

Revelation Eighteen

06/07/2026

Hymns: 1 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God 7 God Will Take Care of You

Scripture: Psalm 91

Big idea: Hell on Earth

Today, we're making a big transition. So far, we've witnessed snapshots of glory and then watched the apostle John experience heaven directly and view the earth from that vantage point. Today, we will move closer to home and get a closeup view of evil being unleashed on the earth.

Let's briefly recap where we've been in the book of Revelation so far:

Chapter 1 sets the stage with the apostle John receiving a message from God and giving a glimpse of Jesus as He is in glory.

Chapters 2 and 3 contain letters that Jesus sent to seven churches which serve as examples of the kinds of churches, with various strengths and weaknesses, that have existed throughout the ages. Within each letter, Jesus describes tidbits of what our future with Him will be like.

Chapter 4, takes us to heaven where God appears before His own. We saw four cherubim who represented the creatures of God's creation and twenty-four elders representing the church seated before God's throne giving praise and worship to Him.

Chapter 5 remained before God's throne in heaven, but the attention turned to the seven-sealed scroll. No one was found worthy to open it until the Lion of the tribe of Judah who is the Lamb of God stood in the midst of the scene before the throne of God and took the scroll from God the Father. As he did, every creature in heaven and earth broke out in praise to Jesus Christ the Lamb.

Chapter 6 began the opening the seals of the scroll with the first four described as *the four horsemen of the apocalypse*. The fifth seal revealed Tribulation martyrs under the Altar of Incense before the throne of God. And finally, the sixth seal described cataclysmic, but not fatal, judgments of the earth.

In Chapter 7, we paused to witness one hundred forty-four thousand sealed Jews, Tribulation martyrs, and twenty-four elders before the throne of God in heaven..

Chapter 8 unleashed the first four trumpet judgments including – devastating destruction of one-third of sea life, water purity, ships, sun, moon, and stars.

Which bring us to:

Revelation 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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

[8] And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.

[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.

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

[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.

[12] One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

Okay, there's our passage for today. Let's dive in and see what we can find.

Revelation 9

[1] And

Chapter 9 proceeds directly from the four trumpet judgments in the preceding chapter.

the fifth angel

Seven angels stand before the throne of God holding trumpets. This is the fifth one.

sounded,

He blew his trumpet.

and I saw

The apostle John continues to share what he sees in a body capable of being in heaven, seeing, and hearing.

a star

Previous references to a star referred to a bright light. Here the text treats this one quite differently.

fall from heaven unto the earth:

As in the previous chapter, we saw:

A fiery censor cast to the earth (v. 5)

Hail and fire mingled with blood (v. 7)

A great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea (v. 8)

A great star named Wormwood from heaven (vv. 10-11)

and to him

This passage refers to an *individual*, not a *type of judgment* as before.

Exactly who is this star from heaven?

Revelation 12:4 together with Revelation 12:9 refers to *stars* as *angels* from heaven.

And as we shall see, in chapter 20 we find a very similar action where the individual is an angel.

the key was given

Who gave this key to the angel? The Bible does not say. It implies here perhaps a higher power like God the Father, the Lamb, or one of His angels on God's behalf. Where else do we find reference to a key in Revelation?

Revelation 1

*[18] I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have **the keys of hell and of death.***

So here, it's the Lamb of God who has these keys.

Similarly, in Revelation 3:7 and Revelation 20:1 we find keys mentioned that point back to Jesus Christ.

of the bottomless pit.

The angel with the key is about to unlock the bottomless pit.

The term *bottomless pit* appears seven times in scripture and all in the book of Revelation. Two other references in Revelation shorten the phrase to *the pit* increasing the count to nine. Of those instances, five are in our passage for today.

What in the world is this bottomless pit? And where is it? We're not told.

Some speculate or that the bottomless pit is the center of the earth located about 6,400 miles down. For reference, that's roughly the distance from here to Jerusalem which would take 11 or 12 hours flight time if a direct flight existed. If you were to go to this pit, you would find everywhere is up. There is no bottom.

Also, the center of the earth is believed by scientists to be very hot. That's why volcanoes, hot springs, and geysers are hot. But the intense pressure believed to be 53 million pounds per square inch at the center of the earth forms this 10,000 degree Fahrenheit hot core into a solid.

Beyond our text for today, where else do we learn of the bottomless pit?

Revelation 11

*[7] And when they [God's two witnesses] shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of **the bottomless pit** shall make war against them, and*

shall overcome them, and kill them.

This is a clear reference to the Antichrist – the one we first saw when the first seal was opened showing him riding a white horse (Revelation 6:2).

Revelation 17

*[8] The beast that thou sawest was,
and is not;*

*and shall ascend out of **the bottomless pit**,
and go into perdition:*

[or *destruction* a variation of the word used for the name *Apollyon* appearing later in today's text.

[https://www.blbclassic.org/lang/lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?](https://www.blbclassic.org/lang/lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G684&t=KJV)

[Strongs=G684&t=KJV](https://www.blbclassic.org/lang/lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G684&t=KJV), June 6, 2026]

and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder,

*whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of
the world,*

when they behold the beast that was,

and is not,

and yet is.

