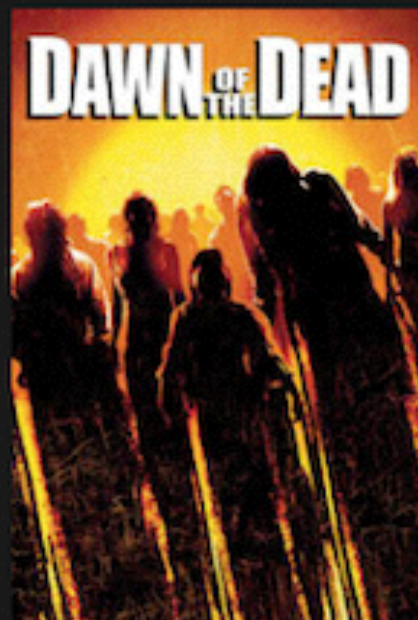
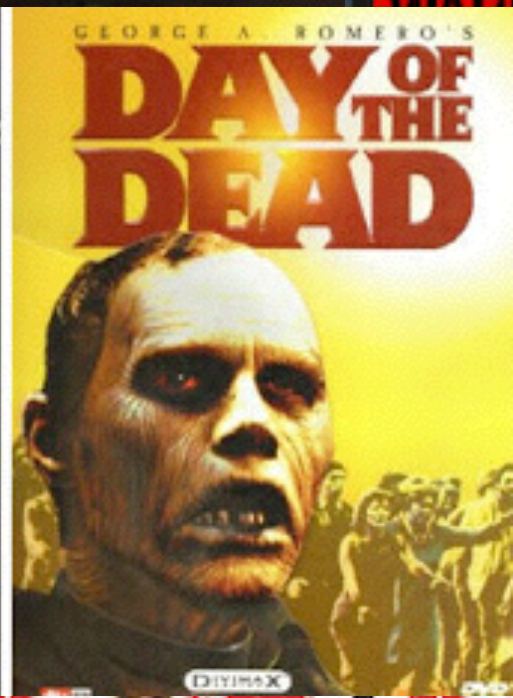

REVELATION 9

THE 5 MONTHS OF TORMENT

THE WALKING DEAD



“I wish I could die” is a hyperbolic statement that we carelessly and thoughtlessly toss about when we are angry, hurt, or disappointed. We don’t really mean it when we say it. It simply expresses our strong feelings and emotions at a situation or circumstance we are not happy about, that we wish were different.

