

**War Of The Worlds
Alien Invasion
This Is Not A Drill
Revelation 9:1 – 12**

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As we discovered last week, our enemy, Satan and his minions, rebelled not once, but as shown in the scriptures, at least three times in Genesis 3, 6 and 11. God declared war in Genesis 3 and that is where we have been since.

Man has joined in on that rebellion and thinks they are the master of their own fate without outside influences. Not hardly. We do not understand the spiritual reality, that those fallen divine beings we have aligned ourselves with over the centuries, worshiped at one time or another, and now ignore (we think,) hate us.

They want us to worship them because they desire “to be like the most high,” problem is, we did not place them on the throne of our lives, we placed ourselves. So, deception has been the name of the game over the centuries. Misdirection and lies.

We think we can manipulate the fallen ones to do our bidding and have thought that for centuries, but there is a real reality that we have not seen and the game ends with reality coming to the forefront in chapter 9 as we see round one of the expansion of the ongoing Cosmic War; and now God has provided permission for the fallen ones to attack those they hate, man.

It is now, Cosmic War against God and man. Yes, there really will be an alien invasion and soon.

Revelation 9:1–12

“Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen 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 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 flees from them. The

appearance of the locusts was like horses 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, two woes are still coming after these things.” (NASB95)

As we learned last week, the abyss referenced here in Revelation 9 is populated by fallen divine beings, possibly some of the Watchers from Genesis 6, demons, and possibly other fallen divine beings as well.

Genesis 6:4

“The Nephilim were on the earth in those days (and also after this) when the sons of God were having sexual relations with the daughters of humankind, who gave birth to their children. They were the mighty heroes of old, the famous men.” (NET)

We are given a name of the highest-ranking prisoner in the abyss – Abaddon who is also known as Apollyon.

We also learned that there is a name for another holding cell that the Greeks used, and that Peter picked up on – Tartarus.

2 Peter 2:4–10

“For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but threw them into hell (ταρταρώσας Tartarosas (Tartarus)) and locked them up in chains in utter darkness, to be kept until the judgment, and if he did not spare the ancient world, but did protect Noah, a herald of righteousness, along with seven others, when God brought a flood on an ungodly world, and if he turned to ashes the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah when he condemned them to destruction, having appointed them to serve as an example to future generations of the ungodly, and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man in anguish over the debauched lifestyle of lawless men, (for while he lived among them day after day, that righteous man was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard) —if so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from their trials, and to reserve the unrighteous for punishment at the day of judgment, especially those who indulge their fleshly desires and who despise authority. Brazen and insolent, they are not afraid to insult the glorious ones,” (NET)

Tartarus is only here in the Bible and nowhere else. Those referenced are as residents are the Watchers of Genesis 6. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Peter, with his choice of the word Tartarus to describe the place of captivity, specifically tied the Watchers into Greek mythology. From Hesiod...

Then Zeus no longer held back his might; but straight his heart was filled with fury and he showed forth all his strength. From Heaven and from Olympus he came immediately, hurling his lightning: the bolts flew thick and fast from his strong hand together with thunder and lightning, whirling an awesome flame. The life-giving earth crashed around in burning, and the vast wood crackled loud with fire all about. All the land seethed, and Ocean's streams and the unfruitful sea. The hot vapor lapped round the **earthborn Titans**: flame unspeakable rose to the bright upper air: the flashing glare of the thunderstone and lightning blinded their eyes for all that they were strong. Astounding heat seized Chaos: and to see with eyes and to hear the sound with ears it seemed even as if Earth and wide Heaven above came together; for such a mighty crash would have arisen if Earth were being hurled to ruin, and Heaven from on high were hurling her down; so great a crash was there while the gods were meeting together in strife. Also the winds brought rumbling earthquake and duststorm, thunder and lightning and the lurid thunderbolt, which are the shafts of great Zeus, and carried the clangor and the wacry into the midst of the two hosts. A horrible uproar of terrible strife arose: mighty deeds were shown and the battle inclined. But until then, they kept at one another and fought continually in cruel war. And amongst the foremost Cottus and Briareos and Gyes insatiate for war raised fierce fighting: three hundred rocks, one upon another, they launched from their strong hands and overshadowed the Titans with their missiles, and hurled them

