

Revelation 9:1-6. *Consequences of Evil?* With an unclean eagle circling above, the fifth angel sounded a trumpet, John saw a star which had fallen to the earth. The angel was given the key to the shaft to the abode of the dead. When opened, the smoke resembled an enormous furnace; even the sun and sky were darkened. From the smoke came deadly locusts with the power of scorpions, but with instructions to harm only those people who did not have the “seal of Theos on their forehead.” And, even then only to harm people for five months. People who are stung by these locust/scorpions will wish they were dead—but death will elude them.

REVELATION 9:1-21

The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss [abyss, place of the dead].² When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.³ And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.⁴ They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.⁵ They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man.⁶ During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

- Q Why was the abode of the dead smoking, emitting locusts?
- Q What is this seal, this signet ring of “Theos?” Value of debating/discussing its visuality? Where do you wear your seal, signet of the LORD God?
- Q What could people have done to justify torture for five months? Why *five* months?



Revelation 9:7-21. Consequences of Evil?

These locust/scorpions looked like horses prepared for battle. They were ruled by a king who was the angel of the abode of the dead; its name was “destroyer.”²¹

Q What would you fear most if you were to see these scorpion/locust/horses?

Well with one woe foretold, two others commence. So, the sixth angel like the others sounded a trumpet, and John heard a voice projected from the golden altar before the LORD God... “Release the four angels bound near the Euphrates.” With their release, they began to kill a third of mankind—there were about two hundred million troops. John heard them.

The breastplates were red, dark blue, and yellow; the horse’s heads resembled lions. They exhaled fire, smoke and sulfur. It was this exhalation which killed one third of mankind. They were dangerous, like snake’s heads, their heads inflicted injury.

The remaining two-thirds were not killed

Q What is significant about the Euphrates? Why there? Why 200,000,000 “mounted” troops?

Q What did John hear? “Their number.”

Q Why weren’t the remaining two-thirds killed?

Q What characterized these two-thirds’ response to the killings of their fellow human beings?

Q Which of their manifestations of evil do you find the most despicable? Least despicable? Why?

REVELATION 9:7-21

The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces.⁸ Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.⁹ They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle.¹⁰ They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months.¹¹ They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is *Abaddon*, and in Greek, *Apollyon* [the Destroyer or destroyer].¹² The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.

¹³The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns [*projections*] of the golden altar that is before God.¹⁴ It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."¹⁵ And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.¹⁶ The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number.

¹⁷The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur.

¹⁸A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths.¹⁹ The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.

²⁰The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk.²¹ Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

²¹In Jewish tradition, *Abaddon* is often associated with Sheol, the place of the dead, and is sometimes, unBiblically, personified as an angel of destruction. Similarly, *Apollyon* is Greek culture also means “destroyer,” again not necessarily personified.

Revelation 10:1-11. *Small book, big message.* John sees then another messenger, with a cloud for clothing, and an iris above his head. With fiery



pillars for legs and a face shining like the sun, he was holding a *little* scroll. With the scroll open in one hand, a right foot on the sea and his left on the beach—he shouted, like the roar of a lion. It

was if seven thunders spoke. When they spoke, John was about to write, but a voice from heaven said, “Keep to yourself what the seven thunders said; do not write it down.”

- Q What did the seven thunders say?
- Q Why a “small” scroll?
- Q Why did John obey the voice?

John then noticed the angel standing on the sea & land had raised his right hand to heaven. The messenger took an oath on the Lord God Almighty—

“There will be no more delay! When the 7th angel sounds his trumpet, the mystery [μυστήριον, *mysterion*, [3466](#); “secret”] of Theos will be proclaimed, just as God announced to His servant prophets.”

- Q Why his *right* hand? Why the scroll in the *sinister* hand?
- Q Just what is the Theos secret? God is? God revealed? God will have His justice?

Again the voice from heaven—Go take that small scroll [βιβλαρίδιον, *biblaridon*] from the hand of the angel with a dry foot & a wet foot. The angel told John—“Take it, eat it. It will, however, give you indigestion, but your tongue will find it sweet as honey.” So John did as he was told; sweet and sour indeed. Then John had a new assignment: “Prophesy about peoples, nations, languages and kings.”

- Q Why a special, small book/message to be prophesied to all kinds of people?
- Q What is sweet about the Lord God’s messages we are to share? Bitter? How do we strike a balance between the two tastes?

REVELATION 10:1-11

Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. ²He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, ³and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. ⁴And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.”

⁵Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. ⁶And he swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, “There will be no more delay! ⁷But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”

⁸Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: “Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.”

⁹So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, “Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.” ¹⁰I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. ¹¹Then I was told, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.”

