

## EP67 Revelation 9 verses 1-6

### Revelation 9

#### *Overview: Blowing of the Fifth and Sixth Trumpet Judgments—The Beast, the Demons, Torture, and Death.*

The eagle angel uttered its warning, woe, woe, woe, because the downward spiral of awful is about to get so much worse with the blowing of the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> trumpets. The invasion of the unseen world into our material world will be so dramatic and intense that the things we are to understand as “spiritual” versus “literal” in terms of the imagery becomes so blurred and intermixed that they are for the most part one and the same.

### The First WOE!

#### *Revelation 9:1-12*

Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had been falling to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him. He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit. Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not now have the seal of God on their foreheads. And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man. And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death now flees from them.

The appearance of the locusts was like horses having been prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like the teeth of lions. They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle. They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months.

They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.

The first woe is past; behold, there now chooses to come two woes after these things.

### *Trumpet Number 5*

Given that according to the **Code** the number 5 signifies on-one-hand the grace of God and on-the-other-hand the absolute destitution of man (needy for the grace of God), we should expect to see

something related to both grace and the abject neediness of mankind.

## The Star from Heaven

### **Revelation 9:1**

Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had been falling to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him.

The 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet is blown and this ushers in one of the most pivotal moments in the **Revelation** narrative, for it is with this trumpet blast that the Beast from the Abyss (the demonic being who will possess the man we call the Antichrist) is released into the world.

Sticking with the **Code** and its idiomatic use of “stars,” it is clear that this “*star from heaven*” refers to an angel. Still, we must ask whether this a good angel or a bad angel? This angel’s origin or original domicile is the heavens (as is with all the angels), but this angel had been falling to the earth. Being rendered in the *perfect active participle*, we can conclude that it had fallen from heaven to the earth sometime in the past and remains in that state such that it still seems to the observer that it is falling.

Thus, we are dealing with a demonic being—a fallen angel—who has gone apostate from its original state and continues in its apostasy.

The key to the bottomless pit or the Abyss was given to this angel. We are not told when it was given to him, just that it occurred sometime in the past.<sup>1</sup> This begs the question, what is the bottomless pit or the Abyss?

## The Abyss

This bottomless pit, also translated throughout **Revelation** simply as the “Abyss,” comes from the Greek word “*abussos*” which means “bottomless” and “*phrear*” which means “a hole in the ground.”<sup>2</sup>

### *Where is the Abyss*

This demon had been falling to the earth from heaven; therefore, it is likely that the entrance to the bottomless pit is located here on earth. This is not unusual. The **Codex** often addresses the merger of the unseen world with the physical world. It speaks of unseen dimensions that are present in our material world but accessed only through the spiritual realms. In effect, there is a different dimension within our physical space in which those in the unseen realms exist and interact with our physical world.

For instance, the Garden of Eden is on earth, but it is protected by an angel with a flaming sword such that it will never be found by man.<sup>3</sup> And Sheol (what we call “hell” or the place of the dead), like the Abyss, seems to be located in the inward parts of the earth, beneath the oceans.<sup>4</sup> Hence, the idea that one “goes

<sup>1</sup> “given” is rendered in the *aorist passive indicative*

<sup>2</sup> See **Revelation 9:11, 11:7, 17:8, 20:1, 3**

<sup>3</sup> **Genesis 3:24**

<sup>4</sup> **Numbers 16:30; Job 11:8, 26:5, 31:12; Deuteronomy 32:32; Psalm 88:11; Proverbs 27:20**

**down**” to hell. And Jacob saw a ladder that extended between heaven and earth upon which the angels of God were ascending and descending. This ladder functioned like a portal between the 2-realms. Jacob called it the gate of heaven.<sup>5</sup> Jesus mentioned this portal claiming that He was the very ladder which Jacob saw.<sup>6</sup> We have already mentioned the “Gates of Hell” which were physically located in the region of Bashan, they were also considered to be a gate or a portal for the demonic to enter from the unseen realm into the realm of humanity.

### *What is the Abyss*

In **Luke**, Jesus was casting a legion of demonic beings out of a man and the demons begged Him not to command them to go away into the Abyss.<sup>7</sup> The demons were terrified of the place. Apparently, the Abyss is a place of punishment of which the demons are familiar, and they want nothing to do with it.

