

REVELATION CHAPTER 9 Basic and General Study of Revelation *compiled by Gaetan*



“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.” Mat.24:21

REV.9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

REV.9:2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

In many other Bible versions, it says *“had fallen.”* This *“fallen star”* may point us back to *Revelation 8:10*, where we saw a *“great star”* that *“fell from heaven,”* polluting much of the earth’s drinking water. You notice it calls this star a *“him and he”*. In other words, it's an

angel. God often uses the words interchangeably. He calls angels stars, and He calls stars angels. (*Rev.1:20*) And this falling star opened the bottomless pit. We will see later in this class who this fallen angel might be.

**** LUK.10:18 and he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.**

REV.9:3 And there came out of the smoke **locusts** upon the earth: and **unto them was given power**, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

REV.9:4 And it was **commanded them** that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but **only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.**

This reminds us of what the Judgement angels were told in Revelation 7:3, “Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”



God is going to protect us and God is going to keep us, at least a lot of us, if not most of us, supernaturally, miraculously, powerfully, in many ways, and the message will get out all the more in spite of everything the Antichrist and his forces try to do! Those are going to be the worst days the World has ever suffered and the worst time the people of faith have ever endured, of horrible persecution, suppression and even slaughter. But some of us will survive! The Lord has promised supernatural protection!

Here in chapter 9 we are told about two of the terrible Trumpets of Tribulation and the mighty



judgements, plagues and monsters that they unleash from ***"the bottomless pit"*** to torment the ungodly, the corrupt and evil-minded. And He gives them a strict command not to hurt those who have the seal of God in their forehead. In other words, they were to pass over those who had the seal of God!



Has anything like this happened before? Yes. It is clearly recorded (*in Exodus 11-13*) that the death angel, who came to afflict the Egyptians, “*passed over*” the Children of Israel. To this day that remarkable event is celebrated amongst Jewish people worldwide in their Passover festival.

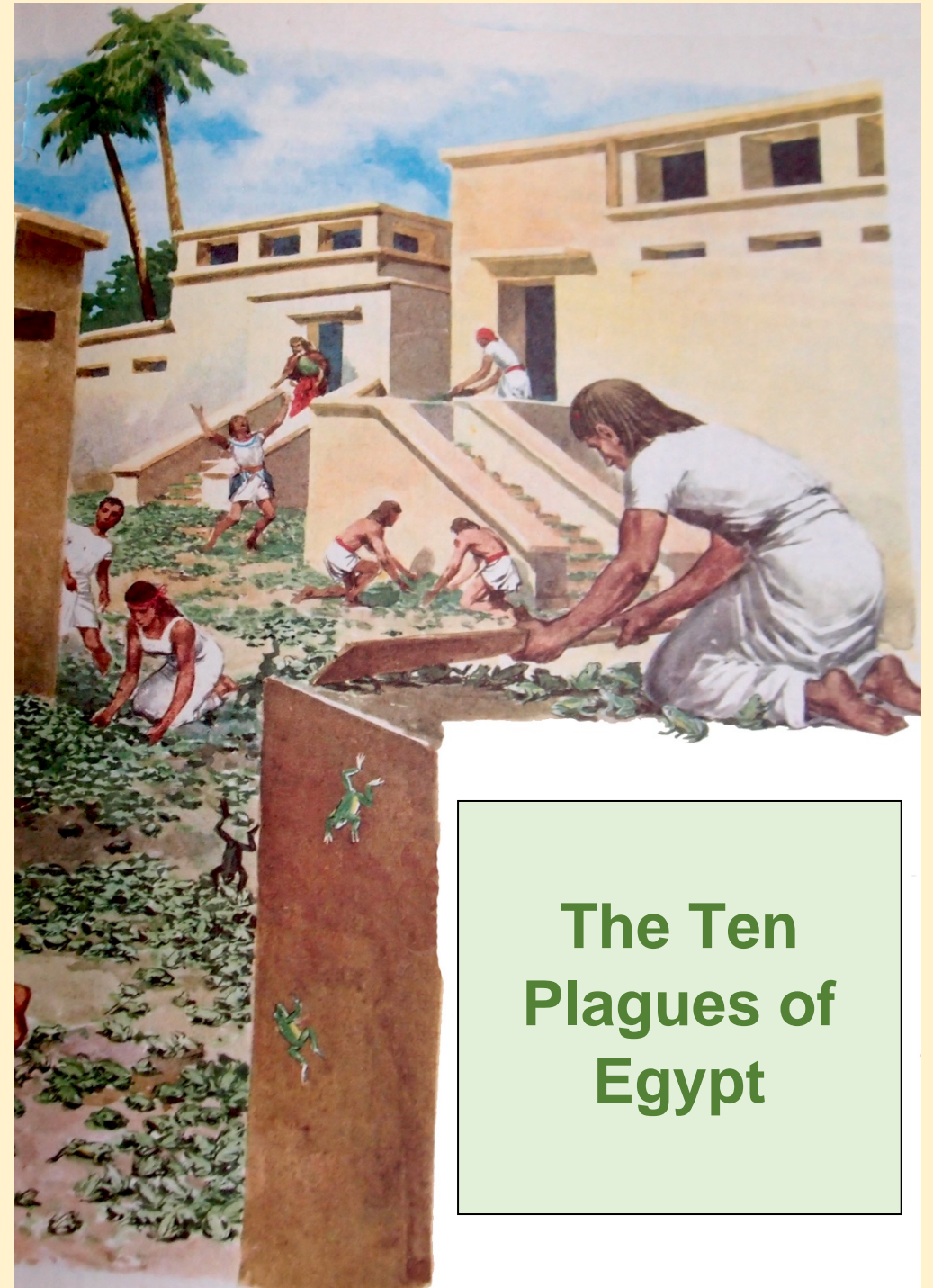
During this tribulation period when the Antichrist and his followers are attacking the true followers of Jesus Christ, God is going to let loose pestilences, plagues and beasts to attack the kingdom of Satan and the wicked! --So they'll have so much on their hands defending themselves from these monsters and these plagues that they won't have much time to persecute us! As His Word has said, “*It is a righteous thing with*

