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Description #9 - They have a demonic leader . **9:11**

The name of this leader in Hebrew is Abaddon (Αβαδδων) and the name of this leader in Greek is Apollyon (Απολλυων). **Both of these names mean “ destruction ” or one who “ destroys .”** Some believe these are names for Satan and some believe these are names of a key high-ranking satanic demonic angel. Whoever it is, it is a high-ranked being in the satanic world.

When we look carefully at **verse 6**, we see that the response of men on earth who are hit by this demonic force is that they want to commit suicide. They do not want to repent, but they do want to commit suicide. The desire to kill self is not the work of God; it is the work of Satan and his forces. What we do learn from this text is that God determines who succeeds in suicide and who doesn't. People who dabble around in satanic and demonic things often would rather kill themselves than repent and turn to God. That certainly will be the case here in the Tribulation.

9:13-21
(TRUMPET JUDGMENT #6)

This sixth trumpet judgment is a military slaughter which is at such a level that it has never been seen before anywhere in history, from Rome to Germany to Viet Nam to Iraq, nothing is comparable to this.

There are five main observations we want to make:

Observation #1 - This sixth trumpet judgment is another “ woe ” Tribulation judgment. **9:12**

This makes this judgment the worst category type of judgment.

Observation #2 - This sixth trumpet judgment is completely controlled by and authorized by God . **9:13**

The sixth trumpet features another of God's angels and comes directly from the throne of God. The four horns of the golden altar indicate that this judgment is connected to the prayers of all the saints (8:3-4). God wants this “woe” judgment to be understood as being connected to His people's prayers. Ferocious things that He is doing against the earth are connected to records He has kept concerning the treatment and prayers of His people.

Observation #3 - This sixth trumpet judgment features the use of four specific angels .
9:14-15

There are three important facts we learn about these angels:

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(Fact #1) - They are bound at the Euphrates River until this judgment. **9:14b**

By virtue of the fact that they are “bound” we know these are demons. **By virtue of the fact that they are at the Euphrates, we know that this is connected to Israel because this is the northeastern boundary of the Promised Land that God will give to Israel (Genesis 15:18; Deuteronomy 1:7-8; Joshua 1:2-4).** The Euphrates River is the longest river in western Asia and it is nearly 2000 miles long. It flowed from the eastern end of the Roman Empire all the way to the Persian Gulf. Unless one sees the importance of Israel and the dimensions of the Promised Land, reading some portions of Scripture won't make much sense.

(Fact #2) - They have been specifically prepared for this judgment at this time. **9:15a**

The participle “prepared” is perfect passive meaning God has sovereignly caused them to be bound, and He has prepared them in the past for this very purpose of Tribulation judgment.

(Fact #3) - They are time controlled and they are success controlled. **9:15b**

These angels are permitted to operate for 1 year, 1 month, 1 day, and 1 hour. If we base our calculations on a 360 day year, then these demons are allowed to operate for 391 days plus one hour. Their demonic activity is controlled by God down to the minute.

They are also success controlled and are able to only kill one third of the world's population. If we add this one third to the one quarter of 6:7-8, in just these two judgments one half of the world's population has been destroyed, which would be approximately 3.5 billion people.

Now we know from Daniel 11:44 that the Antichrist will hear about rumors coming from the East. More than likely it is what is happening right here that will trouble him.

Observation #4 - The sixth trumpet judgment will feature these four demons controlling a massive military army. **9:16-19**

If you look at a map of the Middle East and you start with Israel and move eastward, you come to Iraq, then Iran, then Afghanistan (north), then Pakistan (south), then China (north) and then India (south). When you get east of the Euphrates, there is always an unrest and stirring among these fanatical, emotional people, which to this point has pretty much been held in check.

At this point in the Tribulation these demons will destroy one third of the world's population in a massive 200 million man army. China, India and Japan could field an army of this size right now. The prophet Isaiah predicted God would send this judgment against the world (Isaiah 5:25-30).

The major interpretive issue concerning this army is whether or not this is an army of literal men or literal demons. Dr. John Walvoord believed that this was an army of men. In fact, he quotes an article taken from *Time Magazine* on May 21, 1965 in which Red China claimed that they could literally field an army of 200 million men (*Revelation*, p. 166).

Dr. Alan Johnson believes that this army is demonic. He bases his view on the description of the army.

We believe that it is a combination of both. There are real literal men used here and real literal demons who are controlling these men at this point in the Tribulation. In fact, we know that “demon worship” is something that is very much operative at this time.

