

supply and the light that is required to sustain both plant and human life, both short and long term.) Differences→1) The fifth and sixth trumpet will now affect man directly, 2) Demonic being will be involved in these judgments. These two trumpets are designed by God to either make man suffer or take his life. We will spend a considerable amount of time discussing these two trumpet judgments because these two trumpets judgments do contain a great deal of symbolism that will require some analysis. I will incorporate within my analysis interpretations of either symbolic or literal language depending on which are being used at the time. Note: keep in mind when reading the verses about these judgments; the fifth trumpet judgment contains both symbolic and literal language, whereas the sixth trumpet judgment is for the most part literal.

## THE FIFTH TRUMPET:

### VERSES 1-11:

John is still in heaven observing and recording what he saw when each of the seven angels that were before God blew their trumpet, Rev. 8:2. As stated by John, in Rev. 8:13, this trumpet judgment is going to directly affect all of the men, women and children of the world who are unsaved. (Opinion: I believe the saved people living during this period will have 'Gods seal' on them, which will protect them from these types of judgments. However, it will not protect them from the harm by the evil people. This is confirmed in verse 4, "...but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their forehead." Also, I am sure that they will get great comfort when they read the 'Reward for Obedience' section in Jesus Christ letters to the seven churches→ focus on the letter to Laodicea, Rev. 3:21) Also keep in mind this judgment will be extremely harsh compared to the first four trumpet judgments. We will discuss the fifth trumpet in a verse by verse analysis, starting with verse 1 and ending with verse 11.

Verse 1: "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."

NOTE → Keep in mind when reading the first 11 verse of this chapter this is the implementation of the 'FIRST WOE' and there are 'THREE WOE'S' in all.

Normally I would say that this was an actual star just like the ones described in the third trumpet judgments and something very similar in the second trumpet judgment. However, John in the last part of verse 1 and in verse 2 goes on to further define this star as having personal qualities or the attributes associated with a "being" which could either be human or angelic. John tells us in verse 1 that this, "**star (being) was given the keys to the shaft of the Abyss**". When someone controls the keys to anything they have authority over what is being locked up, as well as, the ability to unlock and set free what is being contained. I believe that God has had these beings locked up for a long time for a reason, which appears to be their intense hatred for men and humans in general. It also appears that God has been holding these beings, that are locked away, for this very purpose → 'The Fifth Trumpet Judgment'. And people say God does not have a predetermined or well thought out plan!

My opinion is based on their actions toward men once they are released. Note: the term "Abyss" or pit is referred to in other places within the scripture. I will quote three which I believe will provide you with a good understanding for my opinion, Luke 8:30-31, "**Jesus asked him, 'What is your name?' 'Legion,' He replied, because many demons had gone into him. And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss."** and again in, 2 Peter 2:4, "**For God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgments...**" also, Jude 6, "**And the angels who did not keep their position of authority but abandoned their own home— these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.**" Also, note that God "gives" the keys to the star and not that the star had the power to take the keys from God. Again God is totally in control at all times. Next, this star/being "**had fallen from the sky to the earth**", which indicates two things to me. The first is this star/being came from the sky/heaven, therefore,

could not be human and must therefore be an angel of some type. The second is that this verse very closely aligns with the 12 chapter of Revelations which describes the events when Satan is being cast out of heaven; therefore, my conclusion is that this star is Satan. Last, Satan is described as a falling star or lightening, which looks like a falling star, in a variety of other places in scripture, which are as follows: Isa. 14:12, “**how you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!**”, and in Luke 10: 18, “**I saw Satan fall like lightening from heaven.**” Also, 2 Cor. 11:14 “**And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.**”

Conclusion:

This falling star is Satan and this process is described in more details in Chapter 12, which is an interlude chapter and falls between the sounding of the seventh trumpet and the pouring out of the first bowl/ vial judgment.

VERSE 2:

**When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a giant furnace. The sun and the sky were darkened by the smoke of the Abyss.”**

There are several points which I think are worth discussing about this verse.

First→ “**When he opened the Abyss...**” The “**he**” in this sentence is the “**the fallen star**” in verse 1, which we have already defined as Satan. Also, he/Satan does not open the “**Abyss**” based on his own authority or power but based on the permission of God the Father.

Second→ Notice how quickly Satan unlocks the prison in which God had these fallen angelic beings or what we normally call→demons; locked away. God knew beforehand what Satan would do given the chance and that is why this is called a judgment form God the Father even though Satan is the one who is implementing harm to all mankind. God planned this very day and action before the creation of the world.