beneath the wide-pathed earth, and bound them in bitter chains when they had conquered them by their strength for all their great spirit, as far beneath the earth as heaven is above earth; for so far is it from earth to Tartarus. For a brazen anvil falling down from heaven nine nights and days would reach the earth upon the tenth: and again, a brazen anvil falling from earth nine nights and days would reach Tartarus upon the tenth. Round it runs a fence of bronze, and night spreads in triple line all about it like a neck-circlet, while above grow the roots of the earth and unfruitful sea. (Hesiod 1914, 687-725)

Jude 5–7

“So I want to remind you, though you already know these things, that Jesus first rescued the nation of Israel from Egypt, but later he destroyed those who did not remain faithful. And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment. And don’t forget Sodom and Gomorrah and their neighboring towns, which were filled with immorality and every kind of sexual perversion. Those cities were destroyed by fire and serve as a warning of the eternal fire of God’s judgment.” (NLT)

Jude, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, provided a description of the place...again from Hesiod.

There by the counsel of Zeus who drives the clouds the Titan gods are hidden under misty gloom, in a dank place where are the ends of the huge earth. And they may not go out; for Poseidon fixed gates of bronze upon it, and a wall runs all round it on every side. There Gyes and Cottus and great-souled Obriareus live, trusty warders of Zeus who holds the aegis. And there, all in their order, are the sources and ends of gloomy earth and misty Tartarus and the unfruitful sea and starry heaven, loathsome and dank, which even the gods abhor. (Hesiod 1914, 730-739)

We left off last week with the Warden of the Abyss having come down to earth and unlocking the prison. Consider this – the Bible tells us explicitly that the abyss is here on earth. If that doesn’t seriously affect our understanding of the universe and what reality is, then we were not listening.

Revelation 9:1–3

“Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen 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.**” (NASB95)

“...power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power.”

This does not necessarily mean they are just lots of scorpions, but it does mean they will yield power like that of a scorpion.

The scorpion catches its prey with its strong claws, curves its tail towards it above its own back, and inflicts the death sting. The scorpion’s sting is very painful even for man; it may prove fatal when the insect belongs to one of the big tropical species; and even with minor species life may be imperilled when the throat is concerned. (Gautier 1906, 580)

There are differently coloured scorpions: some are black, others brown, reddish, yellowish, grey or white, some are striped. They are frequently found in Palestine under stones, among ruins, in crevices of walls, in dung-heaps, and empty cisterns. Travellers camping in tents or lodging in the houses of natives, as well as archæologists conducting excavations, have to be careful to guard themselves and their men from scorpions; for even when the sting is not fatal, it is a cause of acute pain, and prevents walking and working. (Gautier 1906, 580)

The word abyss, a Greek term, shows up nine times in the Bible and only in the New Testament. Of these nine appearances, seven are in the book of Revelation.

From these nine references to the Abyss, three deductions can be made. First: the direction is always downward. Second: it is never associated with human beings; it is always associated with fallen angels with the exception of the Antichrist. Since the Antichrist will be conceived by the power of Satan, he is connected with angelic beings and therefore also with the Abyss. Third: the Abyss is that section of Sheol or Hades which is a temporary place of confinement for fallen angels. When demons are cast out of people, they sometimes spend a temporary period of time in the Abyss and then they are released. So it is always a temporary place of confinement. Satan will be confined in the Abyss, but even for him it is temporary, for one thousand years' duration (Rev. 20:3). (Fruchtenbaum 2003, 741)

Which would also mean that sheol is on earth as well?

The abyss is a very literal place. The idea that heaven and hell are mythological and that heaven is a beautiful isle of somewhere, a Shangri-la hanging out in space, is not the teaching of the Word of God. The teaching of the Word of God is that heaven is as literal as the place where you live today and that hell is equally as real as the place where you now live. (McGee 1997, 967)

Out of the smoke coming out of the abyss John tells us come locusts with the power of scorpions. We have John describing what he sees in terms that he understands. But he does not say they were like locusts, he says locusts.