If one carefully reads **9:16-17**, we may observe that there are men and horses, but the greatest description is of the unusual horses. This appears to be a cavalry of men riding devilish horses. There are five features we see about these horses:

(Feature #1) - The horses have riders on them. **9:17a**

(Feature #2) - The riders had colorful breastplates. **9:17b** - color of fire, hyacinth and brimstone

(Feature #3) - The horses had heads as vicious as lions. **9:17c** - not your normal horse head

(Feature #4) - The horses had mouths that unleash fire and brimstone. **9:17d** - not typical horses

The description here is of a massive army being empowered by a massive number of demons who are able to kill people with some kind of burning type of death. As we said, one third of the world’s remaining population will be killed.

(Feature #5) - The horses’ tails are like serpents. **9:19**

They have the power to kill both from the front side and the back side.

Observation #5 - The sixth trumpet judgment will not cause men to repent. **9:20-21**

Verse 20 points out that these Tribulation plagues are designed to kill. Just like the Egyptians who saw and experienced the plagues and would not repent and turn to God, neither will most in the Tribulation. There are seven specific evils pointed out from which people will not repent:

(Evil #1) - Men will not repent of their works system of thinking. **9:20a**

(Evil #2) - Men will not repent of their demon worship. **9:20b**

(Evil #3) - Men will not repent of their idolatry. **9:20c** - specifically their idol of money

(Evil #4) - Men will not repent of their murders. **9:21a** - murder will be the norm in the Tribulation

(Evil #5) - Men will not repent of their Satan worship. **9:21b**

(Evil #6) - Men will not repent of their sexual immorality. **9:21c**

(Evil #7) - Men will not repent of their thievery. **9:21d**

We may expect as the Church Age nears its end that these very types of sin will abound more and more. People will become calloused and hard-hearted and non-repentant.

Revelation 10:1-11

After the sixth trumpet judgment, which is the second “woe” judgment, has been completed, the seventh trumpet judgment, which is the third and final “woe” judgment, does not come immediately. There are two preliminary events which are a prelude to the final wrath of God to be poured out on this earth during the Great Tribulation:

Preliminary Event #1 - The angelic announcement of the end of the delay. **Rev. 10:1-11**

Preliminary Event #2 - The measurement of the Temple and its worshippers. Rev. 11:1-14

There are some who believe that Revelation 10:1-11:14 is part of the sixth trumpet judgment because of what is said in 11:14. However, based on what is stated in Revelation 9:20-21, we would suggest that the sixth trumpet judgment ended there and this is an interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpet judgment.

The particular focus after this interlude will be on Israel. **The final trumpet judgment will be specifically aimed at Israel and at Jerusalem and will feature events that will lead to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.**

If we do some math in Revelation and compare it to Daniel 9:27, we can somewhat determine where we are at this point in the Tribulation. We know that at the 1260 day point, or the middle of Daniel’s 70th week will be a major turning against Israel (Revelation 12:6). If we backtrack the numbers as God reveals them, we could conclude that **trumpet judgment #6** lasts for 391 days (9:15) before the 1260 point, and **trumpet judgment #5** lasts for 150 days (5 months) before that (9:5). These two judgments total 541 days before the 1260 point, **which means the first six seal judgments occurred in a time span of approximately 719 days or in about the first 24 months.** The seventh trumpet judgment begins in year three of the Tribulation, so all the previous judgments occurred in the first three-plus years of the Tribulation.

Now in **chapter 10** there are two main actions that occur:

Action #1 - The action of the angel. **10:1-7**

It is not just demonic angels who are active in the Tribulation but also God’s holy angels. William Newell said the more one studies the book of Revelation, the more we become impressed with the authority and the dignity of angels (*Revelation*, p. 141). Angels, although unseen by people in the world, are very active in carrying out the program of God. Most people view angels as nice, positive, and protective; however, they also may be ferocious, negative and used to pour out judgment.

There are eleven observations we may make concerning this angel:

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(Observation #1) - The angel was another strong angel. **10:1a**

The pronoun “another” (ἄλλος) means another of the same kind of strong angel that has been used in these Tribulation judgments (i.e. Revelation 5:2). The word “strong” (ισχυρον) indicates this is a very powerful angel who has great might and strength (Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 220). This is a very high-ranked angel being used at this point in the Tribulation.

Some have speculated that this is either Gabriel or Michael. The arguments are based on the fact that Revelation is closely connected to Daniel and Daniel features both of these angels (Daniel 8:16; 9:21/10:13, 21; 12:1). However, it is obvious that the angel is not named.

Some have speculated, based on the description, that it is Jesus Christ Himself. However, Jesus Christ never appears as an angel in Revelation but as a glorious God.