Third→ John tells us that, “the smoke rose from it ‘like’ the smoke from a gigantic furnace” From this statement I believe that John is telling the reader that what he is seeing is ‘actual smoke’. However, I also think we can agree that the smoke is not really coming from “a gigantic furnace” but what he is seeing does resemble the amount of smoke that would come from a large furnace. We know this because John used the word “like” to let the reader know that he was using the best description he could, in his day, to describe what he was observing. The point is that whatever comes up out of the Abyss or pit has the appearance of thick smoke and John further backs this up with his next sentence, “The sun and the sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.” John also provides the reader with the ‘reason for the smoke’ in verse three. Therefore, there can be no question about the results of this verse. Something has come up from the “Abyss” and is now on planet earth with all of humanity.

Fourth→ I think it would be reasonable to believe that by this time in the ‘seven year tribulation period’ God’s judgments are having a cumulative effect on the earth (land, vegetation, animals, sea, and sea life) and on humanity in general. If you just focus on two judgments: when you combine the results of the fourth trumpet, “A third of the day was without light and also a third of night.” with the results of opening the Abyss, “The sun and the sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.”, the words seem to be saying that the earth and humanity are almost in total darkness. Note: there are a few scholars who believe that the sun and the moon were literally darkened because of the density of the demonic beings released from the “Abyss”, later defined as a swarm of locusts. Possible but if you read the actual words in verse 2 it states, “When he opened the Abyss smoke rose up from it...” which is a statement of fact. John does not use descriptive language until the next part of this sentence when he is trying to describe the amount of ‘smoke’ involved, “...like the smoke from a giant furnace.”

Conclusion:

Given the church has already been raptured and many of the newly saved saints have been martyred and the world is now being ruled by a very, very evil man/Antichrist/Satan. I cannot begin to imagine the fear that must be in the

hearts and minds of all the people throughout the world. However, that is not the case many/most people living during this time period will hate God and love Satan. Rev. 9: 21, “Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.” And the worst part is the fact that the seventh trumpet judgment has not even been sounded yet, which will introduce the ‘seven bowl judgments’.

VERSE 3:

“And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.”

I believe that John’s words in verse 3 are intended to convey to the reader specific pieces of information about this judgment. I will list below what I believe are the major points in verse 3:

- 1) Whatever came up from the Abyss or pit was concealed by the smoke that was also coming up from the Abyss or pit, see verse 2.
- 2) The smoke was used to conceal the actual locust; that then “came down upon the earth”.
- 3) They “...were given power...” by God who is the real power behind this judgment and part of his plan that was developed before the creation of the world.
- 4) However, these were not normal locust. They were given special power or capabilities to sting men just “LIKE that of a scorpion”. The point is this is not a scorpion it is a locust that has the ability to sting ‘like a scorpion’.
- 5) Also, normal locust live 5 months—May through September. Verse 5 will confirm this.

I believe from the above five data points we can make the following assumptions about verse three.

Assumption One → When God gave the key to the Abyss, to Satan and allowed him to open the Abyss and free what was inside he intended the outcome of this action to bring harm to all the earth and humanity.

Assumption Two → The actions of these locust/beings in the Abyss will be somewhat restricted by God the Father in the next verse.

Assumption Three → God has provided for the cover of smoke or darkness to hide these locusts while they perform their task, which is to torment men.

Assumption Four → God has allowed these locusts to be possessed by demonic beings, “...and were given power” which also came out of the Abyss. Note: read the description of these locusts in verses 7-10 plus they were led by king of the Abyss, verse 11. We know from the verses in Matthew 8: 28-34, which records when Jesus drove the demons out of two men and in to a herd of pig that demons can live in animals.

Assumption Five → Last, to me it seems like God is again using nature, which he created, to judge men and many men today actually worship nature or things within nature. Just seems ironic.

VERSE 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 forehead.”

Again John’s words in this verse are intended to convey specific pieces of information to the reader about how God the Father intended to implement the fifth judgment, which I will list below:

- 1) These locusts are being controlled by demons out of the Abyss, which were released by the “fallen star” all of which are controlled by God the Father. Up until now Satan has only been authorized by God to unlock the Abyss and release these demonic being. At this point God has not granted Satan any direct control over any of these demons. To me when I am reading scripture there is no question about who is in control. It is always God.
- 2) We are told these locusts/demons were ‘commanded by God the Father’, “They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree...” Remember what happened in the first trumpet judgment, “A third of the

earth was burned up a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.” My opinion on this is very simple; God does not want any further damage done to the grass, plants and trees or the earth in general, at this point in time. God intends for this fifth trumpet judgment to be directed at men not nature. And my reasoning is also simple; it is exactly what the words say.

