

More and more people today seem either obsessed with knowing about how the world will end or they're sick of hearing about it. But in fact, people have wondered about the end of the world since the beginning of the world. In theology it's a section of study all to itself. And nearly every theology course or textbook has a whole section devoted to eschatology, or the study of end times.

Ten times the prophet Daniel used the phrase "the time of the end" in his book, while four times Jesus spoke of "the end of the world." In Matthew, the Lord said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." (24:35) And later, Peter wrote, 1 Peter 4:7 "The end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers."

And so by the time we reach Revelation 9, the end is well in sight.

Tim Show scroll

Six seals have been opened, the seventh seal foretells such momentous developments become apparent all too quickly. **First four trumpet blast** introduce devastations of such nature that one third of the earth, sea and fresh water is destroyed or contaminated with the accompanying loss of animal and human life....

And then In Verse 13 now warns us of an eagle who comes to declare that there is much worse yet to come.

NIV Revelation 8:13 As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"

- Chapter 9 verses 1 through 11 present...The first of two of the final three trumpets Woes releasing demonic judgments upon the earth. Unlike the previous four trumpet judgments, these target men rather than natural systems. Even in the face of "hell

on earth,” the [earth dwellers](#) continue in their ways and refuse to repent.

ESV Rev 9:1 And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and **he** was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit.

- Angelic beings are, at times, referred to as *stars* (Job 38:7; Isa. 14:13). That this star seen by John is a *Fallen* demon can be seen by the reference to *he*, *having previously fallen and now being in a fallen state*.
- It appears it is most likely Satan himself or another high ranking angel ... *If the star that had previously fallen is Satan, then there is considerable irony in the fact that he now releases his demonic horde from the very region where he himself will be confined during the [Millennial Kingdom](#)*

NIV Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³ He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him....

- **So he has been given a key...God in control to unlock the bottom less pit or Abyss ...Greek word for abode or prison of demons.. mentioned 7 times in Revelation and always in the context of the abode of Demons...**
- **He did not have the authority to open the pit himself, it was given by Jesus who had the key..**

ESV REV 1:17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

- There appears to be different regions of Hades are separated by including the Abyss or bottomless pit
- The horror which this fallen star is about to unleash is entirely subject to the sovereign permission of God.

- **It is such a dreadful horrible place of demon captivity....**

Jesus speaking to the legion of demons who possessed a man...begged Jesus not to send them there....

ESV Luke 8:30 Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. ³¹ And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.

- **He then opens a shaft with the key...a tunnel to the underworld...** during the tribulation period God allows the unbelieving world to see and experience the real the nature of demons ...and their intent...

ESV John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

- **their deception is over....**

ESV 2 Cor 11:14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

- **So he opens the shaft...**

ESV REV 9: 2 **He** opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft.

- This entire passage describes something yet future to the experience of the earth: these *locusts from the abyss* refer to judgments about to fall on the ungodly immediately before Christ's second advent.

- ***The shaft of the abyss***, a deep opening in the ground to a sealed-in well. It is “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).

- **That portions of Hades are of an elevated temperature is clear from Jesus’ account of the rich man and Lazarus**

ESV luke 16: ²² The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side.^[1] The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’

- Next....

ESV Revelation 9: ³ Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth As the smoke arose, other creatures arose with it. ⁴ They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

- They are said to be *locusts*. We encounter another similarity between the judgments sent upon the [earth dwellers](#) in the Tribulation and the plagues of Egypt ([Ex. 10:12-15](#)).
- Unlike the locusts which descended upon Egypt, these locusts are not allowed to “harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree” ([Rev. 9:4+](#)).
- Since the bottomless pit was previously locked and is evidently of a great temperature, natural locusts would neither find entry

nor be able to survive in the pit. But these are not normal locusts a vast demonic horde

- In the same way in which a natural locust plague is under the control of God's sovereign will in Exodus also (Joel 2:25), so too is this demonic horde of locusts.
- The torment will be like when a scorpion strike a person...scorpion stings are painful, and they can be fatal, especially children. Scorpions may sting more than once as they do not lose their stinger after a strike.
- The stinger releases toxin into the nervous system which can produce... A hard time breathing, resembling a severe asthma attack...Muscle twitching or thrashing. Unusual head, neck and eye movements. Drooling. Sweating. Slurred speech...Nausea and vomiting. High blood pressure (hypertension). Fast heart rate (tachycardia). The more stings the greater the effects...sometimes unto death
- **The seal** may not be a visible mark yet these locusts are able to detect those who are sealed. The answer lies in the fact that demons have great spiritual awareness.
- During Jesus' ministry, demons frequently identified him as the "Son of God" or "Holy One of God," a fact which was missed by His disciples and most of those whom He taught (Mat. 8:29; Mark 1:24; 3:11; Luke 4:33-34; 8:28). Mark informs us that Jesus "did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him" (Mark 1:34).
- Luke says "And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, 'You are the Christ, the Son of God!' And He,

rebuking *them*, did not allow them to speak, for they knew He was the Christ” (Luke 4:41).

- Not only did the demons recognize Jesus, but they also recognized Paul—and that he had *spiritual authority* which the seven sons of Sceva lacked since they were presumably not born again (Acts 19:14-16).
- **Thus, these demonic locusts will be able to readily identify those which have been marked for special protection by God, whether the mark is physical or spiritual in nature.**

Since many demons are free to roam the earth...why are these locked up? The locking away of these demons is described by

Jude:

ESV Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— The demons are fallen angels, some of which left their own abode and are reserved for the judgment of the *great day*. This is Great day *The Day of the Lord*.