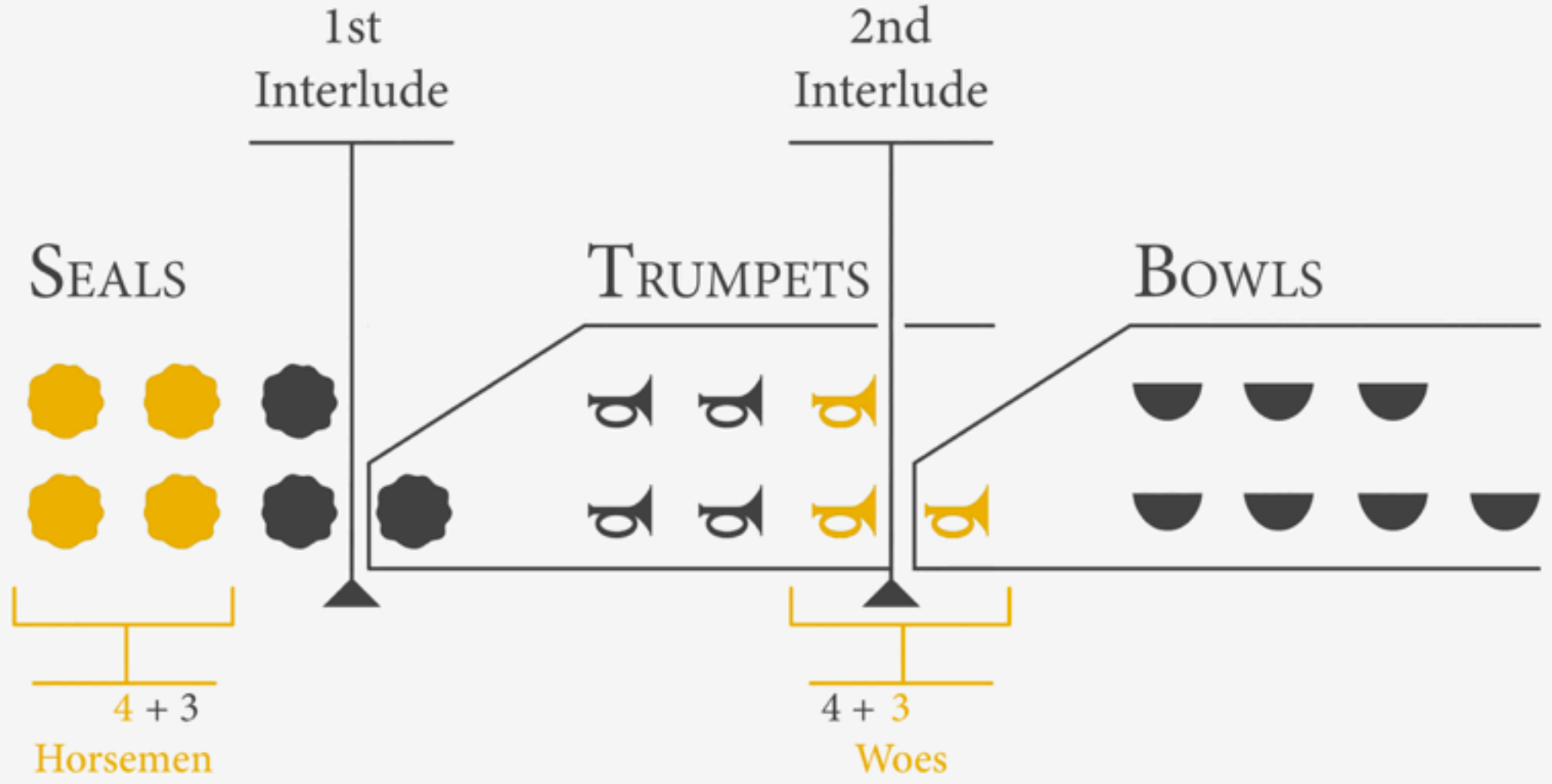
However, there is coming a day when men will say “I wish I could die” and they will mean it. But amazingly they will not be able to find it though they seek it with all their heart.

Imagine that: a day when men will desire death more than life, when they will desire death even more than they desire God. When, you might ask, will that be? Answer: When demons arise from the abyss and armies come from the east; when the 5th angel sounds his trumpet in Revelation 9.

This chapter divides evenly into 2 parts: the 5th trumpet comprises verses 1-12 and signals the demons from the abyss. The 6th trumpet is detailed in verses 13-21 and records the coming of an army of 200 million, as well as humanity's steadfast refusal to repent of its sin.

In all that is recorded the absolute and awesome sovereignty of God is on full display. He is in control. Even demons do His bidding. What is it in particular God would want us to learn from this frightening chapter?

Chapter 6 contained the seal judgements and introduced us to the 4 horsemen of the apocalypse. $\frac{1}{4}$ of humanity is killed.



Seals 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Trumpets 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Bowls 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Revelation 9:1–2 (CSB) The fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to earth. The key for the shaft to the abyss was given to him. He opened the shaft to the abyss, and smoke came up out of the shaft like smoke from a great furnace so that the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the shaft.

Revelation 9:3–4 (CSB) Then locusts came out of the smoke on to the earth, and power was given to them like the power that scorpions have on the earth. 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 God's seal on their foreheads.

Revelation 9:5–6 (CSB) They were not permitted to kill them but were to torment them for five months; their torment is like the torment caused by a scorpion when it stings someone. In those days people will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, but death will flee from them.

Revelation 9:7–8 (CSB) The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. Something like golden crowns was on their heads; their faces were like human faces; they had hair like women's hair; their teeth were like lions' teeth;

Revelation 9:9–10 (CSB) they had chests like iron breastplates; the sound of their wings was like the sound of many chariots with horses rushing into battle; and they had tails with stingers like scorpions, so that with their tails they had the power to harm people for five months.

Revelation 9:11–12 (CSB) They had as their king the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he has the name Apollyon. The first woe has passed. There are still two more woes to come after this.

Revelation 9:13–14 (CSB) The sixth angel blew his trumpet. From the four horns of the golden altar that is before God, I heard a voice say to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels bound at the great river Euphrates.”

Revelation 9:15–16 (CSB) So the four angels who were prepared for the hour, day, month, and year were released to kill a third of the human race. The number of mounted troops was two hundred million; I heard their number.