- 3) To me the next portion of this verse reveals to the reader a great deal of insight as to; what Gods feelings are about his people remaining on planet earth. God is specifically commanding these locust/demons that they are not allowed to harm any of his people. This is made very clear to me in the last sentence of verse 4, “but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their forehead.” The real question is who are the people who have been sealed? I am certain that the people being talked about in Revelation chapter 7 are part of this group given it specifically states that in Rev 7:3, “Do not harm the land or the sea until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.” (Language sounds very similar.) Again given the words of Rev. 7:3, I do not think there can be any question that this group is part of the same group being talked about in Rev. 9:4. Also notice that the groups of people being talked about in Revelations chapter 7: 1-8, are all Jews, God chosen people. “Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.” Rev. 7:4. Revelations 14:1 also talks about a group of people also numbering 144,000 who were sealed with the name of God written on their forehead. “Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb standing on Mount Zion and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their forehead.” To me the next logical question would be, are there other saved people alive during this five month period or have all of them already been martyred? My opinion is that a lot more people will be saved during this period, (first half-42 months) than the number being spoken of in Rev. 7:4 & 14:1 and throughout the entire seven year tribulation period. Therefore, what about them: Are they tortured along with the unsaved? The simple answer to this question is no, they will not be tortured by Gods fifth trumpet judgment with the unsaved. We know this for sure because God

has given us examples, in scripture, how he has sealed his people both externally or physically, as well as inwardly or spiritually. First→ externally or physically, Exodus 28:36-38, “**Make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it as a seal: HOLY TO THE LORD. Fasten a blue cord to it to attach it to the turban; it is to be in front of the turban. It will be on Aaron’s forehead,”** which indicates to me that God has used external or physical sealing as a method to identify and protect his people before. Second→ inward or spiritual, 2 Cor.1:21-22, “**Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”** Also, 2 Tim. 2:19, “**Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: ‘The Lord knows those who are his,’ and, ‘Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.’”**

Therefore, I do not believe there can be any question about the issue of sealing. At this point in the tribulations, it is my opinion that, everyone on the face of the earth will either be sealed by the antichrist and have his mark or they will be sealed by God and have his seal.

- 4) I will try to recap where we are in the tribulation period. At the blowing of the fifth trumpet we are approaching the midpoint of the Tribulation period, which I believe occurs at the end of the sixth trumpet. Revelations 13:16 tells us that by this point in time all unbelievers will be marked by the false prophet or you will not be able to buy or sell. Also, remember that after each sixth judgment God gives us specific details about what was happening behind the scenes during the six preceding judgments. These additional details we have called ‘interlude chapters’. Therefore, it is my assumption that the marking by the false prophet as already started before the sounding of the fifth trumpet. Given all of this and the fact that we know for sure that God is also marking all of this people, based on scripture in #3 above, it is my opinion that God will mark in some way ‘all of his people’ during this five month period and throughout the remainder of the seven year tribulation period. The key to my assumption is simple; these judgments are directed by God at an unsaved world in a last ditch effort by God to motivate man to repentance and not at his saints, (saints being

defined as someone who has already repented and is therefore saved). Last I know that many saved people will be killed, injured or come under extreme harm because of these judgments. However, remember this judgment is directed at people who do not have the seal of God on their forehead and it is my opinion that during this period when you repent and are saved, both your heart and your forehead are sealed. Just an opinion!

VERSE 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.”

God once again delivers through John written words detailing specific facts about these locusts/demons. I will list below what I believe to be the most important points in verse 5:

- 1) The scripture tells the reader that these “locust/demons” were provided this specific power by God the Father and had been locked away for many millennia for this very purpose. Also, the locusts/demons are limited in their ability to inflict judgment through pain as they cannot kill man, “They were not given power to kill them...” Remember God is in complete control of these locusts/demons.
- 2) Their mission is to torture man for five months, “...but only to torture them for five months.” Also, based on this verse it appears that they can torture men 24 hours a day and 7 days a week for 5 months: or (30 days X 5 months= 150 days) or (150 days X 24 hours/ day = 3,600 hours) or (3,600 hours X 60 sec. = 216,000 seconds). When you are in intense pain 216,000 seconds would seem like eternity! From the human standpoint I can understand why unsaved people will be extremely ‘mean and even savage’.
- 3) The torture and suffering that men will receive from this judgment appears to be describes as something “like” the sting of a scorpion, “And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man.” Meaning it is not the sting of a scorpion but something ‘like the sting of a scorpion’. I have never been stung by a scorpion but it is my understanding

that this is a very painful sting and has a variety of symptoms, which are as follows: double vision, difficulty breathing, no breathing, rapid breathing, drooling, spasm of the larynx, thick-feeling tongue, high blood pressure, increase or decrease heart rate, irregular heartbeat, urinary incontinence, urine output-decrease, muscle spasms, convulsions, paralysis, random movement of the head, neck or eye, seizures, stiffness, abdominal cramps fecal incontinence. I do not think there can be any question that this will be very painful time for unsaved people. Again, based on my understanding of this judgment and how normal locusts-demons act, all humans who do not have the seal of God on their forehead will be stung many times each day and this process will continue every day for five months, (216,000 sec.).