This phrase is also used in **Romans** where the Spirit integrates a passage from **Deuteronomy** into His message. However, the Spirit changes the original Hebrew rendering from “sea” to the “abyss.”<sup>8</sup> “DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, ‘WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?’ (that is, to bring Christ down), or ‘WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).”<sup>9</sup> This fits the idea that there might be some overlap between Sheol (hell) and the Abyss, as they are places for the dead which are located within the inward parts of the earth beneath the oceans.

### **A Place for the Dead**

The Abyss is clearly a place for the dead, but “dead” must be understood figuratively.<sup>10</sup> In other words, these angels do not technically cease to exist, rather, they are alive and held in prisons of darkness. Thus, the Abyss seems to be the angelic counterpart to the bad part of Sheol (what we call “hell” or “hades”), which is the place of internment for the human soul which dies without knowing Christ. The human soul similarly does not cease to exist upon death, but those who do not immediately find themselves in the presence of Jesus find themselves bound in Sheol until the great day of judgment when **Yahweh** causes Hades or Hell to give up its souls.<sup>11</sup>

What Sheol is to the “dead” of mankind (for those who do not know Jesus), the Abyss is to the “dead” angels.

## **THE ABYSS IS A PLACE A PLACE OF INTERNMENT THAT TERRIFIES DEMONS.**

<sup>5</sup> **Genesis 28:10-17**

<sup>6</sup> **John 1:51**

<sup>7</sup> **Luke 8:31**

<sup>8</sup> See **Deuteronomy 30:13**

<sup>9</sup> **Romans 10:6-8**

<sup>10</sup> Note: “death” and “dead” is used *figuratively* all throughout the book of **Romans** and it speaks of a spiritual condition and not so much a cessation of existence.

<sup>11</sup> See **Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:1, 2, 8; Philippians 1:23; John 17:24; Acts 7:55-59; Revelation 6:9-11**. Note, the Hebrew place of the dead, Sheol, is comprised of two parts. One is referred to as Hades (a place of fire and torment or agony) and the other is the Bosom of Abraham, a place of comfort. There is a fixed chasm between the two parts, and one cannot go from one side to the other.

The **Codex** contains a couple of other references to the Abyss, the most famous being what we studied in **Jude**, “*And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.*”<sup>12</sup> **2 Peter** also speaks to these “*pits of darkness*” to which angels who sinned were cast in judgment.<sup>13</sup>

Thus, the Abyss is a place of internment, a dark prison to which angles are cast when they cross a certain line of rebellion.

As to its location, **2 Peter** is extremely specific in that it says that these **pits of darkness** (technically, “*chains of darkness*”) are in the deepest part of hell in a place the Greeks called “*tartaros*.” If men are cast into what we generically call “hell” (what the Bible calls “hades” which is on the bad side of Sheol), the Abyss is some deep dark chamber accessed from within the lowest parts of hades.

This use of “*tartaros*” is fascinating and in **2 Peter** is the only time it is mentioned in the **Codex**. This word comes from Greek mythology and refers to a deep abyss that is used as a dungeon of torment and suffering for the wicked, and as a prison for the titans (the pre-Olympian Greek gods—which we would know as fallen angels or demonic beings).

The Abyss is a pitch-black bottomless pit inhabited by these “*angels who did not keep their own domain but abandoned their proper abode*”. These angels did something so horrible that **Yahweh** has chained them in this place of darkness waiting for this moment, at the end of time, when they will finally be released.

### The Beast & the Abyss

We will find that the Beast has been interned in the Abyss and is released along with these other angels who sinned. In fact, one of the defining aspects of the Beast is that one of its heads (he has seven of them) had been slain, but his fatal wound was healed, and the whole earth was amazed.<sup>14</sup> Three times this issue of the fatal wound is mentioned, so we are to take note of it because this is a **perfect** clue to our understanding the identity of the Beast.<sup>15</sup> This one head had died, or in the language of **Yahweh**, had been assigned to the Abyss.

What are we to take from this? We will find that the term “Beast” is layered and refers not just to the individual spirit who is released from the Abyss, but also to the ruling entourage (or the kingdom) that is led by the Beast. This next explanation is a preview, but it will help our understanding as we go through the text.

When we first are introduced to the great red dragon (an image for the Satan, the devil, Lucifer) he is imaged as having 7-heads and 10-horns.<sup>16</sup> This image communicates that the dragon rules through a inner-counsel of 7-chief demonic beings (they are his chief-commanders and strategy counsel), and they in turn have authority over 10-other demonic beings that are their might or their enforcers (hence, the image of horns).