Immediately we think about the plague of locusts in Exodus 10.

Exodus 10:13–15

“So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind upon the land all that day and all that night. When it was morning, the east wind had brought the locusts. The locusts came up over all the land of Egypt and settled on the whole country of Egypt, such a dense swarm of locusts as had never been before, nor ever will be again. They covered the face of the whole land, so that the land was darkened, and they ate all the plants in the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Not a green thing remained, neither tree nor plant of the field, through all the land of Egypt.” (ESV)

The imagery that John uses is intended to bring to remembrance the plague on Egypt, but it also is intended to bring to remembrance the book of Joel as well. Joel prophesied of an impending locust swarm that was much more. In both cases this was all about damaging crops and the ability to eat.

Joel 2:1–9

“Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations. Fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them, but behind them a desolate wilderness, and nothing escapes them. Their appearance is like the appearance of horses, and like war horses they run. As with the rumbling of chariots, they leap on the tops of the mountains, like the crackling of a flame of fire devouring the stubble, like a powerful army drawn up for battle. Before them peoples are in anguish; all faces grow pale. Like warriors they charge; like soldiers they scale the wall. They march each on his way; they do not swerve from their paths. They do not jostle one another; each marches in his path; they burst through the weapons and are not halted. They leap upon the city, they run upon the walls, they climb up into the houses, they enter through the windows like a thief.” (ESV)

Joel compared locusts to an army.

From John's vantage point, as he sees something come out of the smoke, the sheer volume of creatures coming out of the smoke appear to John, to be just like locusts. So he reports they are locusts. The

volume is overwhelming as they literally cover the earth and he reports that power is given to these creatures just as scorpions have power.

John must call them locusts—there were no other comparable creatures in his vocabulary—but they were not locusts in the entomological sense. They swarmed and darkened the sky like locusts, they had emerged from the earth like locusts, and they left misery in their wake like locusts. (Morris 1983, 158)

These are not ordinary locusts, but as scorpions can terrorize and debilitate, so do these creatures.

Revelation 9:4–5

“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 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.” (NASB95)

They are not here to destroy vegetation, these demonically empowered/possessed creatures reflect the nature of the enemy, they hate and must be told not to kill.

These locusts are charged with hurting people, those without the seal of God, those who do not know Him. They will be the ones who will entertain these demonic hordes for five months.

Rather than repent and come to Christ, they prefer to kill themselves to eliminate the suffering and torture they are being subjected to, but the death rate will be 0% for the five months of the swarm.

It had been given to these demons that they could torment men and they had been given an ability to impose excruciating scorpionlike stings for this purpose. But it was also given to them (that is, a commandment was given to them) that no man must be killed by such stings. (Morris 1983, 160)

Genesis 8:1–3

“But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and domestic animals that were with him in the ark. God caused a wind to blow over the earth and the waters receded. The fountains of the deep and the floodgates of heaven were closed, and the rain stopped falling from the sky. The waters kept receding steadily from the earth, so that they had gone down by the end of the 150 days.” (NET)

Five months of rising water during the flood, during which time God’s judgement resulted in the death of all of man, including all those who were the result of the Genesis 6 rebellion. The Nephilim would have been killed as a result of the judgement, their spirits, the demons, would have remembered that five month period.

Revelation 9:6

“And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them.” (NASB95)

After all of the death and destruction we have seen in the seal judgements and the first four trumpet judgements, now, for five months, there is no death, just misery for those who do not know the Lord.

For years, His people have had to hide and lay low, for five months, everyone else is debilitated, and believers, those with the seal of God on their foreheads, are not.

It would seem improbable that any true believer in that day would be subject to the torment of the locusts; the torment is rather a judgment upon Christ-rejecting men. (Walvoord 2008, 161)

Now John tries to tell us more about these demonic creatures and what we learn is that they are basically scorpion men.

Revelation 9:7–10

“The appearance of the locusts was like horses 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.” (NASB95)

Is this something new?