It is best to view this angel as a very high-ranking powerful Christological angel.

(Observation #2) - The angel was coming down out of heaven. **10:1b**

The Greek text literally reads “coming down out of the heaven” (ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ). The point is that this angel is bringing these judgments directly out of the throne of God. What is about to take place will be some major things against Israel, which will include the terror of the Antichrist, and all of this is coming directly from God’s throne.

(Observation #3) - The angel is clothed with a cloud. **10:1c**

Clouds that you can see are not small, which would indicate this angel would have a huge appearance. Also in Scripture a heavenly “cloud” often represents the glory of God, specifically in regard to Israel (i.e. Exodus 13:21-22). So this angel will be a large reflection of the glory of God and will also have a connection to Israel. If we keep in perspective what this angel is about to do, we may conclude that **the ferocious judgment of God is that which glorifies God.**

(Observation #4) - The angel has a rainbow upon his head. **10:1d**

I find it intriguing that the masculine personal pronoun “his” rather than “her” is used. Just as the angels Michael and Gabriel are masculine in gender so this pronoun indicates the same for this high-ranking angel.

Biblically speaking, the rainbow represents God’s faithfulness to keep His word. We may recall that God promised He would never again destroy the world by flood and He gave us the sign of the rainbow as a reminder of that reality (Genesis 9:13-16). God will always keep His word.

However, God has promised that He will destroy the world by fire (II Peter 3:10). However, that will not happen until after the Millennium (Revelation 21:1). **This angel with a rainbow is a visible reminder that God is faithful to His word even in ferocious judgments.**

(Observation #5) - The angel had a face like the sun. **10:1e**

More than likely, this angel has a very unusual heavenly glory to Him. Jesus Christ has already been seen in Revelation with a face like this (Revelation 1:16). Furthermore, we may recall that when Jesus Christ was transfigured, “His face shone like the sun” (Matthew 17:2). What that said to Israel was that this Person on earth was actually from Heaven. Israel is about to experience some very negative things and this angel will be such a reflection of Jesus Christ that he will force Israel to realize He is the One to whom she needs to turn for help.

(Observation #6) - The angel has feet like pillars of fire. **10:1f**

The pillars of fire clearly connect to Israel being led by God (Exodus 13:21-22; 14:19, 24). The feet like fire represent a being with enough power to pour out judgment and stamp out sin.

(Observation #7) - The angel had a little book in his hand. **10:2a**

There is much controversy surrounding this little book and its contents, but in all reality it becomes nothing more than speculation. We may assume that it is obviously part of the final judgments of God which are contained in the Word of God, and we may also assume that it is specifically connected to Israel.

We may notice that the little book is open, which would indicate that this angel highly esteems God’s Word and is interested in meticulously obeying it. Everything pertaining to God’s judgment is contained in the Word of God.

(Observation #8) - The angel was standing with one foot on the sea and one on the land.
10:2b

This point is stressed three times in this section: **10:2, 5, 8**. There are a couple of things that this means: 1) This angel is about to pour out the final wrath of God literally on the sea and on the land; 2) This angel is about to take charge of the remainder of the land and the sea; 3) This angel is about to pour out the final judgment of God that will be focused on the land people, Israel, and the sea people, the Gentiles (Revelation 14:6/17:15). This final judgment will include the Gentile nations in a connection with Israel.

(Observation #9) - The angel cries out with a loud voice and heaven responds. **10:3-4**

This angel will cry out with a loud thunderous voice like the roar of a lion. We may assume that this will be heard on the earth. The repetition of the “seven peals of thunder” (**10:3-4**) represent the fact that the full and complete judgment of God will be terrible and powerful. The voices are communicating an understandable message.

We know from **verse 4** that John actually heard what the seven thunderous voices said and was about to write it down and a voice from heaven told him not to write it.

Although we do not know for sure, it is possible that John actually heard the name and learned the specific identity of the Antichrist. There are a couple of applications to make here:

- 1) God reveals certain things to some which He does not reveal to others. Some people have a much deeper grasp of the things of God than others do.
- 2) God reveals very specific details concerning His prophetic program, but we do not know everything. No one knows everything about God. We can know as much as God has revealed in His Word, but there are some things He has not revealed.

(Observation #10) - The angel lifts his hand and announces the end . **10:5-6**

Notice that this angel lifts His hand toward heaven and swears an oath by the authority of God who created all things that now it is time for God to judge all things. The One who made all things has the right to judge all things, and the angel announces there is no more delay. In other words, the finale of the prophetic program of God is underway.