<sup>12</sup> **Jude 6**

<sup>13</sup> **2 Peter 2:4**

<sup>14</sup> **Revelation 13:3, 12, 14**

<sup>15</sup> 3 is the number of perfections.

<sup>16</sup> **Revelation 12:3**

When the Beast, the spirit, is released from the Abyss, the Dragon gives the Beast His throne, power, and great authority (essentially, the 7-heads and 10-horns). As such, the Beast is also imaged as having 7-heads and 10-horns.<sup>17</sup> It is how the dragon supercharges the Beast so that upon his release from the Abyss, he is so much more than what he was before he entered the Abyss. Now he has the rule over the inner-counsel and the enforcers. Oddly, after this event, the dragon has a very small role in the **Revelation** narrative as all the attention is turned toward the Beast.

We will also find out that before his internment in the Abyss, the Beast was one of the 7-heads, part of the dragon's inner-counsel. And upon his release, he is supercharged so-to-speak by the dragon's grant of his power, throne, and great authority (the 7-heads and 10-horns) such that the Beast becomes far more than he was before.<sup>18</sup> Thus, the image of the Beast is a layered image of both the spirit and the kingdom of spirits over which he is given charge.

All of that to say that the Beast, while previously exercising authority as one of those 7-heads of the dragon, was killed, or in **Code**, assigned to the Abyss. But the head of this Beast will be healed, or released from the Abyss, and the world will be amazed.

### Speculations about the Abyss

According to the book of Enoch, there were 200 angels who made a special pact with each other to leave behind everything in terms of their angelic roles, responsibilities, and positions in heaven (their proper domain) and come to earth to have intercourse with women. Apparently, their plan was an attempt to comingle human DNA with angelic believing these corrupted genes would spread throughout mankind.

The effect of this corrupted gene pool would have been primarily to ensure that when the Messiah died for the world, He would also die for the fallen angels represented through the angelic DNA, thereby providing the means for the fallen angels to be saved or redeemed from their fallen state.

The reasoning would be as follows. The **Codex** tells us that to effect salvation for mankind, the Messiah had to be a man. *"Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people."*<sup>19</sup>

Therefore, if mankind's DNA was corrupted with angelic DNA, then the Messiah would have to be made like man in every respect. Thus, He could then also be a merciful high priest that would take away the sins of both the people and the fallen angels who otherwise are eternally doomed.

The book of **Hebrews** is clear that God did not give help to the angels, but to the descendants of Abraham (those who are now believing and now overcoming).<sup>20</sup> It is likely that this was the scenario they were trying to avoid.

They might have also thought that since the Messiah was to be born of a woman, that this genetic corruption would spread so far-and-wide that eventually even the mother of the Messiah would have this

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<sup>17</sup> **Revelation 13:1-2**

<sup>18</sup> **Revelation 17:8-13**

<sup>19</sup> **Hebrews 2:16-17**

<sup>20</sup> **Hebrews 2:16**

genetic mutation and would pass it on to the Messiah. Again, hoping to ensure salvation for the fallen angels. Clearly, they did not contemplate that God did not need any genetic material from the Messiah's mother, for though she would bear the child, she would merely be a carrier who was implanted with a completed zygote which did not carry any of her DNA.

Now, according to the book of Enoch, **Genesis** gives us a description of the attempt by angels to comingling their DNA with the daughters of men, and that is how the giants of old came to be.<sup>21</sup> Clearly, we do not know for certain if this tale as told in the Book of Enoch is a true rendering or is just folk lore, but we do know there were giants and that these angels who are in the Abyss did something very, very bad that they had to be locked away and chained in these pits of darkness.

This also means that the Beast, in one of his incarnations of power and authority, did something so terrible that he deserved to be assigned to the Abyss. There are clues to this in the **Codex** and it starts with understanding the name of the Beast, but more on that later.

### Satan & the Abyss

Satan is also going to spend a significant amount of time in the Abyss. During the time of **Yahweh's** reign on the earth, after his Second Coming, Satan will be shut in the Abyss for 1,000 years and bound in chains so he will not be able to deceive the nations during his internment.

The Abyss is therefore to be understood as a terrible place reserved for the worst of the worst. Therefore, the one thing we can expect from these nefarious creatures interned in the Abyss is that upon their release they will be enraged with such pent-up fury, anger, and hate that this first "**WOE**" will be well earned. It will not be pretty.

## The Door to the Abyss is Opened

### **Revelation 9:2**

He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit.