There exists a visible example of a scorpion man. On “a boundary stone of Nebuchadnezzar I depicting a scorpion-man with a bow and arrow and a scorpion (bottom) with other god symbols (12th cent. B.C.) (Birch 1979-1988, 358)

This is a horrible picture of domination by demons to such an extent that men lose their ability of free choice and are in agony of body and soul. What the Scriptures here convey is that in addition to the natural plagues of the first four trumpets, now wicked men are afflicted by torment of demons. (Walvoord 2008, 161)

Sirach 39:29–31

“In his treasury also, kept for the proper time, are fire and hail, famine, disease, Ravenous beasts, scorpions, vipers, and the avenging sword to exterminate the wicked; In doing his bidding they rejoice, in their assignments they disobey not his command.” (NAB)

Scorpions are one of nine instruments of destruction that God created to punish the wicked, according to Sirach 39:30. Scorpions are a metaphor for punishment in 1 Kgs 12:11, 14 (cf. 2 Chr 10:11, 14). (Aune 1998, 531)

Ancient mythical figures often had both human and nonhuman traits (Giesen; Roloff). The Babylonians depicted a creature with a human head and scorpion’s body, and in the Greco-Roman period the constellations Scorpio the scorpion and Sagittarius the archer were fused into images that had human, animal, and scorpion-like traits (Ford; Malina, On, 144–47). Some interpreters suggest that the human faces show that these demonic locusts are rational beings (Mounce; Prigent; Swete) or that they manifest human sin (Caird; Harrington). It is more helpful, however, to consider how this combination of human and nonhuman fits Revelation’s sense of symmetry in divine justice. The visions shows that those who embrace the gods of the mythic tradition are tormented by creatures like those from that tradition. (Koester 2014, 459)

They are horse like...centaurs? They have human like faces with wild unkempt hair and teeth that could do more damage than the sting.

The like and as show us that they were not really horses; their crowns were not really gold; their faces were not really human. They are demonic creatures prepared for this time to afflict mankind. Beginning with this context, there is great emphasis on the age-long battle between God and the Devil, good and evil. The God of light is waging war against the kingdom of darkness, and the creatures of the dark are fighting back. (Custer 2004, 107)

Obviously John was describing what he saw but did not interpret each characteristic. The picture is one of Satan’s awesome supernatural power and the demon world especially in relation to unbelievers. (Walvoord, Revelation 1985, 952)

Long-haired, horse-shaped, flying locusts with scorpion tails and golden crowns above human faces marred by lions’ teeth, they have to be reckoned among the more bizarre creatures in the Apocalypse. The total impact is one of unnatural and awesome cruelty. It will be well to exercise considerable reserve in treating the details that make up the larger picture. The locusts are said to look like horses prepared for battle. John would have us understand that the locusts are of considerable size. Otherwise the

description of hair, face, teeth, and the like would tend toward the comic. The Seer draws from Joel's account of swarming locusts who appear as horses (Joel 2:4) and whose sound is like the noise of chariots in battle or the raging fury of a prairie fire (Joel 2:5). The details of the description, however, are largely his own. Most commentators note the similarity between the head of the locust and that of the horse. An Arabian proverb is often quoted to the effect that the locust has a head like a horse, a breast like a lion, feet like a camel, body like a serpent, and antennae like the hair of a maiden. This likeness accounts for the word for locust in German (Heupferd, hay-horse) and in Italian (cavalletta, little horse). That they were prepared for war may indicate either the eagerness with which they sprang forth to inflict punishment or the protective armament described in v. 9. That verse does not specifically say that they were wearing golden crowns, but the symbolism is the same— they possessed the power to carry through their mission to a victorious end. The faces of the locusts were as human faces. When John looked directly into the face of the advancing horde, he did not see the rather torpid expression of the animal world but the highly intelligent cunning and cruelty of demonic beings. Human and bestial qualities are combined in a figure both unnatural and diabolical. (Mounce 1997, 188-189)

Oh, and they are wearing armor.

They have the power to torture, but no to kill. The impact on the unbelieving earth dwellers should be one of repentance. All they need do is see what is happening to those who know Jesus...nothing.

