

The opening of the Seventh Seal begins a new series of judgements, the Seven Trumpets.

And the fifth angel sounded his trumpet: and I saw a star out of the heaven fallen to the earth; and there was given to it the key of the pit of the abyss. - Rev 9:1

This Lesson Outline was prepared by John M. Wharton

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Sources -

All bible text, unless otherwise indicated, is the Darby Translation. ASV indicates the American Standard Version, with KJV indicating the King James Version. Quotations are often included from various classic Christian commentaries such as John Gill's Expositor, Jamieson, Fausset and Brown, Robertson's New Testament Word Pictures, and others. Greek and Hebrew word definitions are often included from the Strong's Concordance, unless otherwise indicated. All of these sources, both the bible texts, commentaries, and Strong's definition's are taken from the excellent source the e-Sword Bible computer program unless otherwise indicated.

Introduction -

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Lesson Text - Revelation Chapter 9

Rev 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded his trumpet: and I saw a star out of the heaven fallen to the earth; and there was given to it the key of the pit of the abyss.

Robertson's New Testament Word Pictures from the e-Sword Program -

Rev 9:1-

Fallen(*peptōkota*). **Perfect active participle of *piptō*, already down.** (emphasis mine) In [Luk 10:18](#) note *pesonta* (constative aorist active, like a flash of lightning) after *etheōroun* and in [Rev 7:2](#) note *anabainonta* (present active and linear, coming up, picturing the process) after *eidon*....

Vincent's Word Studies from the e-Sword Program -

Rev 9:1-

Fall (**πεπτωκότα**)

Lit., *fallen*. **The star had fallen before and is seen as fallen.** (emphasis mine) Rev., properly construes star with from *heaven* instead of *with fallen*. Compare [Isa 14:12](#); [Luk 10:18](#).

Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary from the e-Sword Program -

...fall--rather as Greek, "fallen." **When John saw it, it was not in the act of falling, but had fallen already.** (emphasis mine) This is a connecting link of this fifth trumpet with [Rev 12:8-9](#), [Rev 12:12](#), "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, for the devil is come down," &c. Compare [Isa 14:12](#), "How art thou fallen from heaven, Lucifer, son of the morning!"....

Comments -

Robertson's Word Pictures, Vincent's Word Studies and JF&B tell us it was already fallen, not falling as he watched. The tense is given as Perfect active participle meaning it has already taken place before this. As the commentators note (see *Vincent, JF&B*) the star is an angelic being cast out of heaven to the earth which receives a key that it uses to unlock the abyss and release the evil creatures there. This isn't another meteoric judgement falling from the skies. References are given to

Rev 12:9 where Satan is said to be cast out of heaven to the earth,

Isaiah 14:12 where Lucifer is seen fallen from heaven, and

Luke 10:18 where Jesus said He saw Satan fallen from the earth.

Is this fallen star then Satan or another angel of great rank within his army? It's easy to think Satan, and the references seem to support it. But does that fit the prophetic timeline of the Revelation?

Rev. 12:9 says that Satan "*was cast out*" once and for all (presumably then) and after that he persecutes the woman who is given a refuge from him for *a time, and times, and half a time* which is surely the last three and one half years of the Tribulation the Great. Chapter 11 verse seems to indicate the same time referring to the gentiles controlling Jerusalem *forty-two months* or three and a half years. Then Satan can't be cast out of heaven until that time.

Rev 12:7 the heaven: Michael and his angels went to war with the dragon. And the dragon fought, and his angels;

Rev 12:8 and he prevailed not, nor was their place found any more in the heaven.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, the ancient serpent, he who is called Devil and Satan, he who deceives the whole habitable world, he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Rev 12:10 And I heard a great voice in the heaven saying, Now is come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ; for the accuser of our brethren has been cast out, who accused them before our God day and night:

Rev 12:11 and *they* have overcome him by reason of the blood of the Lamb, and by reason of the word of their testimony, and have not loved their life even unto death.

Rev 12:12 Therefore be full of delight, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the earth and to the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great rage, knowing he has a short time.

Rev 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he had been cast out into the earth, he persecuted the woman which bore the male *child*.

Rev 12:14 given to the woman the two wings of the great eagle, that she might fly into the desert into her place, where she is nourished there a time, and times, and half a time, from *the* face of the serpent.

Rev. 12:10 ...for the accuser of our brethren has been cast out, who accused them before our God day and night - that Satan is not cast once and for all from heaven and God's presence until this point in chapter 12 at the middle, apparently, of the seven years of the Tribulation. And it is in *Rev. 9:1* that the fifth angel sounds, with the sixth trumpet still to go, and the seventh finally sounding in *Rev. 11:15* just before these events in *Rev. chapter 12*.

Rev 11:15 angel sounded *his* trumpet: and there were great voices in

the heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world of our Lord and of his
come, and he shall reign to the ages of ages.