Both **Job** and the book of Enoch indicate that the Abyss burns with fire, which along with the darkness is probably why this is such a horrific place.<sup>22</sup> To me this also makes it so intriguing that the Abyss seems to be located within the inward parts of the earth (in the lowest parts of Hades, in *Tartaros*) which, as we know, is a place of molten fire. Again, we have no idea how the intersection of the unseen and the seen interact, but I think it this whole thing is fascinating. It is much like the Garden of Eden that is present on this earth, even today, but is completely inaccessible by humanity. The intersection is there, but it favors the unseen realms.

Thus, when the lid to the Abyss was tapped, the exhaust just billowed out and it was so great that the sun and the air were darkened. This is probably like what happens when a volcano vents and fills the air

<sup>21</sup> **Genesis 6:1-4**

<sup>22</sup> **Job 31:12**; *The book of Enoch, 10:12-14*

with ash; everything becomes darkened. There is nothing in this image however that leans toward a *figurative* interpretation, rather, it cries for a *literal* interpretation because “air” is not used in the **Codex** as part of the **Code**. Thus, “*the sun and the air were darkened*” is likely exactly what we will experience.

## The Demons are Released

### ***Revelation 9:3***

Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

### ***Demons Like Locust with Scorpion Power***

We must understand what is being communicated in this imagery. Locusts are the scourge of Asia, Asia Minor, and the Middle East and are dreaded beyond any other plague. Locusts move in giant swarms, and they devour every green thing in their way; nothing is left untouched. They are indiscriminating in their desire for anything and everything that is green, and they do not leave their task undone. They can literally strip a land of all its vegetation. For example, during the Exodus narrative, the 8th plague of Egypt was a devastating swarm of locust. It was described as follows:

### ***Exodus 10:14-15***

And the locusts swarmed over the whole land of Egypt, settling in dense swarms from one end of the country to the other. It was the worst locust plague in Egyptian history, and there has never been another one like it. For the locusts covered the whole country and darkened the land. They devoured every plant in the fields and all the fruit on the trees that had survived the hailstorm. Not a single leaf was left on the trees and plants throughout the land of Egypt.

These demons from the Abyss are described as locust because they move like an advancing army to devour and destroy, that is their nature. They are a curse and a plague, and if it were not for the limitations placed upon them, they would be indiscriminating in their destruction. They would go after everything that has some sort of spiritual life within their being (which is imaged using the color “green”).

These demons have a unique super-power, the power of scorpions: the power to sting and torment. The sting of a normal scorpion is usually no more serious than the stings of ants, bees, or wasps. However, some species can inflict potentially fatal stings. Mild symptoms include pain and swelling at the sting site. Severe symptoms include muscle twitching, sweating, and drooling.

For example, the sting of a bark scorpion can be extremely serious, producing severe pain and swelling at the site of the sting, numbness, frothing of the mouth, difficulty breathing, respiratory paralysis, muscle twitching, and convulsions. Thus, if the power which these locusts possess is anything like the bark scorpion, it is no wonder people will want to die.

## Limits to Their Power

### Revelation 9:4

They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not now have the seal of God on their foreheads.

It is likely that these demons are so infuriated at their incarceration that they will move out of the Abyss like a deadly swarm purposed to harm anything and everything in their way that has spiritual life. Thus, **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of Heaven's Armies), their true Master, restricts their activity.

This is an important point we must always remember in our day-in-and-day-out life. The demons, the Beast, and even Lucifer can only do what **Yahweh Sabaoth**, our Lord of Heaven's Armies, permits them to do. They are not free agents as they would want us to believe, and they exercise no independent power. Rather, they are bound to their Principal **Yahweh**. He alone determines their boundaries, their activities, their permissions and so on. He is the one who has given them their power and He can also take it away.<sup>23</sup> Take comfort in this powerful truth.

The locust demons are permitted to harm only those who does not **now** have the seal of God on their foreheads (rendered in the *present* tense<sup>24</sup>). Being oddly rendered in the *present* tense, we know that even today there are people who do not bear His mark, just like there are those who have already been sealed by **Yahweh** and are marked by His signet.

Thus, this issue of people being sealed by **Yahweh** and not sealed is NOT an event reserved for the "tribulation" period. It is happening even now!

In that light, we can understand that God provides protection for His Chosen ones (those who have the seal of God on their foreheads), but how do we make sense of the fact that these locust demons are not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree?

