who hear news of you Will clap their hands over you, For *upon whom has not your wickedness passed continually?*



REVELATION 9

8 And they had hair as the hair of women; and their teeth were as lions:

9 And they had breastplates as breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was as the noise of chariots and many horses running to battle.

[The locusts'] hair was like women's hair

1COR 11:15, if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for *her hair is given to her for a covering.*

[The locusts'] teeth were like lions' teeth

JOEL 1:4-7, What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten; What the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten; And what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has eaten. ⁵Awake, you drunkards, and weep; And wail, all you drinkers of wine, Because of the new wine, For it has been cut off from your mouth. ⁶For a nation has come up against My land, Strong, and without number; *His teeth are the teeth of a lion*, And he has the fangs of a fierce lion. ⁷He has laid waste My vine, And ruined My fig tree; He has stripped it bare and thrown it away; Its branches are made white.

[The locusts] had breastplates

EXO 39:8-9, he made the breastplate, artistically woven like the workmanship of the ephod, of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and of fine woven linen. ⁹They made *the breastplate square by doubling it*; a span was its length and a span its width when doubled.

Breastplates like breastplates of iron

JER 15:11-12, The Lord said: "Surely it will be well with your remnant; Surely I will cause the enemy to intercede with you In the time of adversity and in the time of affliction. ¹²*Can anyone break iron, The northern iron and the bronze?*

[The locusts'] wings

DEUT 14:19, *every creeping thing that flies is unclean* for you.

Sound... like the thundering of many horses

ISA 30:15-16, thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." But you would not, ¹⁶And you said, "No, for we will flee on horses"-Therefore you shall flee! And, "We will ride on swift horses"-Therefore *those who pursue you shall be swift!*

Horses and chariots rushing into battle

JER 4:13, "Behold, he shall come up like clouds, And *his chariots like a whirlwind*. His horses are swifter than eagles. Woe to us, for we are plundered!"

CONSIDER THIS —

Locusts that do not harm the grass, yet lay waste God's vine (see JOEL 1:6-7)

ISA 5:1-2, Now let me sing to my Well-beloved A song of my Beloved regarding *His vineyard*: My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill. ²He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes.



REVELATION 9

10 And they had tails like to scorpions, and there were stings in their tails; and their power was to hurt men five months. And they had over them

[The locusts] had tails

JOSH 23:14-16, ...¹⁵it shall come to pass, that as all the good things have come upon you which the Lord your God promised you, so *the Lord will bring upon you all harmful things*, until He has destroyed you from this good land which the Lord your God has given you. ¹⁶"When you have transgressed the covenant of the Lord your God, which He commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed down to them, then the anger of the Lord will burn against you, and you shall perish quickly from the good land which He has given you".

[The locusts] had... stings like scorpions

EZE 8:7-12, He brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, there was a hole in the wall. ⁸Then He said to me, "Son of man, dig into the wall"; and when I dug into the wall, there was a door. ⁹And He said to me, "Go in, and see the wicked abominations which they are doing there." ¹⁰So I went in and saw, and there-*every sort of creeping thing, abominable beasts*, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed all around on the walls...;

ACTS 26:12-14, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, ¹³"at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴"And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? *It is hard for you to kick against the goads* [κέντρα];

HOS 5:12 [LXX], I will be as consternation to Ephraim, and as a goad [κέντρον] to the house of Juda.

In their tails [the locusts] had power to torment

JUDG 16:18-20, When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, ... ¹⁹and called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then *she began to torment him, and his strength left him*. ²⁰And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" So he awoke from his sleep, and said, "I will go out as before, at other times, and shake myself free!" But he did not know that the Lord had departed from him.

Torment people for five months

JOB 19:1-12, Job answered and said: ²"*How long will you torment my soul, And break me in pieces with words?* ³These ten times you have reproached me; You are not ashamed that you have wronged me. ⁴And if indeed I have erred, My error remains with me...

CONSIDER THIS —

The sting of goads

REV 9:10, They had tails like scorpions, and there were *stings** in their tails...

*κέντρον = Kentron, ken'-tron, Strong# 2759: 1. a sting, as that of bees, scorpions, locusts...

Paul attributes death, personified as a sting, i.e. a deadly weapon; 2. an iron goad; 2a. hence the proverb, "to kick against the goad", i.e. to offer vain and perilous or ruinous resistance.



REVELATION 9

11 A king, the angel of the bottomless pit; whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek Apollyon; in Latin Exterminans,

[The locusts] had as king over them

PRO 30:27, *The locusts have no king*, Yet they all advance in ranks;

AMOS 7:1-6 [LXX], Thus has the Lord God shewed me; and, behold, *a swarm of locusts coming from the east*; and, behold, one caterpillar, king Gog. ²And it came to pass when he had finished devouring the grass of the land, that I said, Lord God, be merciful; who shall raise up Jacob? for he is small in number?...