Revelation 9:17–18 (CSB) This is how I saw the horses and their riders in the vision: They had breastplates that were fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow. The heads of the horses were like the heads of lions, and from their mouths came fire, smoke, and sulfur. A third of the human race was killed by these three plagues—by the fire, the smoke, and the sulfur that came from their mouths.

Revelation 9:19–20 (CSB) For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, because their tails, which resemble snakes, have heads that inflict injury. The rest of the people, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands to stop worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see, hear, or walk.

Revelation 9:21 (CSB) And they did not repent of their murders, their sorceries, their sexual immorality, or their thefts.

John needed only 6 verses to set forth the first 4 trumpets of chapter 4. Now he devotes an entire chapter, 21 verses to trumpets 5 & 6, the 1st and 2nd woes. Demonic activity will dominate the plagues and judgements associated with both.

Demons are certainly alive and active in our day. Jesus believed and taught their existence. Amazingly most professing Christians are out of step with the Son of God on this. A recent Barna survey found that only 27% believe Satan to be real. But the Bible teaches they are real, and they will be on a rampage when the Great Tribulation arrives.

*Revelation 9:1 (CSB) The fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that **had fallen** from heaven to earth.*

The 5th angel sounds and John sees a star from heaven, which had fallen to the earth.

“**Had fallen**” is a perfect tense participle emphasizing an event in past time with continuing results.

This star, unlike the star of 8:10, is a person (note the personal pronouns applied throughout). The statement is reminiscent of Luke 10:18 where Jesus said, “I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.” A strong interpretation is to see this as a reference to Satan. It is neither a good angel nor a chief demon under the devil’s direction. It is Satan, the devil himself who is in view.

Revelation 9:1 (CSB) I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to earth...

He had fallen, it had already occurred prior to the blowing of the 5th trumpet. Lucifer, the star of the morning, son of the dawn (Isaiah 14:12), the anointed cherub (Ezekiel 28:14) was cast out of God's presence and heaven's glory when sin was found in his heart.

*Revelation 9:1 (CSB) ...**The key** for the shaft to the abyss was given to him.*

Now as we move toward history's climax, he is allowed a diabolical freedom he was previously denied.

*Revelation 9:1 (CSB) ...**The key** for the shaft to the abyss was given to him.*

The key (authority) to the bottomless pit (the abyss, mentioned 9 times in the New Testament), a prison house for demons (cf. Luke 8:31; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6) and the abode of the dead (Romans 10:7) is given to him.

Revelation 9:2 (CSB) He opened the shaft to the abyss, and smoke came up out of the shaft like smoke from a great furnace so that the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the shaft.

REVELATION 9

THE 5 MONTHS OF TORMENT

Immediately he opens it (verse 2) and smoke, dark and hot, fills the air and darkens the sun.

Revelation 9:2 (CSB) He opened the shaft to **the abyss...**

The beast, the Antichrist, will arise from **the Abyss** (11:7). Satan will be imprisoned there for 1000 years following the 2nd coming of Jesus (20:1-3). His fall is great indeed.

Revelation 9:11 (CSB) They had as their king the angel of **the abyss**; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

REVELATION 9

THE 5 MONTHS OF TORMENT

King, again a reference to Satan, over **the abyss**.

Revelation 9:11 (CSB) They had as their king the angel of **the abyss**; his name in Hebrew is **Abaddon**, and in Greek he has the name **Apollyon**.

REVELATION 9

THE 5 MONTHS OF TORMENT

Hebrew – **Abaddon** meaning destruction

Greek – **Apollyon** meaning destroyer

The Hebrew word **Abaddon** appears six times in the Old Testament and is derived from a verb that can mean “to become lost,” “to perish,” or “to destroy, kill.” **Abaddon** has a similar meaning to Hades as used in Revelation 1:18, 6:8. A similar usage is found in Psalm 88:11 where it is paralleled with the grave. Job 31:12 used the word to imply an unquenchable appetite.

Abaddon is not only a place, but also a person. This personification of **Abaddon** lies behind its choice as a name for the angel of the underworld and king of the locusts in Revelation 9:11. Though **Abaddon** is under God's sovereign power, it has an insatiable appetite and represents not only a destruction that takes life but a destruction that reaches beyond the grave to the afterlife.

Qumran material demonstrates that the role of the angel of the abyss is like that of Belial, mentioned 33 times in the Dead Sea Scrolls and described about 27 times in the Old Testament as a worthless, good-for-nothing, base counselor of ruin. He was the military leader of the forces of darkness, who was allowed to be “unleashed against” Israel.