### Green Grass

This is an intriguing question, especially since we know that with the sounding of the first trumpet judgment, one third of the earth, one third of the trees, and **all** the green grass was burned up.<sup>25</sup> This imaged that one third of the institutions of man (political, corporate, financial, etc.), a third of the great leaders of man (the trees), and 100% of all those people who still have some sort of spiritual life within them (the green grass) were pulverized and consumed by the fire of this judgment and marked with blood for destruction. In fact, this judgment set the stage for the great apostasy.

So how is it that if **all** the green grass was burned up, we get another mention of green grass and a specific restriction on these locust demons to not harm the green grass?

According to the **Code**, grass is a reference to people and "green" grass (as opposed to brown grass) is

<sup>23</sup> See **Job 1:6-12, 2:1-6; 1 Kings 22:19-23; 2 Chronicles 8:18-22; Luke 22:31; Matthew 4:10-11**

<sup>24</sup> "have" is rendered in the *present active indicative*

<sup>25</sup> **Revelation 8:7**



a reference to people who have spiritual life within their being.<sup>26</sup> Perhaps this is a specific reference to the Called of God, those in God's household who have yet to make the choice to be a Chosen one of God (they took **Step 1** and were born again, but have yet to take **Step 2** and make the choice to become that little child dependent upon **Yahweh** for all things all the time—a choice that without which they **WILL NOT** enter the kingdom of God).<sup>27</sup>

The implication is that after the first trumpet judgment where **all** the green grass was burned, there have been others who have become born-again and have chosen to receive Jesus into their lives. Perhaps this is a result of the combined efforts of the white horse and its rider,<sup>28</sup> those witnesses referenced in **Revelation 11** who are prophesying during this time,<sup>29</sup> and an *“angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; and he said with a loud voice, ‘Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters.’”*<sup>30</sup>

God is so merciful as He provides 3 means, a perfect way, for people to hear the truth about His majesty and to receive Him as **Yahweh Adonai** or to at least honor Him and give Him glory. This blows my mind. Even though He is pouring out His judgment on the world, He is still busy securing life for those who want to have life.

And perhaps the reason He does not permit the locust like demons to touch this newly sprouted green grass is because He wants to provide them a protected time in which they may choose to take **Step 2** and become the Chosen of God. Yes, even this newly sprouted grass, these new believers, as the Spirit says, are given the power, the liberty, or the right to dig down deep in their soul and choose to become children of God, even those who are now believing in His (Jesus') name (which is **Yahweh**).<sup>31</sup> Therefore, **Yahweh** provides them a measure of protection so they will not be like the seed that was sown on rocky places or among the thorns and which does not grow into maturity.<sup>32</sup>

### Any Green Thing

As far as *“any green thing,”* God seems to be preserving anyone in this world that has some measure of spiritual life remaining, all those who have not given themselves over to the Beast. This likely is a protection for those who are deemed to be the **Righteous**.

If you remember, the **Righteous** are those who treat the Lord's bondservants (**Yahweh's** *“little children”*) with care and compassion and did not abuse them.<sup>33</sup> Speaking to His disciples, Jesus said, *“He*

<sup>26</sup> **Job 5:25, 8:11-12, 15:31-35; Psalm 37:1-2, 52:8, 90:5, 92:12-15, 103:15; Proverbs 11:28; Isaiah 40:6-8; Jeremiah 11:16, 17:7-8; Ezekiel 17:24; Luke 23:29-31**

<sup>27</sup> **Matthew 18:3**

<sup>28</sup> **Revelation 6:1-2**

<sup>29</sup> **Revelation 11:1-13**

<sup>30</sup> **Revelation 14:6-7**

<sup>31</sup> **John 1:12.** “become” is rendered in the *aorist middle infinitive* indicating a choice they must make; “believe” is rendered in the *present active participle*.

<sup>32</sup> See **Matthew 13:18-23**

<sup>33</sup> **Note:** the “little children” refer to those who dug down deep in their soul and made the choice to be a little child in terms of their practical, emotional, and every other way, dependency upon **Yahweh**. They look to Him to be their provision in all things all the time and have learned to love Him with their heart, mind, soul, and strength.

*who receives you receives me, and He who receives Me receives Him who sent me.”*<sup>34</sup> *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”*<sup>35</sup> Although they are not born again, in some way, they have “received” Jesus and the Father and are therefore afforded a measure of protection.