- 4) Last point, the verses describing this judgment do not mention children and how they will fair during these times. My opinion is this; children under the age of accountability will be exempt from judgment and unsaved children above the age of accountability will suffer just like unsaved adults. Just an opinion.

#### VERSE 6:

“During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.” I think there are several points which we need to discuss as it relates to this verse.

- 1) “During those days” I believe is referring to the life span of the locusts-demon, which has been defined as five months.
- 2) Based on the next part of this verse it would appear that the unsaved people living at this time will not be able to die to escape the torcher and torment of this judgment, “men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.” Again it would appear that people will not even be able to commit suicide. Also, it does not appear that they will be able to die of natural causes. Just an opinion but the words do support my conclusion.

3) The next question is who is preventing or keeping them from death? Some scholars believe that it is Satan because he wants as many people alive as possible to help him fight his war against God. In my opinion it does seem reasonable to think that Satan would want unsaved people to live, given as soon as they die they will lost their chance for salvation forever. Also, keep in mind that it is only God the Father that can create life (see the Book of Genesis, chapters 1 & 2). Then remember these are Gods judgments on man and the earth and he is always in total control. Nor does this verse indicate that Satan was given this kind of power over life and death or anywhere else in the Bible for that matter!

Conclusion:

It is God's judgment and he is in total control of all aspects of this judgment.

VERSES 7-10:

"The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. Their hair was like woman's hair, and their teeth were like lion's teeth. They had breast plates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing to battle. They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months."

The next four verses are dedicated to describing the appearance and some of the physical attributes of these locusts-demons. There has been an enormous amount of discussion around what all of these very descriptive words really mean. The one thing we do know for sure is that these four verses really do contain a lot of symbolism. The word 'like' is used seven times in these four verses. I believe that God through John words is giving us a description that our minds can understand. Also, if you look at these descriptions you will find that they are descriptions which people in John's day would understand and people in every generation

would understand—surprise—surprise! I will list below what are some of the more colorful explanations for these verse as well as my own.

- 1) “The locusts looked ‘LIKE’ horses prepared for battle.” Horses all down through the ages have been used in war and as symbol of war. As a matter of fact in the past many horses were specifically bred for war. They had larger than normal frames and extremely aggressive personalities, snorting and pawing at the group to frighten their foes. These types of animals were used all the way up until the Second World War. Also, locusts in the Middle East have similar features to a war horse. J. Vernon McGee quotes Dr. Vincent about this issue, “The likeness of a locusts to a horse, especially to a horse equipped with armor, is so striking that the insect is named in German—Heupferd, hay-horse, and in Italian, cavaletta, little horse.” Therefore, I think we can conclude that John’s description of these locusts was very accurate and something most people would understand up until the last several years and with just the smallest amount of research people living today can also understand.
- 2) “On their heads they wore something ‘LIKE’ crowns of gold,” I could not find a lot written about these words so I will give you my opinion. A “crown of gold” to me indicates that these locusts had or I should say, were given, authority or power or control over the inhabitants of the earth. Unsaved humans could not escape the very painful sting of their scorpion like tails because of this authority or power that was granted them. Remember God granted them this power/control.
- 3) “...and their faces resembled human faces.” First, note these words do not say these ‘locust-demons had the face of a human’ it says “...their face resembled human faces.” I cannot find any place in the scripture that would assist in defining the meaning to this verse. Therefore, I will give you what I believe to be the correct answer or at least part of the answer. Unlike animals the human face normally does a very good job of conveying the emotions or the mood of a person. It can also convey the intelligence of people in many cases; others have said that the face is the doorway to the heart. Also, we know that demons have intelligence and purpose, none of

which is ever used for good or to worship God. Therefore, what I think this verse is trying to tell us is that these locusts have intelligence and purpose all of which is directed at inflicting as much torment and pain on unsaved people as possible and these emotions are written on their faces. Just an assumption!

- 4) **“Their hair was like woman’s hair,”** Again John is trying to give us the best description he can that will allow us to visualize or get a mental picture of what he is seeing. Again I can find little written in the scripture that has a direct relationship about this verse. However, there are several verses that may at least shed some light on John’s intended meaning. First example, 1 Cor. 11:15, tells us, **“but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory.”** Second example, 1 Peter 3:3 tells us, **“Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes.”** And last, 1 Cor. 11:6, tells us, **“If a woman does not cover her head, she should have her hair cut off;”** Given these three verses it seems to me that John is trying to tell us that these locusts-demons are like worldly unsaved woman who are using their outer beauty and long flowing hair, which is appealing to the eye to seduce unsaved men in to believing that they, the locusts/demon are not going to be harmful to humanity. Either physically or spiritually → surprise, surprise! Another words it will be like a visual delusion. Also, remember John states that what he was seeing was **“like”** the hair of a woman and not really the hair of a woman. Again just an opinion.
- 5) **“...and their teeth were LIKE lions teeth.”** I do not think there is any question that John is trying to convey the idea of the terrible destructive power that resides in the mouth of a lion when he clamps down on his prey. His teeth are designed to lock in to its victim like a fish hook and the power of its jaw is like that of a vice. It will swing its head from side to side and rip large portions of flesh out of its prey. Its jaws are so powerful that they can crush both muscle and bone. Also, remember that lions are used frequently in the Bible to depict animals that bring great harm to humans. Therefore, it seems reasonable to assume that John is trying to convey to the reader that the bit of these locusts-demons will be very vicious and