One might ask, what is it that has delayed God's wrath? The answer is God's grace . (II Peter 3:1-9).

(Observation #11) - The angel reminds all that this program is in the prophetic Scriptures. **10:7**

The "no more delay" point means that the prophetic Scriptures pertaining to Israel are about to be fulfilled. We believe all of the prophecies pertaining to Israel are about to be fulfilled which include the mysterious time of Jacob's trouble that will ultimately lead to Israel being blessed in her land.

Action #2 - The action of John . **10:8-11**

There are three main observations we may make concerning John:

(Observation #1) - John is told to take the open book from the angel. **10:8**

This is great evidence that this is not Jesus Christ because no one would be worthy to take a scroll out of His hands, but John is told to take this open book from the hand of the angel. What we learn is that during the Tribulation there will be a great emphasis on the fulfillment of the written Word of God. There will be a tremendous knowledge of God's Word as it relates to the Tribulation.

(Observation #2) - John is told to eat the book he gets from the angel. **10:9-10**

This is very important for it clearly shows the importance of having an appetite for God's Word. God wants His ministers to digest a book like Revelation, not avoid it.

By virtue of the fact that John is ordered to take God's Word and eat it, the obvious implication is that there must be a personal feeding on God's Word at all times. God's Word will always taste good even though it contains bitter things.

Judgment is bitter but it can also be sweet. If one is in a right relationship with God there is a sweetness to the judgment theme, but if one is not in a relationship with God the same theme is bitter.

If we are at the point in the Tribulation when things turn sour against Israel, then John, who himself was a Jew, would realize what is about to happen to Israel is very bitter. But he also would realize that this bitter judgment will lead to the sweetness of the nation being in the land fully blessed by God.

(Observation #3) - John is told to communicate Biblical prophecy to others. **10:11**

I understand this as a Biblical mandate to communicate prophetic truth about Israel to the Gentile nations. It is the responsibility of John to warn of prophetic things such as the horrors of the Great Tribulation.

Specifically it would be the responsibility to warn non-Jewish people, nations, languages, and kings of the importance of Israel in the plan of God. It is the responsibility of the church to understand the prophetic Scriptures and communicate those things to all people of the world.

Revelation 11:1-19

It is very clear that at this point in Revelation things dramatically turn toward Israel. This chapter contains three main themes: 1) The Temple in Jerusalem in the Tribulation (**11:1-2**); 2) The two prophets in Jerusalem in the Tribulation (**11:3-14**); 3) The seventh trumpet judgment in the Tribulation (**11:15-19**).

The first 14 verses of Revelation 11 are still part of the parenthesis between the second “woe” judgment and the third “woe” judgment. It is right at this point when the primary focal point of the Tribulation targets Israel and a key part of the events will be in Israel’s Temple.

Revelation 11:1-2

The Jerusalem Temple in the Tribulation

The most volatile, most valuable, and most vibrant acreage on the face of this earth is the 35 acres of land which comprise a rectangular platform in East Jerusalem on which the ancient Jewish Temple once stood.

It is predicted in both the O.T. and the N.T. that the Temple will once again stand and eventually occupy this amazing piece of property (Isaiah 2:2-3; Ezekiel 37:26-28, 40-48; Daniel 9:27; Micah 4:1-2; Haggai 2:7-9; Zechariah 6:12-15; 14:20; Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14; II Thessalonians 2:4).

I. The History of the Temple in Jerusalem

Fact #1 - In 996 B.C., King David made Jerusalem the capital of Israel and moved the ark of the covenant to a place near the Temple site (II Samuel 5:6-12; 6:1-17; I Chronicles 11:4-9; 15:1-16:38). By moving the ark to this spot means this spot was to be a place that was known to reverence God’s Word.

Fact #2 - In 993 B.C., King David desired to build a Temple for God in Jerusalem but was informed by God that his son, Solomon, would build the Temple (II Samuel 7:1-13; I Chron. 17:1-14).

Fact #3 - In 990 B.C., King David purchased the property for the first Temple site, which means Israel does legally own the land (II Sam. 24:18-25; I Chron. 21:18-26). David paid 600 shekels of gold for the property (I Chron. 21:25), which is about 240 ounces or 15 pounds of gold. At \$400 per ounce the value is \$96,000. **What this means is that Israel literally and legally owns this Temple acreage.**

Fact #4 - In 960 B.C., King David made complete preparations for the building of the Temple, prior to his death (I Chron. 22:14-16). He challenged the leaders to set their heart and soul on getting this project completed (I Chron. 22:17-19).