Belial terrorized the sons of the covenant. Though not frequent, the word **Abaddon** is found in later rabbinic literature and came to stand for the place of the wicked dead.

Abaddon would have conjured images of doom and despair for John's readers and would have made even more fearful the torture coming at the hand of the angel of the underworld and his army of destroyers.

Apollyon, the Greek counterpart to **Abaddon**, is used as a proper name only here in the Bible. The word is actually a present active participle meaning “the one who destroys.” Something more subtle, however, may have been in John’s use of **Apollyon** to translate **Abaddon**.

John may have intended an indirect attack on the Greek/Roman god Apollo, and thus on the reigning emperor, Domitian, who thought of himself as Apollo incarnate. **Apollyon** and Apollo (Apollon in Greek) look and sound alike. Furthermore, worshipers of Apollo had as one of their symbols for him the locust.

In John's drama the Greek reader could not have missed the echo of the name Apollo, the god, and **Apollyon**, the destroyer. The well-known pagan god, favorite of the emperor whose persecution of Christians lies behind the Revelation, is identified with hell and destruction.

As we survey the 5th and 6th Trumpet Judgments...

1. Consider the Locusts (vs. 9:1-12)

REVELATION 9
THE 5 MONTHS OF TORMENT

Revelation 9:3 (CSB) Then locusts came out of the smoke on to the earth, and power was given to them like the power that scorpions have on the earth.

Demons mean humans nothing but harm, pain and suffering. They delight in disease, disaster and death. Never is this more evident than in this text.

Revelation 9:3 (CSB) Then locusts came out of the smoke on to the earth, and power was given to them like the power that scorpions have on the earth.

When the shaft to the abyss is opened, demons in the form of locusts flood the earth. Power (authority) is given them like scorpions.

Revelation 9:3 (CSB) Then locusts came out of the smoke on to the earth...

This is reminiscent of the locust vision of Joel 1:6; 2:4-10. These are not literal locusts, however, these are demons, driven to torment mankind spiritually, physically and in every other way as well.

Revelation 9:4 (CSB) They were told not to harm the grass of the earth... but only those people who do not have God's seal on their foreheads.

REVELATION 9

THE 5 MONTHS OF TORMENT

Their mission is clear: to torment all persons who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads (see also 7:2ff).

Revelation 9:4 (CSB) They were told not to harm the grass of the earth... but only those people who do not have God's seal on their foreheads.

REVELATION 9

THE 5 MONTHS OF TORMENT

Believers will not be touched by these ambassadors from hell. But there is a limitation to what they can do: torment – yes, kill – no.

Revelation 9:5 (CSB) They were not permitted to kill them but were to torment them for five months...

The normal life span of a locust was approximately May – September, 5 months.

Revelation 9:5 (CSB) ... their torment is like the torment caused by a scorpion when it stings someone.

This verse would also seem to indicate the torment they inflict is primarily physical: stinging and striking like that of a scorpion.

Revelation 9:6 (CSB) In those days people will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, but death will flee from them.

While death will be the lot of Christian martyrs at the hands of evil men, these same evil men will seek, look for the same fate they inflict on others, but they will not find it. They will long or yearn for it, but it will run from them and they will be unable to catch it

For thousands of years men have run from the grim reaper only to find him too swift to evade. Now, men chase him but find they are too slow of foot. What irony. What tragedy. Demon possession may prevent their suicide for a time.

Revelation 9:7 (CSB) The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. Something like golden crowns was on their heads; their faces were like human faces;

These verses provide a detailed description of these demons who have been confined perhaps, since Satan's fall.

Revelation 9:7 (CSB) The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. Something like golden crowns was on their heads; their faces were like human faces;

John is probably more concerned with the overall impression made by this vision than he is with the details.

Still, without pressing the particulars beyond reason, we learn something about these maniacal monsters from the pit. The composite picture is that of unnatural and uninhibited evil and wickedness.

Revelation 9:7 (CSB) The appearance of the locusts was like **horses prepared for battle...**

Horses prepared for battle – they are an army prepared to wage war against God and His people. Further, they are of considerable size and hence terrifying in appearance.

Revelation 9:7 (CSB) ... Something like **golden crowns** was on their heads; their faces were like **human faces**;

Golden Crowns – authority and power

Human faces – intelligence. They are cunning and cruel, wise and wicked, there is a method to their madness.