bloody. Also, it will probably be extremely painful and will not heal. Remember it appears that unsaved people will be receiving many of these stings or bites every day. The prophet Joel uses this same type of analogy to compare the teeth of a lion to the teeth of locusts in Joel 1:6, **“A nation has invaded my land, powerful and without number; it has teeth of a lion”**. In this verse Joel was describing the events surrounding a local locust’s invasion during this period of his life. Note: the book of Joel opens with a discussion about a local outbreak of locusts in the land, which is discussed in Joel 1:1-14. Joel then jumps to the subject of, **“THE DAY OF THE LORD”**, which is covered in Joel 1:15-2:32. I believe Joel is drawing a foretelling comparison between these two events.

- 6) **“They had breastplates ‘LIKE’ breastplates of iron,”** There have been a variety of assumption made as to potential answers to the meaning of this verse, such as John is symbolically describing a military tank, or the belly of a jet plane, or the sides of a guided missile. I cannot say for sure that these are incorrect; however, I believe that John is trying to convey the awful characteristics of these locusts-demon beings. Therefore, it is my opinion that John is trying to tell us that these beings are dressed with heavy armor and prepared for war against unsaved humanity. Their mission is to inflict as much pain as possible on all unsaved humanity within their five month life span. It could even mean that their heart is made of something ‘like’ iron or their internal organs are protected by something ‘like’ iron therefore, not being able to be killed and showing no mercy on its prey. Obviously this is an assumption on my part; however, I am sure that John is trying to convey the picture of an extremely terrifying being in this description portion of this judgment. Last, I do not think this description has anything to do with modern military weapons but actually describes actual ‘locust’ possessed by demons.
- 7) **“...and the sound of their wings was ‘like’ the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing to battle.”** Again there have been many people speculating as to the meaning of this verse such as the roar of a military tank engine, or the sound of jet engines or the blast of missile engines. Again any of these could be correct but as I have said before I do not

believe this is modern military weapons but are actual locust controlled by demons from the Abyss. Remember who is implementing these judgments, God the Father. However, once again I believe John is trying to convey a visual picture to the reader about the sounds he was hearing. Almost everyone has been involved in some type of event where sound was used to stimulate the human senses and I think that is what John is trying to do with his description. I will try to share with you some examples: 1) in a horror movie the music is always used to increase the human sense of fear, 2) at a rock concert the tone and volume of the music is always used to set the audiences frame of mind, 3) at a car race track the roar of the engines and the crowd always heightens the human competitive emotion, 4) and in war movies the battle scene with sounds of bullets whistling by and explosions going off all around you increases your physical adrenalin and your sense of fear. My last example, #4 is the one I think John is trying to portray to the reader. Again just an opinion.

- 8) **“They had tails and stings ‘like’ scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months.”** This point has already been made in verse 3 and in verse 5; therefore, in normal writings this would seem a little redundant. However, in this case I believe that God is repeating the main theme of this judgment to make sure everyone understands the amount of pain and suffering that unsaved humanity will go through during this five month period. Again, read Joel 2:1-11.

Conclusion:

I think that God through John is providing the reader of these four verses with a vivid mental description of what these locusts-demons will be like in real life. I also think it gives a very good mental picture of the horror and the terror and the pain and fear that will be gripping all unsaved humans during this five month period. Note: It would seem good to me for the people today who only see God as a God of love and not judgment to read these four verses.

VERSE 11:

“They had a king over them and angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon.”

Again, I think there are several issues that God through John is trying to communicate to us or the reader. I will list below what I believe are the most important:

- 1) God’s jails are no different than his creation or heaven; they are kept in perfect order with a leader over the rest of the prisoners. God is a God of order; **They had a king over them...”**
- 2) These locusts-demons, of the Abyss, have a king and normal locusts do not have a leader/king. Prov.30:27, **“The locusts have no king.”**
- 3) This king who is over the locusts-demons of the Abyss is not Satan. We know this because Satan ‘opened’ the Abyss of which the king of the Abyss was inside. Therefore, Satan could not unlock the Abyss if he were locked inside.
- 4) I could not find any specific scripture that would tell us who this king is except we know from this verse he is, **“...the angel of the Abyss”**. My assumption is that he is one of Satan’s fallen angels and his rank in Satan’s army must be relatively high given he is allowed to lead this locusts/demon army. I think it is also reasonable to assume that this, **“king...angel of the Abyss...”** must be extremely evil because he was locked up in the ‘Abyss’ which is only used for the most evil angels.
- 5) **“...whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon.”** The name Abaddon in Hebrew means, ‘destruction’ and in Greek, Apollyon means, ‘the destroyer’. Both of these names seem to fit this angel-kings mission.