The Righteous are not the bride of Christ nor are they the Called, but they are honored before God and before the Father for how they treated the children of God, and they will not lose their reward.<sup>36</sup> Still, they must refuse to take the mark of the Beast and they must endure to the end to be saved.<sup>37</sup> In that light, this protection from the torment of the locust demons is much needed because they have a long road to endure.

### The Trees

In terms of the trees (the leaders of men), the Greek has 2-words for trees, “*xulon*” which simply means a piece of wood, and which tends to refer to a withering tree or one that is dead and dying.<sup>38</sup> The second word is “*dendron*” and refers to a living growing tree, one that has green leaves, and which is expected to bear fruit.<sup>39</sup> In this instance, the Spirit uses “*dendron*” thus, similar to the “*green grass*” and “*any green thing*,” we should understand this reference to the trees to refer to trees that have “green leaves” and perhaps even fruit. Thus, these leaders of men will have spiritual life, and some might even bear fruit of that life.

This is encouraging. Despite the trauma and the invasion of our world by the demonic, there will be people around, including leaders of men, who will have enough spiritual life within their being to reject the Beast if they so desire. God will ensure that despite the terror of these times, certain leaders will have the capacity to endure to the end as they look for the coming of the Messiah.

### Those Without the Seal

But **WOE** to those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads and who have no green, no life in their souls. Yes, as with the blowing of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet, those “*fish who were alive but died*,” are in for a time of terror and pain.

Sticking with the imagery, locust search for green grass, green leaves, green foliage to devour. However, given their limitation by God, it is likely that these locust-like demons are going to be beyond angry. These demons have been locked away for a very long time in a place whose darkness is beyond dark, and they are ready to do some serious demon damage and devour all that is green, but God puts some serious restraint on them. In effect, they are only going to be able to torment those people who are following or who are likely to follow the kingdom of the Beast. How is that for God’s judicious irony?

### 5-Months of Torment

<sup>34</sup> **Matthew 10:40-42**

<sup>35</sup> **John 13:19-20**

<sup>36</sup> **See Matthew 18:3-6**

<sup>37</sup> **Revelation 14:9-12; Matthew 24:13**

<sup>38</sup> **See Luke 23:32; see also Luke 13:6-9**

<sup>39</sup> **See Matthew 7:17-18, 12:33**

**Revelation 9:5-6**

And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man. And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death now flees from them.

It is notable that the lifespan of an adult locust is up to 5 months, so the bug imagery holds true. But it is also a powerful image on the abject neediness of mankind and the Grace of God symbolized in the number 5. Without Grace, without God's 100% provision and protection, mankind is vulnerable to the demonic. For those who are now having ears to hear and eyes to see, unmarked mankind being subject to this 5-months of torment will be like the exclamation mark on this reality. Mankind needs the Grace of God, and without it they will suffer in torment, and there will be no escape.

Now, unlike the fatal bites of certain scorpions, these demons are **NOT** permitted to kill anyone, just to torment (literally torture) them. The language however is not clear if it is their sting which causes a person to be tormented for 5-months or if they will only be given this power to torment for a duration of 5-months (meaning they might only have 5-months to sting as many people as they can). However, given their role as enforcers of the Beast's agenda (which we will get into when we are given an understanding of their duties), it is likely the former (people being in torment for 5-months after being stung).

Given that this "*torment*" is like a scorpion, and the effect is that people will long to see death, their torment will likely include severe pain and swelling at the site of the sting, and some combination of numbness, frothing of the mouth, difficulty breathing, respiratory paralysis, muscle twitching, and convulsions. And there will be no antidote and no remedy, it simply must run its course.

The statement that men will want to die but "*death flees from them*" is odd when looked at through the **Code**. Men will seek (*future tense*) death and will not find it (*future tense*); they will long (*future tense*) to die (*aorist tense*), and death **now** flees from them (*present tense*).

It is almost as if this is a *curse* which **even now** falls upon the people who do not have the seal of God. In other words, this torment is their destiny! When the time comes for their torture and torment, there will be no easy escape through death. Death literally **even now** flees from them, and being in the *indicative* mood, it is to be understood as a statement of fact. They must face the full terror of this judgment.

The Spirit is communicating, through **Code**, that these people who now exist separate from the Grace of God have an appointment with these locust-like demons and with their unique form of demonization, and they cannot escape the torment. It is their destiny!

We will stop here and pick up in our next podcast with the odd, yet very specific description of the appearance of these locust-like demons.