They have a leader and they follow a well-orchestrated game plan.

REVELATION 9
THE 5 MONTHS OF TORMENT

Revelation 9:8 (CSB) they had hair like **women's hair**; their teeth were like **lions' teeth**;

Women's hair – (?) perhaps an indication of the long antennae of locust or to the seductiveness of their strategies.

lion's teeth – fierceness and deathlike power in their attack

Revelation 9:9 (CSB) they had chests like iron breastplates...

Breastplates of iron – virtually invulnerable. They are strong and well protected. It would take a supernatural power greater than their own to defeat them.

Revelation 9:9 (CSB) ... the sound of their wings was like the sound of many chariots with horses rushing into battle;

Sound of their wings – they are intimidating in their coming. The sound of their attack and approach would strike fear in the heart of any opponent who attempted to oppose them.

Revelation 9:10 (CSB) and they had tails with stingers like scorpions...

Tails like scorpions – they possess a painful sting that causes great agony and great suffering.





Should the reader of Revelation understand these judgments as literal or symbolic? The illuminator of the ninth chapter of Revelation in a thirteenth-century AD manuscript known as the Dyson Perrins Apocalypse chose to interpret the text literally, as seen by his artwork. The locust-scorpion creatures have human faces with women's hair, wear crowns, and have bodies like battle horses with stinger tails.







myspace.com/HolyC







Wings with the sound of an
army of Horse drawn chariots

Crown of
Gold?

Faces of
men?

Tail of a
Scorpion?

Breast Plates
of Iron?

Teeth of
a lion?







Shown here is a fig tree in full leaf and then that same fig tree stripped bare after the locust invasion.



The agony that unbelievers face as God’s judgment proceeds is likened to “the sting of a scorpion when it strikes” (9:5). The scorpion species that inhabit the Middle East produce some of the more-deadly neurotoxic venoms. At the very least, a sting can cause a sharp burning pain at the wound site for several weeks.

Revelation 9:10 (CSB) ...so that with their tails they had the power to harm people for five months.

Hurt for 5 months – repeats verse 5 and adds emphasis and intensity to their mission of misery.

The horror of this judgement is unspeakable and yet, the worse is yet to come. Verse 12 simply and straightforwardly says, the first woe (5th trumpet) is past; behold (take notice, look here!), two woes (6th & 7th trumpets) are still coming after these things. The 1st disaster has passed, but two more are coming!

As we survey the 5th and 6th Trumpet Judgments...

1. Consider the Locusts (vs. 9:1-12)
2. Comprehend the Army (vs. 9:13-19)

If Revelation teaches us anything it teaches us that God is in control. He is Lord, He is sovereign. History has a purpose and that purpose is God's. History is following a plan and that plan is God's.

Revelation 9:13 (CSB) The sixth angel blew his trumpet. From the four horns of the golden altar that is before God, I heard a voice

The 6th angel sounds and an unspecified voice speaks from the golden altar which is before God. Possibly this is the angel-priest of 8:3-5. He speaks to the 6th angel with a clear and precise word. From it we learn an incredible lesson.

Revelation 9:14 (CSB) say to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels bound at the great river Euphrates.”

These angels are likely demons. Good angels are never said to be bound. The Euphrates marked to the east the boundary separating Israel from her primary enemies.

Revelation 9:15 (CSB) So the four angels who were prepared for the hour, day, month, and year were released to kill a third of the human race.

God's prepared plan is clear. They had been prepared (perfect tense) for the 1) hour, 2) day, 3) month, and 4) year. This is a precise time. There is also a precise purpose. To kill 1/3 of mankind.

Combined with Revelation 6:8, we discover that ½ of the earth's population will die as a result of the seal and trumpet judgements. The carnage is unfathomable.

Revelation 9:16 (CSB) The number of mounted troops was two hundred million; I heard their number.

The 200 million army: demons or humans? An either/or decision may not be necessary or even best. Some connect the army with the kings of the east in 16:12 and identify them with a human army.

Revelation 9:16 (CSB) The number of mounted troops was two hundred million; I heard their number.

Interestingly Time magazine (May 21, 1965), noted that China then claimed an army of 200 million.

It is certainly possible, even reasonable to believe demons will work through human instrumentality in this day.

Still, the primary description before us would appear to be that of additional demons.

The remarkable description of the horses and their riders would support this. To think of a world with 200 million additional demons is beyond human imagination.