As in the previous verse the Antichrist is frequently referred to as the beast – Satan's man of the hour. He will receive a mortal wound and yet live again or at least appear to. But now a second time we see this man rising from the **bottomless pit**.

Revelation 20

*[1] And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of **the bottomless pit** and a great chain in his hand.*

[2] And he laid hold on the dragon,

that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan,

and bound him a thousand years,

[3] And cast him into

[Where?]

***the bottomless pit**, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

During the one-thousand-year reign of Christ that we call the Millennium, Satan will be chained and locked up in this bottomless pit. Two other passages mention chains binding other fallen angels in a place of darkness and confinement (2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6-7).

*[2] And he opened the **bottomless pit**;*

The angel with the **key** opened this place of containment.

*and there arose a **smoke** out of the pit,*

Keep in mind this pit is not the Lake of Fire but is instead a holding place.

*as the **smoke** of a great furnace;*

This is the kind of smoke produced by a great furnace.

*and the sun and the air were **darkened** by reason of the **smoke** of the pit*

This smoke produced darkness.

*[3] And there came out of the smoke **locusts** upon the earth:*

These hideous creatures are not the insect locusts familiar to us, but they do share some basic characteristics with them. Recall locusts were used by God to judge Pharaoh of Egypt (Exodus 10:12). So in that way (instruments of judgment), they are similar.

and unto them was given power,

Who gave them this power. We can guess the same one who opened the seals of the scroll and gave the key to unlock the bottomless pit – the Lamb of God. What power was given to them?

as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Scorpions have a painful sting much like that of a wasp.

[4] And it was commanded them

Who commanded them? The same Captain of the LORD's army who commanded Joshua before going into battle (Joshua 5:14-15) – none other than the Lamb of God who opened the sealed scroll to set in motion these waves of judgment upon the wicked.

*that they should not **hurt** the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree;*

That's what normal swarms of locusts do, but these locusts are not normal.

*but only those men which have **not** the seal of God in their foreheads.*

Recall back in chapter seven we learned of the 144,000 **sealed** Jews – twelve thousand from each tribe (Revelation 7:3-8; Revelation 14:1). Each has a mark in his forehead. The locusts are commanded to not hurt these people.

[5] And to them it was given that they should not kill them,

The purpose of these creatures was to inflict pain on the wicked.
For how long?

*but **that** they should be **tormented** five months:*

Notice the LORD shows **restraint** even in this severe judgment.

*and their **torment** was as the **torment** [notice the repeating of the word *torment*.]*

of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

Five months is a very long time to endure waves of stings.

[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.

We choose to take the Bible literally as much as is reasonable. With all of the means of suicide available (poison, knives, bullets, drugs, and more) it would take an act of God to prevent men from snuffing out their own lives. Lots of strange happenings occur in this book. We will simply classify this with one of those.

The next three verses seem to make most sense if the symbols used to describe these creatures are interpreted to indicate something more. Indeed, the word translated *like* or *as* indicates these traits are similar to but not actually the same:

*[7] And the shapes of the locusts were **like** unto horses prepared unto battle;*
Horses represent strength and power.

*and on their heads were **as** it were crowns **like** gold,*
Crowns of gold represent authority – temporarily given by the Lamb.

*and their faces were **as** the faces of men.*
Perhaps this refers to human intelligence and cunning.

*[8] And they had hair **as** the hair of women,*
Women's hair is a mark of beauty.

*and their teeth were **as** the teeth of lions.*
Lion's teeth devour.

*[9] And they had breastplates, **as** it were breastplates of iron;*
These creatures are virtually invincible.

*and the sound of their wings was **as** the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.*
Even their sound warned of coming evil.

*[10] And they had tails **like** unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails:*
As previously noted, they could inflict sharp pain.

and their power was to hurt men five months.
Despite their hideous capability and mission to torment, they could not kill men and the time of their reign of terror had a limit.

[11] And they had a king over them,
In contrast to the locust insect which has no leader (Proverbs 30:27) as it methodically

devours vegetation, these locust creatures do have a leader. And who is that?

which is the angel of the bottomless pit,
[And **who** might that be?]

This would be a fallen angel or demon. And what is his name?

whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.
And what does that name mean?

Destruction or destroyer. <https://www.blbclassic.org/lang/lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G3&t=KJV>, <https://www.blbclassic.org/lang/lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G623&t=KJV>,

[12] *One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.*

All of this presented the first of three woes. Stay tuned for more severe judgment yet to come.

Application

As we consider passages like this, it's comforting for those who know Jesus Christ to remember that He bore the wrath of God for us to make us free.

Isaiah 53:4-6

[4] Surely he hath **borne** our griefs, and **carried** our sorrows:
yet we did esteem him **stricken**, **smitten** of God, and **afflicted**.

[5] But he was **wounded** for our **transgressions**,
he was **bruised** for our **iniquities**:

the **chastisement** of our peace was upon him; and with his **stripes** we are healed.

[6] All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to his own way;

and the LORD hath laid on him the **iniquity of us all**.

1 Thessalonians 1

[10] ... wait[ing] for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the **wrath** to come.

1 Thessalonians 5

[9] For God hath not appointed us to **wrath**, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

We can take comfort in knowing that Jesus Christ has kept us and will keep us from this terrible time of judgment.

Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen (Revelation 22:21).

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