God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you!” (2Th.1:6.)

This is very similar to the days of Moses, you remember, when he went in to rescue the Children of Israel. --And when Pharaoh persecuted the Jewish slaves and wouldn't let them go, Moses called on God and He sent terrible plagues upon the Egyptians--not the Israelites!

When the Egyptians were having these horrible plagues, over in the land of Goshen where Israel lived, all was well! When great darkness fell upon all of the rest of Egypt, it was light in the land of Goshen! When the frogs were everywhere and even in their beds in Egypt, no frogs in Goshen! When the cattle were slaughtered by great hail from Heaven, no hail in Goshen! When the horrible sores fell upon the Egyptians, no sores on the Israelites! God was giving the worldly people, the Kingdom of Satan, lots of trouble, to make them stop causing so much trouble to God's servants.

So that's exactly what He's going to do during the Tribulation--the last great hour of trouble and persecution for the saints of God. God is going to send great plagues upon the Earth to protect us, to attack the wicked, to make them take their hands off of us!



REV.9:5 And to them it was given 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 he striketh a man.

REV.9:6 And in those days **shall men seek death**, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and **death shall flee from them**.

REV.9:7 And the shapes of the locusts were like unto **horses prepared unto battle**; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were **as the faces of men**.

REV.9:8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were **as the teeth of lions**.

REV.9:9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates **of iron**; and the sound of their wings was as the **sound of chariots of many horses running to battle**.

**** JOEL 1:6** *For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are **the teeth of a lion**, and he hath the cheek **teeth of a great lion**.*



**** JOEL 2:4-5** *The appearance of them is as **the appearance of horses**; and as horsemen, so shall they run. **Like the noise of chariots** on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.*



REV.9:10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and **there were stings in their tails**: and their power was to hurt men five months.

Like much in the book of Revelation, this passage is cryptic; It is important to note here that the explanations we will provide for the different plagues are hypotheses – speculations. They are educated guesses based on Scripture and the events that seem likely to occur. Only when that time comes will we get a fully accurate understanding of these Scriptures.

Possible explanation:

Now, what does that sound like to you? Doesn't that sound a bit like helicopters or war planes with guns? Because John was seeing something in a vision from God, a revelation of the future of



things which he had never seen before, so he had to describe them in a language that the people of his day could understand.

In this passage it is not God or an angel speaking; it is just John the apostle, who seems to be having a sort of “*time travel*” experience. And if that is the case, then, of course, he would be unable to use the proper technological terms for these modern inventions. He had to describe these creatures he was seeing as well as he could, by the things that he was already familiar with, because he had never seen such beasts before!

He had never seen tanks or planes or guns, nor ever heard the roar of their explosions and bombs, nor the roar of their engines and motors. He said they look a little bit like locusts, they fly, and we could speculate that he might have been seeing a helicopter or a plane at that time? And yet they were like horses prepared to battle. Well, perhaps he was watching one of these steel chariots like a tank, and it rumbled along across the earth and it reminded him of the rumble of horses' hoofs--war horses running rapidly in wartime.

He said, "*On their heads were as it were crowns like as gold.*" Did you ever notice that every tank has a turret? And the old bombers of World War II had revolving gun turrets which looked like crowns on top of the plane, gun turrets which revolved sort of like crowns on the top and so on. He said, "*Their faces were as the faces of men.*"--Perhaps he saw them peering through the windows, so that it looked as if the windows had eyes.