Revelation 9:17 (CSB) This is how I saw the horses and their riders in the vision...

Only here in Revelation does John directly indicate the visionary nature of what he experienced. Again the overall impression of the horses and their riders is more important than the details.

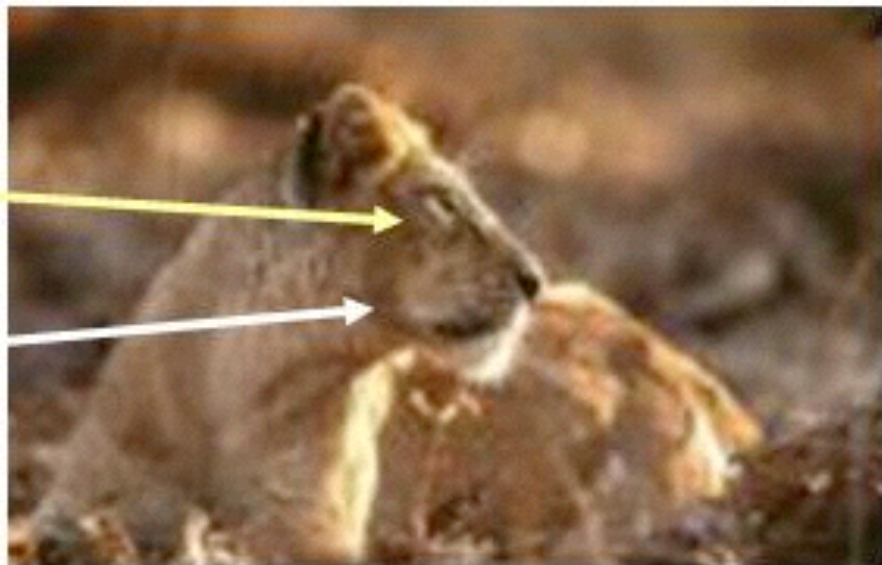
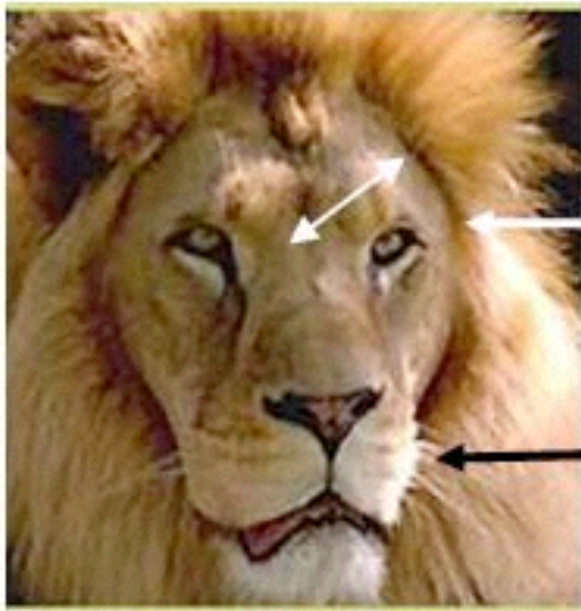
Revelation 9:17 (CSB) This is how I saw the horses and their riders in the vision: They had breastplates that were fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow. The heads of the horses were like the heads of lions, and from their mouths came fire, smoke, and sulfur.

**John saw in the vision the following:
Riders with breastplates of fire and hyacinth
(dark blue) and of brimstone
(sulphurous) – the red, blue and yellow of the
protective breastplates matches the fire,
smoke and brimstone that comes out of the
mouth of the horses (verse 18).**

**Heads of the horses are like the heads of lions –
speaks of ferocity, cruelty and destructive
strength and power.**



John describes these troops of death as riders on horses with heads like lions and tails like snakes. In Greek mythology a fire-breathing monster known as the chimera had the head and body of a lion with a serpent for a tail and a goat head coming from its back. A chimera is depicted on this Greek drinking cup from Rhodes (ca. 575–550 BC).









The destructive forces of fire, smoke and brimstone proceed from their mouths and by these 3 plagues 1/3 of mankind is killed. Verse 16 provides an additional descriptive word: there is also power in the horses' tails, for they are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm.

With their mouths they kill and with their tails they harm. From either direction or both ends, they have the capacity to damage and destroy. Such a description supports the view that these are demon hordes which are causing havoc on the earth.