Christ is

The timeline in these chapters 8 - 12 seems to flow in sequence without indication of
change in perspective. It seems unlikely that this evil angelic being can be Satan himself?

Rev 9:2 And it opened the pit of the abyss; and there went up smoke out of the
pit as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened with
the smoke of the pit.

**Rev 9:3 out of the smoke came forth locusts on the earth, and power was
given to them as the scorpions of the earth have power;**

**Rev 9:4 it was said to them, that they should not injure the grass of the
earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but the men who have not the seal
of God on their foreheads:**

Comments -

And out of the smoke came forth locusts on the earth... demonic spirits because they
aren't allowed to physically hurt the earth or the things on it yet they can torment the
people on it except for those who have the *seal of God on their foreheads*. Albert Barnes
Notes on the Bible (from the e-Sword Program) observes that plagues of locust are
generally an oriental phenomenon and naturally draw our minds to that area of the world.
If that is so then the area is the Middle East. Also, since the 144,000 are mentioned in the
affected area they must be in Israel. I doubt their sealing in Rev. 7 occurred there since all
the tribes of Israel were represented in significant numbers. The tribes of old Israel are
mostly among Gentiles (see *Isa. 66:19-20, Jer. 3 (esp. 11-18), Micah 5:7-9*). The Jewish
people today are mostly of Judah. Perhaps the 144,000 lead others of Israel, unknown at
first, back to the land with them. That may have been at least part of their unspecified
ministry.

Rev 9:5 and it was given to them that they should not kill them, but that they
should be tormented five months; and their torment was as the torment of a
scorpion when it strikes a man.

Rev 9:6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall in no way find it;
and shall desire to die, and death flees from them.

Comments -

*and it was given to them that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented
five months...* indicating that these locusts are demonic beings. They aren't given power to
hurt humans as an army would but only to torment them. Exorcists (and even psychic
researchers) have reported demonic entities on occasions being able to physically strike
at an individual leaving marks of the attack. It seems to be that in these times there is
more open manifestation of the spiritual warfare not seen so clearly in our age. Perhaps
these evil entities will even be able to manifest more visibly. The attack and shock inflicted
upon those not protected by God will surely be terrifying.

but that they should be tormented five months Robertson's and JF&B note this is the
usual lifespan of a locust. The spiritual attack being conformed by God's decree to mimic
the physical? Using a Lunar month of 30 days times 5 is 150 days if that is meant.

...And in those days shall men seek death... Can they really not cause their own death if they desire? Can the meaning possibly be as in Job 3:21 where the misery of their life is so great they wish furvently to simply die and be done with it. But it does not come for them as they wish. And truly if they left this life in their spiritual state it would only be for them a higher state of punishment and unending from that point. Redemption would not longer be possible.

Rev 9:7 And the likenesses of the locusts were like to horses prepared for war; and upon their heads as crowns like gold, and their faces as faces of men;

Rev 9:8 and they had hair as women's hair, and their teeth were as of lions,

Rev 9:9 and they had breastplates as breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to war;

Rev 9:10 and they have tails like scorpions, and stings; and their power was in their tails to hurt men five months.

Rev 9:11 They have a king over them, the angel of the abyss: his name in Hebrew, Abaddon, and in Greek he has for name Apollyon.

Abaddon– G3 **Ἀβαδδών** Abaddōn *ab-ad-dohn'* Of Hebrew origin [H11]; a *destroying angel*: - Abaddon.

Apollyon– G623 **Ἀπολλύων** Apolluōn *ap-ol-loo'-ohn* Active participle of G622; a *destroyer* (that is, *Satan*): - Apollyon.

Comments -

The description of the demonic locust is genuinely bizarre and has been interpreted in quite a few different ways by the commentators. Some viewing these prophecies in the historist manner see them as ravaging armies of the infidel Mongols swarming in toward Christian Europe from the east or as the Arian Goths as they battled through Italy, Gaul and Spain.

Rev 9:12 The first woe has passed. Behold, there come yet two woes after these things.

Rev 9:13 And the sixth angel sounded his trumpet: and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

Rev 9:14 saying to the sixth angel that had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound at the great river Euphrates.

Rev 9:15 And the four angels were loosed, who are prepared for the hour and day and month and year, that they might slay the third part of men;

Rev 9:16 and the number of the hosts of horse was twice ten thousand times

ten thousand. I heard their number.

Rev 9:17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and those that sat upon them, having breastplates of fire and jacinth and brimstone; and the heads of the horses were as heads of lions, and out of their mouths goes out fire and smoke and brimstone.

Rev 9:18 By these three plagues were the third part of men killed, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which goes out of their mouths.

Rev 9:19 For the power of the horses is in their mouth and in their tails: for their tails are like serpents, having heads, and with them they injure.

Rev 9:20 And the rest of men who were not killed with these plagues repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and the golden and silver and brazen and stone and wooden idols, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

Rev 9:21 And they repented not of their murders, nor of their witchcrafts, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

Summary -
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