"Their teeth were as the teeth of lions." What could the teeth be? He must have seen them firing guns? Or perhaps he saw the bombs or the missiles hanging down underneath and they looked like lions' teeth. "And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron." They were made of metal, so they looked like iron shields.



sound like many horses running to battle? The prophet just described these things he was seeing, that he'd never seen before, the best he could. "And they had tails like unto scorpions, and stings in their tails", like tail gunners and machine guns?

REV.9:11 And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is **Abaddon**, but in the Greek tongue hath his name **Apollyon**.

"Apollyon" and "Abaddon" both mean destruction or destroyer, a strong hint and indication of who this angel is! There are however two schools of thought among scholars: some say it's the Devil himself or one of the Devil's archangels who came down to Earth to cause a lot of trouble to man and God's Creation. And its fall to Earth as part of the judgements of God, both upon Satan and his followers, and upon humanity. In contrast, some interpret it as an angel not of Satan but of God, performing his work of destruction at God's bidding. An example of this was the last plague on the first born in Egypt:

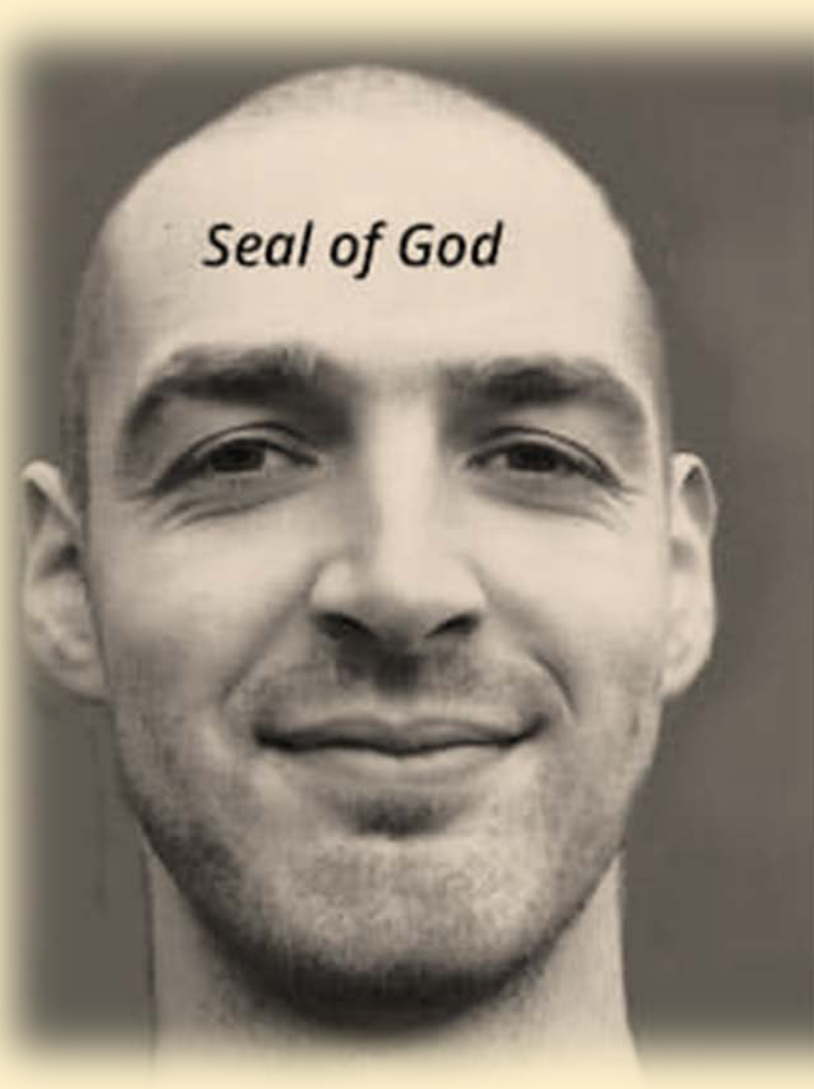
"For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the DESTROYER to come into your houses to strike you." (Exo.12:23) Whether angels or devils, they are ultimately under the control of the Lord.



In any case, this will be a horrible time of torment for those not sealed with God's seal. But these horrible monsters, whatever they may be, are not going to hurt us! God is going to protect us even in warfare from these planes, tanks, guns, bombs and bullets or even monsters, if it's a new kind of weapon or creature that's never been seen before!

They're not going to hurt us, He said, just the evil-doers who have the Mark of the Beast on them instead of the Mark of the Lord in their forehead.

REV.9:12 One woe is past; and, behold, **there come two woes more** hereafter.