REVELATION 9
THE 5 MONTHS OF TORMENT

Fire breathing monsters were common in ancient mythology. Fire breathing demons will be a reality during the Great Tribulation. One cannot help but think back to Genesis 19 when fire and brimstone rained on Sodom and Gomorrah. Then it affected 2 cities. In the future much of the world will suffer.

As we survey the 5th and 6th Trumpet Judgments...

1. Consider the Locusts (vs. 9:1-12)
2. Comprehend the Army (vs. 9:13-19)
3. Cast off all Idols (vs. 9:20-21)

Revelation 9:20–21 (CSB) The rest of the people, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands to stop worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see, hear, or walk. And they did not repent of their murders, their sorceries, their sexual immorality, or their thefts.



Shown here is one type of household statue that the Israelites adopted between the eighth and seventh centuries BC. It is a pottery piece with an exaggerated female form and is known as a “pillar figurine.” It may have functioned as an amulet to promote fertility and provide protection for mother and child during childbirth.

The most tragic and terrifying reality of Revelation 9 is not the judgements of God, but the sinfulness of man. Even as God punishes them for their sins, they persist in them.

Revelation 9:20 (CSB) The **rest of the people**, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent...**

Rest of the people – those who did not die.

Did not repent - They would not worship the works of God's hands, but they did worship the work of their hands (cf. Romans 1:18ff)

Revelation 9:20 (CSB) ...did not repent of the works of their hands to stop worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see, hear, or walk.

REVELATION 9

THE 5 MONTHS OF TORMENT

Idolatry and demon worship go hand in hand. To worship stuff made of gold, silver, brass, stone or wood is to worship Satan.

Revelation 9:20 (CSB) ...did not repent of the works of their hands to stop worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see, hear, or walk.

Here are dead sinners worshipping dead gods. (they cannot see, hear or walk) and demon gods!

Revelation 9:21 (CSB) And they did not repent of their murders, their sorceries, their sexual immorality, or their thefts.

4 additional sins are selectively listed in verse 21. Perhaps these stand out in the last days.

Revelation 9:21 (CSB) And they did not repent of their murders, their **sorceries**, their sexual immorality, or their thefts.

Sorceries – (pharmakon) – witchcraft, magic art; use of drugs for divination or healing was a part of pagan, false religion.

Revelation 9:21 (CSB) And they did not repent of their murders, their sorceries, their sexual **immorality**, or their thefts.

Immorality – (porneia) – all forms of sexual sin.

These sins involve a basic violation of the 10 commandments (cf. Ex. 20; Deut. 5). Idolatry violates the 1st and 2nd commandments. Murder violates the 6th, immorality the 7th, and thefts the 8th. As in the days of the Judges it will be a time of unbridled evil, with “every man doing that which is right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25). Such a day is coming or, is such a day already here?

REVELATION 9

THE 5 MONTHS OF TORMENT

OLD TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS

Revelation 9:2 He opened the shaft to the abyss, and smoke came up out of the shaft like smoke from a great furnace so that the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the shaft.

Genesis 19:28 He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and all the land of the plain, and he saw that smoke was going up from the land like the smoke of a furnace.

Exodus 19:18 Mount Sinai was completely enveloped in smoke because the Lord came down on it in fire. Its smoke went up like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain shook violently.

Revelation 9:3 Then locusts came out of the smoke on to the earth, and power was given to them like the power that scorpions have on the earth.

Exodus 10:12 The Lord then said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt, and the locusts will come up over it and eat every plant in the land, everything that the hail left.”

Exodus 10:15 They covered the surface of the whole land so that the land was black, and they consumed all the plants on the ground and all the fruit on the trees that the hail had left. Nothing green was left on the trees or the plants in the field throughout the land of Egypt.

Revelation 9:4

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 God's seal on their foreheads.

Ezekiel 9:4

"Pass throughout the city of Jerusalem," the Lord said to him, "and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the detestable practices committed in it."

Revelation 9:6 In those days people will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, but death will flee from them.

Job 3:21 who wait for death, but it does not come, and search for it more than for hidden treasure,

Jeremiah 8:3 Death will be chosen over life by all the survivors of this evil family, those who remain wherever I have banished them.” This is the declaration of the Lord of Armies.

Hosea 10:8 The high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, will be destroyed; thorns and thistles will grow over their altars. They will say to the mountains, “Cover us!” and to the hills, “Fall on us!”