Angel of the Abyss

LUKE 8:26-33, they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time... ³⁰Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. ³¹And they begged Him that He would *not command them to go out into the abyss*...;

GEN 1:2 [LXX], The earth was without form, and void; and *darkness was on the face of the deep* [ἀβύσσου].

Name in Hebrew is Abaddon

EST 8:4-7, the king held out the golden scepter toward Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king, ⁵and said, "If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight and the thing seems right to the king and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to annihilate the Jews who are in all the king's provinces. ⁶"For how can I endure to see the evil that will come to my people? Or *how can I endure to see the destruction* [בְּאַבְדֹּן] *of my countrymen*?" ⁷Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and Mordecai the Jew, "Indeed, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and

they have hanged him on the gallows because he tried to lay his hand on the Jews.

Name... in Greek, Apollyon

JER 51:1-2 [LAMSA], Thus says the LORD, the God of hosts: Behold, I will stir up against Babylon and against its inhabitants *a man of cruel heart and like a destroying wind*; ²And I will send to Babylon destroyers, and they shall plunder her and tread her land under their feet; and they shall gather against her from every side in the day of trouble.

Destroyer

EXO 12:21-23, Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb. ²²"And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. ²³"For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow *the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you*.

CONSIDER THIS —

These locusts have a king!

PRO 30:27, *The locusts have no king*, Yet they all advance in ranks;

AMOS 7:1-6 [LXX], Thus has the Lord God shewed me; and, behold, *a swarm of locusts coming from the east*; and, behold, one caterpillar, king Gog.



REVELATION 9

12 One woe is past, and behold there come yet two woes more hereafter.

First woe is past

JOB 10:14-22, If I sin, then You mark me, And will not acquit me of my iniquity. ¹⁵*If I am wicked, woe to me*; Even if I am righteous, I cannot lift up my head. I am full of disgrace; See my misery! ¹⁶If my head is exalted, You hunt me like a fierce lion, And again You show Yourself awesome against me. ¹⁷You renew Your witnesses against me, And increase Your indignation toward me; Changes and war are ever with me...; EZE 34:2-6, "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God to the shepherds: "*Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves!* Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? ³"You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. ⁴"The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them...

Two other woes are yet to come

ISA 18:1-5, *Woe to the land shadowed with buzzing wings*, Which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, ²Which sends ambassadors by sea, Even in vessels of reed on the waters, saying, "Go, swift messengers, to a nation tall and smooth of skin, To a people terrible from their beginning onward, A nation powerful and treading down, Whose land the rivers divide." ³All inhabitants of the world and dwellers on the earth: When he lifts up a banner on the mountains, you see it; And when he blows a trumpet, you hear it...; REV 11:14, *The second woe is past*. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

CONSIDER THIS —

The same Destroyer?

EXO 12:23, For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow *the destroyer* to come into your houses to strike you.



GROUP DISCUSSION

REV 9:2-4, 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. ³Then *out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth*. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

EXO 10:13-15, Moses stretched out his rod over the land of Egypt, and the Lord brought an east wind on the land all that day and all that night. When it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. ¹⁴And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested on all the territory of Egypt. They were very severe; *previously there had been no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them*. ¹⁵For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left. So there remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt.

- ⊕ **1a. What are some similarities and differences between these two events involving locusts?**

PSM 105:34-35, He spoke, and locusts came, Young locusts without number, ³⁵And ate up all the vegetation in their land, And *devoured the fruit of their ground*.

- ⊕ **1b. What purpose(s) do the locusts serve?**
(see EXO 10:3-5 & REV 9:4-6)

REV 9:6, In those days men will *seek death and will not find it*; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

- ⊕ **2a. How might someone 'seek death' and not find it?**

- ⊕ **2b. What could the phrase, "death will flee from them" actually look like?**

JOEL 1:4-6, What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten; What the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten; And what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has eaten... ⁶For a nation has come up against My land, Strong, and without number; His teeth are the teeth of a lion, And he has the fangs of a fierce lion.

- ⊕ **3. In what ways does Joel seem to describe the same locusts as described in REV 9:7-10?**

(see also JOEL 2:1-11)

REV 9:11, [the locusts] *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.

PRO 30:27, *The locusts have no king*, Yet they all advance in ranks.

- ⊕ **4. Why might these locusts have a king? Is their king also a locust?**

(see also JER 4:5-7)

NEXT SESSION —