- The angels themselves will not be judged at this time, but are “reserved for the judgment”—they will be used by God to torment the earth dwellers.
- **Jude tells us that they did not keep their “own abode, meaning: “rule, office, domain, sphere of influence.”**
- **They are the demons who cohabited with human women in Satan’s failed attempt to corrupt the human race and make it irredeemable. . .**

Gen 6:4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man

and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

- **Those who were involved with exceedingly serious sins such as these are “bound” for subsequent release in God’s judgment**
- **Peter uses a similar phrase to describe the situation of these same angels:**

ESV 2 Peter 2: 4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains^[b] of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; 5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

- **God did not spare the angels who sinned, and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; he knows how to bring judgment and protect his own from it!!**
- **So These are a specific subset of sinning angels**

Revelation 9:⁵ They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone. 6 And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.

- ...it is a divine command which prevents them from stinging their victims to death...
- **They will want to die but cant...even if they try. The pain of the locusts is so intense that their continual desire will be**

to find release through death. But they will not find relief because death will flee ...Why?

- God ultimately desires to keep these people alive so that they have the opportunity to repent and turn to Him:
- However the demon controlled him...jesus would not let him kill him...for the Lord wanted to save him ...and others through them... same idea here...
- Giving them a chance to repent!
- *What the demons locusts look like...* Up to this point, the creatures which come up out of the bottomless pit have been identified as “locusts”... Now, John begins a series of descriptions which are similarities—representations which approximate what he sees concerning the locusts.

*ESV Revelation 9:*⁷ *In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces,*⁸ *their hair like women's hair, and their teeth like lions' teeth;*⁹ *they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle.*¹⁰ *They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails.*¹¹ *They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.*

- What John is shown exceeds anything he has seen before and so he struggles to relate the vision using s descriptions which are similarities providing an description as closely accurate of the reality before him..

- What is being described here is real, literal, and important to understand in detail else God would not have “wasted” words on it. We would ask the reader to keep in mind several considerations:

1) Demonic Capabilities - We know next to *nothing* concerning all the demonic realm and especially the transformative capabilities of angels—be they elect or fallen.

a) Scripture records that angels are “ministering spirits” (Ps. 104:4; Heb. 1:7, 14), **yet they appear in numerous passages as anatomically accurate *human men*.**

b) When Isaiah, Ezekiel, and John are shown the seraphim and cherubim, there is considerable difficulty describing their appearance in a manner that we could possibly grasp (Isa. 6:2; Eze. 1:10; 10:14; Rev. 4:7[±]).

c) The description of Satan, the “anointed cherub,” is equally fantastic

NIV Eze. 28:12... 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 adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴ You were anointed as a guardian cherub...

d) Thus, we should not be surprised to find malevolent beings of immense spiritual and transformative powers with such fantastic descriptions. “They seem, from their description, to be a kind of *inferior Cherubim*. The horse, the man, the lion, and the scorpion are combined in them

2) **Size of the Locusts** - We know nothing concerning the *size* of the demonic locusts. Depending upon their similarity to earthly locusts, *may be on the scale of insects* which are between half inch to 7 inches. In other words, these demon locusts *may be on the scale of insects*. The fact that they have a painful, and possibly poisonous sting, which does not kill their victims also points in this direction. if they very large locusts then the sting alone could easily be a mortal wound.

3) **Think of the Fantastic Appearance of Natural Insects** – when highly magnified **under a microscope are almost equally bizarre ...** Most, if not all of us! **would resort to similes like those of John**

Tim Show pictures of locusts/scorpions

4) **Once we trade in the Golden Rule of Interpretation what is presented literally, take literally. The text compares these creatures to *locusts/scorpions*. “What God says is plain enough. He does not ask us to understand it. He asks us to *believe* it; and this, by God’s help, we mean to do.”**

This passage describes an unbelievable demonic invasion of earth by Satan’s war corps in the last days...

Tim please put these up on the screen

These hideous demons are described as locusts with eight other characteristics.

1. They are **like** horses ...travel in a herd, swift of foot also able to leap or fly.. ready to battle
2. They have crowns **like** gold on their heads... These are from among the hierarchy and rank of fallen angels
3. They have faces **like** men.... they are intelligent rational beings and not normal locusts

4. They have long hair like women... The comparison of their hair with that of women may refer (as in other ancient texts) to the locusts' long antennae...long whiskers...
5. They have teeth like those of lions ... an indication of their voraciousness. There is no indication that the demon locusts will utilize their teeth directly against their victims—it is their tails with which they strike.⁶³
6. They have coverings like breast plates of iron (like heavy body armor)- they are well protected; humans are helpless against their onslaught.
7. As they move the sound like chariots or horses going to battle.. so great is their number it is deafening in volume..
8. They have tails like scorpions...they can inflict great suffering

Lastly

ESV Rev 9: ¹¹ *They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.* Or destroyer

- These locusts are to be contrasted with natural locusts which have no king, “These demonic locusts *have* a king and advance as he leads
- **John gives his title as the angel of the abyss. Some identify this angel as Satan, but his domain is the heavenlies (Eph. 6:12), where he is the “prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2). He is not associated with the abyss until he is cast into it (Rev. 20:1-3+). This angel is better viewed as a high-ranking demon in Satan’s hierarchy.**
- **This goes on for five months.... And will pass...**

- **This goes on for five months.... And will pass...to the next Woe...**

¹² *The first woe **has passed**; behold, two woes are still to come.*