REV.9:13 And the **sixth angel sounded**, 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 which had the trumpet, **Loose the four angels** which are **bound in the great river Euphrates**. **(We will cover in more detail this subject of the Euphrates River in chapter 16)**

REV.9:15 And the four angels were loosed, which **were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men**.

REV.9:16 And the number of the army of the horsemen **were two hundred thousand thousand**: and I heard the number of them. **(Two hundred million!)**



REV.9:17 And thus I **saw the horses** in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of **their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.** (*Rev.16:12-16*)

REV.9:18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which **issued out of their mouths.**



REV.9:19 for their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and **with them they do hurt.**

Now wait a minute, horses don't do things like that, and they don't issue fire and brimstone out of their mouths. Well, then if they're not real horses, then maybe they're tanks with guns issuing fire and brimstone, maybe that's the best way he could describe them.

"For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails."--That big mouth, that big gun belches smoke and shells! And their tails, did you ever notice out of the little gun slots, the little barrels of machine guns sticking out firing bullets that sting? "...and with them do they hurt." They do hurt! So, maybe he's describing tanks!

And they had heads like lions--have you ever seen the turret on the top of a tank revolving like a head? It looks like the head on a monster because it revolves and looks different directions and its gun revolves with it, and out of its mouth it spits fire, brimstone, smoke, and even worse, or maybe it's something we've never even seen yet or seen before. Whatever it is, these engines of war that John saw appear to be the modern equivalent of the feared war horses of ancient times! Since that's what John could relate to, he uses that in his description of these battle forces of modern times.



REV.9:20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet **repented not** of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

REV.9:21 neither **repented they** of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

**** REV.16:11** And *blasphemed the God of heaven* because of their pains and their sores, and **repented not** of their deeds.

So did the evil-doers repent when the plagues were poured out upon them and these horrors, these wars and all the rest during this horrible Tribulation period? --No. God's Word says,

"Let mercy be shown unto the wicked, and yet he will not learn righteousness." (Is.26:10.)

Even those that were not killed by these plagues still refused to repent. Even though later on it says they even gnawed their tongues for pain, yet would they not repent of their wickedness! And that's so true of the genuinely thoroughly wicked who hate God and hate Christ, and who curse Him and blame all their troubles on God up until they die!



Only He says here they're going to pray for death and not be able to find it! --The horrors of Hell let loose on the Earth--Pandora's box opened at last, all of these horrible creatures and monsters of God or the Devil or both, to torment the wicked! --Not us who love the Lord.



Because so many people confuse these Trumpets of Tribulation with the Vials of God's Wrath in Revelation chapter 16, we would like to now compare these two periods. Just to state it briefly, the main difference is that in the Wrath of God you find that ALL the seas turn to blood, ALL the rivers and fountains of waters are turned to blood, ALL the sun is darkened, ALL life in the sea died, and so on. Everything seems to be total destruction when the seven vials of God's Wrath are poured out. But here under the tribulation trumpets there is only a partial death, and a partial cursing, and a partial woe: a third part of the trees burnt, a third part of the seas become blood, etc. The Wrath of God is much more severe in falling upon the wicked who are left behind when the Church is taken away at the Coming of Christ at the end of the Great Tribulation. We, the believers in Christ, will go through the Tribulation but we will not be on earth during the period of the Wrath of God!

**** 1TH.5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

CONCLUSION:

When the awesome, apocalyptic, earthshaking events described in this lesson soon begin to unfold, will you be ready? Will you know what to do? Will you be prepared to survive, and will you know how to help others to do so, as well as continue to worship God and encourage others in the Faith during days not unlike those of the Catacombs Church of martyrs under Roman persecution?

Only those who have the seal of God in their foreheads, His own children, the true followers who have the genuine Jesus in their hearts, will be hidden and spared by the miracles of God until the Coming of Christ, when they will join Him in the air! --The only way out will be up! All those who have had the supernatural, regenerative rebirth of the Spirit of God's Love in Jesus, being born again by accepting Him into their hearts! --Have you? If so, you might as well get ready right now. Prepare now for the things God says are going to happen during the Tribulation. --And the best training you could possibly have for surviving that kind of situation is to learn now to live by faith, learn now to survive under difficult conditions, and learn now how to live in a survival situation.



**Sealed,
saved and
ready.**

**“Amen. Even
so, come,
Lord Jesus.”**

Rev.22:20

Are you ready? Probably not! --But you can get ready now by reading, studying and learning His Word, and giving your full attention to the Lord, your whole worship, serve and love the Lord with all your heart, strength, and mind, everything you've got, starting right now! --Until the very End! Amen?

You can receive Jesus at this very moment. It is a free gift of God. Please pray this simple prayer:

"Jesus, please forgive all my faults. I accept that You are the Son of God and that You died for me. I invite You into my heart and life. Thank you for your gift of eternal life and please fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Help me to read and understand Your Word. Amen"