VERSE 12:

**“The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.”**

To me the importance of this verse is simple and very straight forward. God through John told us in Rev.8:13 that there would be three extremely harsh judgments which John call woe judgments. Therefore, this is like an update on what has gone on and what is left to happen. Or we could say like a score card, one down and two to go.

## SIXTH TRUMPET:

Again John is still in heaven observing and recording what he saw when the seven angels before God each blew their trumpet. The sixth trumpet is the last of the trumpet judgments that have just one action or event associated with that judgment, because remember the seventh trumpet; (Rev. 11:15) will announce the seven bowl-vial judgments which includes all seven bowl-vial judgments. The sixth trumpet judgment is covered in Rev. 9: 12-19. Also, remember the fifth trumpet judgment was directed only at unsaved humanity given God did not allow any judgment from the fifth trumpet judgment to come upon the people that he had 'sealed'. That does not seem to be the case in the sixth trumpet judgment. There is no mention of excluding people who had been saved from this judgment. However, it needs to be made very clear that if God wants his people to be spared, you can be assured that they will be spared. I think it is also worth noting that the sixth trumpet judgment specifically states that one third of the world's population will be killed. That would make it the biggest recorded death total from any one judgment in Revelations or in recorded history. Based on today's population that would make this number about 2.33 billion people, (7 billion people X one third = 2.33 billion people). Also, remember in the fourth seal judgment 25% of the world's population was killed or about 1.75 billion people, (25%X7.0 billion=1.75 billion). Also, keep in mind that neither of these numbers includes any of the people who will be killed because of the other judgments. These numbers also do not include the saints of the church, which would have been 'Raptured' prior to the beginning of the seven year tribulation period; nor would it include the newly saved people who had been martyred up to this point.

## RAPTURE & DEATH TOLL CALUCULATION TO DATE →

Rapture 750,000 (hopeful EST.)

Seal Judgments 1,750,000,000+

Trumpet Judgments 2,330,000,000+

Saints Martyred during first 42 months, Rev.7:9, “**great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language...**” Given the language I would think any number we would use would be at best a guess, however, because of the language used we could also assume the number would be very large → Given we started with 7.0 billion I will use a conservative number 5% or 350,000,000+. I think the percentage will be a lot higher in the second half of the seven year tribulation period, but the actual number could be lower because there will not be as many people left???

TOTAL PEOPLE RAPTURED OR KILLED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE SEVEN YEAR TRIBULATION PERIOD = 5,180,000,000+ out of a potential 7,000,000,000 or 74%+. Again, this will truly be a time of great mourning and death. We will now begin a verse by verse analysis of the sixth trumpet starting with verse 13 and ending with verse 21.

If you really want to know how bad these days will be read Matt. 24:22, “**If those days had not been cut short, NO ONE WOULD SURVIVE...**” Therefore, the answer is; if God had not put a finite time limit on this process → “NO ONE WOULD SURVIVE”. I think this means ‘ALL OF HUMANITY WOULD BE DEATH.

VERSE 13:

“**The sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God.**”

Just to make sure we understand where we are in terms of timing, when the sixth angel blows his trumpet it starts a process known as the ‘second woe’, which is also the sixth trumpet judgment. There are several issues which I would like to point out or clarify in this verse, which are listed below:

- 1) **“The sixth angel blew his trumpet...”** The blowing of the sixth trumpet by the sixth angel that was standing in heaven before God-Rev. 8:2, indicates that God, himself, is going to directly approve or authorize the sixth and most devastating judgment, to date, on planet earth and all humanity. Note: all trumpet judgments are administered by God the Father.
- 2) **“...and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden alter that was before God’** I believe this **“voice”** is directly from God the Father, because it is coming from the **“...horn of the golden alter that is before God.”** and the word **“horn”** is being used to indicate power and authority. There are scholars who believe that the voice is answering the prayers of the martyred saints during the tribulation referred to in Rev. 8:3-4. Remember the prayers of the martyred tribulation saints were mixed with incense and placed on the golden alter in heaven, also Rev. 8:3-4. Or the request for judgment by the martyred saints in Rev. 6:9-11. I am not sure about this view but it would appear plausible. Again, based on my knowledge of scripture, when the word horn is used in the Bible my first thought is that it is describing something of power or authority or kings. One of the best examples would be Dan. 7:8, **“While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first three horns were uprooted before it.”** This description by Daniel was talking about when and how the antichrist will come to power on planet earth. Then in Daniel 7:9-14 the prophet tells us the rest of the story, **“As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool, His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him, ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time. In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of**

heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was lead into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all people, nations and man of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.” This is a good picture of the ‘little horn’, the antichrist, which possesses only the power or authority that God the Father allows. Next is the description of real power, which is Gods Son, Jesus Christ. He has been granted the power to rule all of creation as recorded in Rev. 19:11-21. My point is that horns indicate power and authority in the Bible and there are some horns like the antichrist that will possess worldly power and authority for some period of time and some, like Jesus Christ, who will possess universal or heavenly power and authority for all of eternity. In this case the prayers of martyred saints possess heavenly power as the power behind their prayers appears to come directly from the ‘golden altar’ of God, which in my mind is all the power that has, does or will ever exist. My point is this voice or these prayers are going to be answered by God the Father who will release the four angels discussed in verse 14. Just an opinion!

To clarify this point I would like to summarize as follows: 1) the voice coming from the golden altar is from God the Father, 2) which is the answer to the prayers of the martyred saints, 3) requesting God the Father to judge the men who took their lives.

- 3) Also, there are some scholars who believe that this voice is the voice of Christ. They base their belief on the assumption that the shed blood of Christ is the only thing that would warrant this kind of power, being the power to command. I agree that the shed blood of Christ has the power to control or command anything within creation; however, in this case I do not think this is the voice of Christ. My primary reason is that Christ controlled or commanded the first seven seals and we are told in Rev. 8:2 that God the Father is in control of releasing each of these judgments. Therefore, based on this I believe that the “voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God” is in fact that of God the Father answering the prayers of the martyred saints. I am sure the voice is from God the Father

but part about it answering the prayers of the martyred saints is just an opinion!

VERSE 14:

“It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”

Evidentially these are four very bad or fallen angels which had been “bound” at some previous point in time. My assumption is that they were previously bound by God for this very event, maybe even before the creation of the world. The basis for this assumptions is as follows: 2 Peter 2:4, “For God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment...” and Jude 6, “And the angels who did not keep their position of authority but abandoned their own home—these he kept in darkness, bound in everlasting chains for judgment on the great day.” These same verses sound a lot like a description of the “Abyss” in Rev. 9:1-2.

Given God is all knowing and in total control, I think what we are seeing is an example of how every event that has ever happened fits perfectly in to Gods overall plan for man and creation. Note, I do not think the events that are actually happening and will continue to happen are the ones that God wanted for man when he created him; remember God started out man’s life in ‘The Garden of Eden’. However, God also granted man freewill, which man used to rebel against God and get himself kicked out of the Garden of Eden. God now has to adjust for both the good and the bad actions or events, by man, to keep his/Gods plan on track. See Acts 15:18, “Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the word.” Also, I think we need to understand that it appears that these four angels are no ordinary angels as they have been granted great power over the minds of men to wage war. Based on the verses describing the rest of this judgment, Rev. 9:15-21, these angels are able to very quickly convince men to put a 200,000,000 man army together and kill one third on all people living at this time. Today that number would be 7.0 billion X .333% = 2.33 billion people. I think the key or answer to how could this type of thing happen in such a short period of time is in Rev. 9:20, “...they did not stop worshiping demons...” Evidentially the

majority of the world living at this time will wear the mark of the 'beast'. Therefore, most of the people living during this period will be very susceptible to being possessed by demons. I think the best example of this is in Matthew 12:22-37 where Jesus is talking to the Pharisees about a house divided cannot stand and that a house united is very strong. I think in this case we are looking at a united house, a house or world united behind Satan and people who are totally demon possessed, which would mean they would be able to be convinced about an issue or directed in a specific direction very quickly. This sounds a lot like America and the world today. In the last 75 years Europe has gone from a population that was mostly Christian to being 2-5% Christian and American has gone from being a 'Christian' country to 'not' being a Christian country → pretty fast! The last issue that we will discuss in this verse is: Why did God decide to pick the Euphrates river area to have this very deadly and destructive battle? I believe there are a variety of reasons for God selecting this location, which I will list some of the most common below:

- 1) The Garden of Eden was in this general area, and man fell into sin in this same area. Sin started here and it will end here!
- 2) The first murder was committed in this area.
- 3) In this general area the first anti-God empire was built—The Tower of Babel, out of which came The Babylonian Empire, which is known as the birth place of idolatry, and 'Global Government'.
- 4) In this region the flood began.
- 5) During the Babylonian captivity this is where the Jews were taken.
- 6) This is the accepted dividing line between the East and West.
- 7) East from the Euphrates river to the Pacific Ocean lies the vast majority of the world's population. I think that is possibly why the number of men mentioned in verse 16 is so large--200,000,000 men.
- 8) This is the region where God will draw all the nations of the world during the Tribulation period.
- 9) This is just round one, as the final battle will be fought in this area by Christ, Rev.19:11-21.

