

Revelation Lesson 98  
The Fifth Trumpet & 1<sup>st</sup> Woe – Part II: The Locust & Their Power

Revelation 9:3-6 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. 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. 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. 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.

Last time we reviewed what the Bottomless Pit is and where – most likely – the entry ways to this pit are – in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. We also took note of the “Star” mentioned in verse 1 and how many supposed it to be Jesus or a Priest. Our study confirmed to us that the Star is none other than Satan himself. Now tonight we shall see what is going to come out of the Pit and the smoke arising from it. Now in Part II we shall see the Locust and their power!

**And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth:** - Notice please the point of origin of these “locusts” - we look backwards and see in the previous verses that the smoke is coming out of the bottomless pit and hence these locusts are likewise coming from the bottomless pit. Rather we see here that John is describing what he's seeing not what these locusts are – but having swarmed out of the smoke billowing forth from the bottomless pit of the earth shows us that these are demonic in nature and not mere members of the animal kingdom. Therefore these are not ordinary locusts. Now these locust are swarming out of this pit. For your information, locust are not particularly dangerous or deadly insects to us humans. Locust are highly unlikely to bite you, and even if one did it wouldn't kill you. The danger they pose to humans is more indirect, and more horrifying, for they will, essentially, make one starve to death. Locusts swarm into fields and eat all the crops, rendering months of hard work useless in a short period of time. But as we shall soon see this is NOT what happens with these locust. To me, I say If it looks like a locust, acts like a locust, sounds like a locust then it's a locust – THESE locust of Revelation 9 DON'T act, behave, sound or even eat like locust! So they are demonic!

So this would mean that the demons have shape-shifted into the form or appearance of locusts. Is there Biblical proof for this? First of all when angels are observed they are in the form of Men. But these are Fallen angels. They are not bound and determined to obey the will of God the Father, thus instead they their own areas of influence and power.

We find that in the beginning (sometime after day 7) at what point we know not exactly! Yet in Genesis Chapter 3 we observe a serpent (a dinosaur creature that evidently is talking and walking around). While this was not a true shape-shifting apparition, it was a demonic possession.

Now the angels apparently do have the ability (as do Satan's workers) to change their appearance as we are told in 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.” So these demonic entities and other powers of darkness take the form of “something or someone good!” See, this is why the Lord warned us in: 1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

Now over in Revelation 16:13 we read the plain clear statement being put out there by John: “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of

the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.” so CAN Demons assume the likeness of something else? According to Revelation – yes. So that is my understanding here. These are NOT locusts as we know them these are spiritual demonic Locust.

One may say well how do we know this for sure! Take a look at Proverbs 30:27 The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;” and now take a look at Revelation 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.” See? Natural locust have NO KING per Prov. 30:27 et the DEMONIC locust DO.

Also when you read Revelation 9:7-9 (which we'll get into next week) they certainly are unlike ANY KIND of locust out there today! Also notice the connection with the “likness” in that description which further establishes that this is what the locusts look like.

So beware of any Bible Preacher, Teacher or Commentator who says that there are locusts that have ben found that match this description. Tim LaHaye states in his book that someone even said that these locusts were “B-29s because they were well protected but had the capacity to sting from the tail.” and I think you know what to do with THAT kind of interpretation – put it in FILE 13!

**and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.** - Now locusts, normal locust that is, eat, they leave humans. All known scorpion species possess venom and use it primarily to kill or paralyze their prey so that it can be eaten. In general, it is fast-acting, allowing for effective prey capture. However, as a general rule they will kill their prey with brute force if they can, as opposed to using venom. It is also used as a defense against predators.

**And it was commanded them** – We may wonder from whence their “commandment” comes from. Some speculate this directive comes from their leader – Abaddon or Apollyon – others think this command is from Satan. I think both views are wrong. Note vs 3 & 5: “unto them was given power” and “to them it was given” which indicates power or authority was given or granted to them both times. The only One Who has ultimate authority is the Lord Himself. Thus the Lord commands the Demonic-Locust in the same manner as he held back Satan in the Book of Job.

**that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree;** - Again as we stated before locust are herbivores. This is not what these locust are doing. Here we see that God lays out the principle that they cannot hurt nature.

**but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.** - NOW, the Demonic Locust are given their directives as to what they CAN hurt. They can hurt those who are not sealed by God. Furthermore the idea expressed herein this verse is that there is a line of demarcation – a separation between the lost and the saved as it was in the time of the Plagues and the Exodus

**And to them it was given** – Again God is seen to be ultimately IN CHARGE.

**that they should not kill them,** - This shows a striking picture of how the devil USES his own! They are just pawns being used for his designs and there is no protection from the judgment of the Almighty God! Consider what God told Satan in Job 1:12 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.” and again in “Job 2:6 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.” So we see that while the saved (those sealed by the Holy Ghost of God) will not be impacted by this judgment. Thus we see that the lost will be struck but not killed.

**but that they should be tormented five months:** - The length of time during which those that are tormented.

**and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.** - Now when a scorpion strikes a man we note that the venom is a mixture of compounds (neurotoxins, enzyme inhibitors, etc.) each not only causing a different effect but possibly also targeting a specific animal. Each compound is made and stored in a pair of glandular sacs and is released in a quantity regulated by the scorpion itself. Of the 1,000+ known species of scorpion, only 25 have venom that is deadly to humans; most of those belong to the family Buthida. Thus the overwhelming impact of a scorpion sting is pain, sickness, poisoning, etc.

**And in those days** – The tormenting period of 5 months as referred to in verse 5.

**shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.** - To me this is rather interesting here. As we shall explore in the future the identity of Apollyon. But we see here that during this 5 month period of time it will be impossible for those suffering – the lost – it will be impossible for them to die!