

Revelation Chapter Nine

- In this chapter the 5th and 6th trumpets are sounded.
 - These are two of the three “woes” from Rev 8:13.
 - The 7th trumpet is not sounded until Rev 11:15.
- When the 5th trumpet sounds God gives Apollyon the key to the abyss so he can release the many fallen angels and demons imprisoned within [9:1, 11].
 - Apollyon (Ἀπολλύων = destroyer) is a fallen angel and is probably locked in the abyss with the others.
 - He is identified as the leader (king/the angel of the abyss) of the fallen angels and demons [9:11].
- The abyss (ἄβυσσος = deep hole) is a place of confinement and torment.
 - The demons fear the abyss [Luke 8:31].
 - Christ made His victorious proclamation to the fallen angels and demons held in the abyss [1 Pet 3:19-20].
 - After the abyss is unlocked at the sounding of the 5th trumpet, the Antichrist apparently uses it as one of his bases of operations [11:7; 17:8].
 - Satan will be sealed up in the abyss for the duration of the Millennial Kingdom [20:1,3].
- When the abyss is unlocked smoke will cover the earth providing cover for a world-wide onslaught of demon-locusts [9:2-3].
- These demon-locusts target people, not vegetation, but the 144,000 are protected [9:4].
- These demon-locusts are not allowed to kill anyone, but will torment people for five months [9:5].
- The torment will cause people to want to die, but they will not be allowed to die [9:6].

- The demons are described in detail [9:7-10]...
 - They appear like warhorses.
 - They are wearing something like crowns of gold.
 - They have faces like men.
 - They have long hair.
 - Their teeth are like lions teeth.
 - They are wearing iron breastplates.
 - They have wings.
 - They have tails like scorpions.
- The release of these demons fulfills Joel 1:2-7; 2:1-11.
- When the 6th trumpet sounds John hears a voice from the four horns of the golden altar that is before God instructing the angel to release four fallen angels bound at the river Euphrates [9:13-14].
- These four fallen angels are released and will kill 1/3 of all mankind [9:15].
 - These are not the four angels of Rev 7:1.
 - The 4th seal [Rev 6:7-8] and this trumpet take out 1/2 of the world's population ($1/4 + 1/3 * 3/4 = 1/2$) which aligns with Dan 12:1 and Matt 24:21.
- The four fallen angels lead a cavalry 200 million strong [9:16-19].
 - John could not possibly count the cavalry, but he heard the number of them.
 - The horsemen were dressed in breastplates of red, dark blue and yellow.
 - The horsemen are riding lion-headed horses with serpent-like tails that have heads.
 - The tail inflicts harm, but the fire/smoke/brimstone coming from their mouths causes the people to die.
- The bulk of the population which remains is scared by what is taking place, but will not repent [9:20-21].
 - They continue to worship demons represented by idols of various forms.
 - They continue to commit murder.
 - They continue to participate in the occult.
 - They continue to be involved in sexual immorality.
 - They continue to steal.
- Though the wrath of God is becoming more intense, the majority of people have hardened their hearts.