Revelation 9:7

The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. Something like golden crowns was on their heads; their faces were like human faces;

Joel 2:4–5

Their appearance is like that of horses, and they gallop like war horses. 5They bound on the tops of the mountains. Their sound is like the sound of chariots, like the sound of fiery flames consuming stubble, like a mighty army deployed for war.

Revelation 9:8

they had hair like women's hair; their teeth were like lions' teeth;

Joel 1:6

For a nation has invaded my land, powerful and without number; its teeth are the teeth of a lion, and it has the fangs of a lioness.

Revelation 9:9

they had chests like iron breastplates; the sound of their wings was like the sound of many chariots with horses rushing into battle;

Joel 2:5

They bound on the tops of the mountains. Their sound is like the sound of chariots, like the sound of fiery flames consuming stubble, like a mighty army deployed for war.

Revelation 9:13 The sixth angel blew his trumpet. From the four horns of the golden altar that is before God, I heard a voice

Exodus 30:1–3 “You are to make an altar for the burning of incense; make it of acacia wood. 2It must be square, eighteen inches long and eighteen inches wide; it must be thirty-six inches high. Its horns must be of one piece with it. 3Overlay its top, all around its sides, and its horns with pure gold; make a gold molding all around it.

Malachi 1:2–3 “I have loved you,” says the Lord. Yet you ask, “How have you loved us?” “Wasn’t Esau Jacob’s brother?” This is the Lord’s declaration. “Even so, I loved Jacob, 3but I hated Esau. I turned his mountains into a wasteland, and gave his inheritance to the desert jackals.”

Revelation 9:20 The rest of the people, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands to stop worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see, hear, or walk.

Psalm 115:4–7 Their idols are silver and gold, made by human hands. 5They have mouths but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see. 6They have ears but cannot hear, noses, but cannot smell. 7They have hands but cannot feel, feet, but cannot walk. They cannot make a sound with their throats.

Psalm 135:15–17 The idols of the nations are of silver and gold, made by human hands. 16They have mouths but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see. 17They have ears but cannot hear; indeed, there is no breath in their mouths.

Revelation 9:20 The rest of the people, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands to stop worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see, hear, or walk.

Daniel 5:23 Instead, you have exalted yourself against the Lord of the heavens. The vessels from his house were brought to you, and as you and your nobles, wives, and concubines drank wine from them, you praised the gods made of silver and gold, bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or understand. But you have not glorified the God who holds your life-breath in his hand and who controls the whole course of your life.

Deuteronomy 32:17 They sacrificed to demons, not God, to gods they had not known, new gods that had just arrived, which your ancestors did not fear

Key Themes of Revelation 9:1–9:11

- **God's judgments will fall on those who rebel against him and persecute his people.**
- **The people of God are sealed or protected against these demonic judgments.**
- **God is sovereign over evil forces and can even allow evil to bring judgment upon evil.**
- **God limits his judgments, desiring that the wicked will repent.**

Key Themes of Revelation 9:12–21

- God's judgments are just.
- As a form of judgment, God sometimes permits evil forces to turn on their own followers.
- Human sinfulness leads to self-deception and self-destruction.
- Tragically, those hostile to God sometimes prefer idolatry and immorality to repentance.

CONCLUSION

REVELATION 9

THE 5 MONTHS OF TORMENT

Quote: Revelation, by Grant Osborne:

Even the demonic forces can do nothing, unless God allows it! Many have the mistaken opinion that Satan has autonomy from God and can do whatever he wishes. That could not be further from the truth. Satan is powerless and has already lost at the cross (see 5:6). Everything he and his followers do in this book can only be done after God gives permission.

Even more than that, all the actions of the evil forces are part of the divine will, thus part of the divine plan... As in God's control of the four horsemen of 6:1–8, however, God does not have to command the demonic locusts to do anything; he simply allows their evil to express itself.

Osborne, Revelation, 365.

W. A. Criswell pastored the FBC, Dallas for 50 years. Reflecting and writing on these very verses he wisely noted, “One of the strange things about human nature is that man is not changed because of punishment ... He may desist from evil because he is afraid, but his heart is still evil.

He would do evil if he could get by with it. A man is really changed only by the Gospel of the grace of the Son of God ... Our hope lies in the saving power of the Gospel of Christ” (pages 192-193).

REVELATION 9
THE 5 MONTHS OF TORMENT

One would think demons from the abyss and armies from the east would get humanity's attention. What an amazing reality it is that it does not. May we, by God's grace, be different.

REVELATION 9

THE 5 MONTHS OF TORMENT