Those who are believers though may be taking a low visibility path to keep from being identified and persecuted later as they will know this is only for five months.

We do find out though that this vast army of demonic empowered creatures do have a leader.

Revelation 9:11

“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.” (NASB95)

In the Bible, Abaddon is a location not a person for the most part. But with the addition of Apollyon, who is a person, we someone who is the personification of Abaddon that is so close that he is taking the name.

The noun 'ābaddōn is derived from the Heb root אבד, which is common Semitic (cf. Ug and Aram 'bd, Akk abātu) and means 'to destroy'. The Hebrew noun has the meaning 'place of destruction' which basically fits all occurrences in the Bible; only in the NT is Ἀβδδών (Rev 9:11) construed as a proper name. Though the religions of the ancient Near East know a considerable number of deities and demons relating to the netherworld, there occurs no divine name of such a being which can be derived from the root 'BD. (Hutter 1999, 1)

Job 28:22

“Abaddon and Death say, ‘With our ears we have heard a report of it.’” (NASB95)

...in Job 28:22: 'ābaddōn and māwet ('death', Mot) are both referred to as personified beings who can speak and hear. This is the biblical starting point for speculations about 'ābaddōn as a separate entity, as the realm of an angel of death and the netherworld. (Hutter 1999, 1)

Ἀπολλύων (Apollyon) - It means the Exterminator or Destroyer, and from the time of Grotius has usually been taken as a play on Apollo, which is the actual reading in syph.

The name of the god of pestilence is often linked with Apollo. From the time of the victory of Octavian at Actium under the temple of Apollo which was later enlarged by him, Apollo was especially regarded as the god of the empire. The locust is his creature. (Oepke 1964-, 397)

Apollo was considered the author of evil and its averter as well (a), the god of purification, law and order (b) and the god of prophecy (c). These three aspects deserve a brief discussion. (a) The beginning of the

Iliad introduces Apollo as the frightening god who sends a deadly pestilence into the cattle and the army of the Achaeans. (van den Broek 1999, 75)

The water god Enki was also god of the abyss and wisdom. (Waltke 1988, 543)

Enki, was the early name for the same entity who was later identified as Apollo and who we see here as Apollyon. If you do enough back tracking and research, you will find that at Babel, the building being constructed by Nimrod was intended to be a temple to Enki and was also to be a gateway to the gods, fallen divine beings. Nimrod wanted to go back to the good old days of Genesis 6, which is why God stepped in and created a language issue for everyone.

Apollo used the locust as an identifier.

Parnopius, a surname of Apollo, under which he was worshipped at Athens. The word signifies an expeller of locusts. (M'Clintock and Strong 1894, 699)

Thus Ἀβαδδών or Ἀπολλύων can be seen as a demon who brings destruction and whose realm is the underworld. (Hutter 1999, 1)

“Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, Nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied.” (Proverbs 27:20, NASB95)

And Apollo, Enki, Apollyon are all names for the same entity who is the ranking fallen one in the abyss and has a demonic army at his disposal.

Here in verse 11, even though elsewhere in the scripture we see that the locusts do not have a king, these demonically empowered creatures do have a king, Apollyon.

Revelation 9:12

“The first woe is past; behold, two woes are still coming after these things.” (NASB95)

For five straight months, the demonic hordes of Apollyon are given license to run all over earth, just like scorpions, literally showing up everywhere at any time to torture only those who do not have the seal of God, they will only be attacking unbelievers.

These are the same entities who have been worshipped over the centuries, but with this attack, we see their true character in the first round of a true alien invasion.

The next woe, the sixth trumpet judgement, will involve four angels and an army with 200,000,000 members.

The intent of each judgement is that those who are earth dwellers would realize the futility of their viewpoint and loyalties and listen to the message of the 144,000 evangelists by coming to Christ.

Even though there will be millions who will do so, there will be millions who will not and will continue on serving the wrong side.

Ultimately, yet to come, that decision becomes permanent and they no longer even can be saved.

2 Corinthians 6:1–2

“Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” (ESV)

1 Corinthians 15:1–5

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.” (ESV)

Romans 10:8–13

“But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”” (ESV)

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