Conclusion:

This event was known or planned for by God before the creation of the world. Remember this is a time when God is dealing directly with man and man's last chance to repent. It is also a time of very harsh judgment on man by God. God is making his presence known and continues to give man every chance to repent, however, based on the results of this event, it would appear that man wants nothing to do with God and his son Jesus Christ. Rev. 9:20-21, "The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the works 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. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts."

Second → This is the area where God will complete his prophecy about Daniels 70<sup>th</sup> week and therefore complete his dealings with the Jewish nation.

VERSE 15 & 16:

Verses 15 & 16 will be interpreted together

"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. The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number."

There has been and I am sure will continue to be a great deal of discussion by many well respected Biblical scholars about the meaning of this verse and the remaining verses in this chapter. As usual there are those that believe that these verses have to be interpreted 'symbolically' and there are those who think they should be interpreted 'literally'. I happen to believe that they are both partially correct and partially incorrect. What I mean is that some of the verses between verse 15 and 21 are symbolic and some are literal. We will discuss each verse, starting with verses 15 & 16, and discuss the biblical logic as to why it should be taken symbolically or literally.

Verses 15-16:

I cannot see any reason to interpret verse 15-16 other than literally. The words in verse 15-16 are very specific and in no way indicate that John/God is using a 'like' example to describe what he is trying to convey. I believe that there are three key facts within this verse which John's words convey.

- 1) The four angels who John is describing are the same four angels referenced in verse 14, which we know are very evil angels whom God had imprisoned earlier for this very task. Remember verse 14 was part of the action portion of this judgment, **"Release the four angels"**.
- 2) God has timed this event down to a specific, **"hour and day and month and year."** I think you will have to agree that these words would indicate a very specific time, down to the exact hour. Remember everything in God's plan is always on time and was planned before the beginning of creation → and some people doubt that this is the God of creation? See Acts 15:18
- 3) These four angels **"were released to kill one third of mankind."** This seems to me to be a very specific mission and a very specific number of people to be killed. I think one third is always one third regardless of the year in which this judgment occurs. So again I believe this verse is literal. Also, this is for sure the results portion of this judgment.
- 4) Then in verse 16 John changes the subject and defines the number of troops involved in this judgment, **"The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million."** I assume that by using the word 'troops' John is indicating that this judgment involves some type of war. The number is set at 200,000,000, which at the time of this writing and even up until the last 100 years would have been an incredibly large number. Remember that at the time when John wrote these words they may have seemed symbolic given the number of the people on the earth was only estimated to be about 200,000,000. The base line for this estimate is that the Roman Empire was estimated to be about 50-60 million people at the time of Christ. It may have even seemed symbolic up until the last 100 years but today a 200,000,000 man army is a very real possibility. John then does something that leads me to believe that these numbers carry some weight

or importance in this judgment, he repeats the fact, and “I heard their number.” Based on my knowledge of scripture when this type of thing is repeated God is letting us know that these words are important.

Conclusion:

Therefore, I believe verses 15 & 16 must be taken literally. To me there can be no other answer given the specific facts spelled out in these verses. Also, remember that Daniel the prophet tells us in Dan. 12: 4 & 10 that many of these prophetic verses will not be understood until the time on the end. Dan. 12:4, “But you, Daniel, close up the words of the scroll UNTIL the time of the end.” And in Dan. 12:9, “He replied, Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end.” I will try to translate in my own words what I think Daniels words mean:

MY INTERPERTATION → ‘The generation that is living during the end times, (I am defining ‘end times’ as the years leading up to the rapture (pretribulation rapture), the seven year tribulation period and the millennium), will understand what these words (prophecy related to end times events) mean because they will be relevant to the world as they know it and the things that have been invented or created over the last 2000 years will make these events possible.’ I think that is why God put in the Bible the following verse, “But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.” Dan. 12:4. In the last 100 years knowledge has increased more than the accumulated knowledge for the last 6000 years. God is putting the knowledge in place that will be required for the end time’s events to happen and be better understood.

Note, today a 200,000,000 man army would be considered large but certainly not impossible, as a matter of fact currently China reports that they could put an army much larger than this in the field at any time, as well as several other nations.

VERSES 17-21 WILL BE ANALYZED AS A GROUP:

In verses 17-21 John provides the reader with a more details about this judgment in three basic areas:

- 1) In verse 17 & 19, John describes, in symbolic language, as best he could, the 200,000,000 troop army. I think we can assume that this is an army given John used the word 'troops' in verse 16 and now uses the words, "...horses and riders".
- 2) In verse 18 John uses both literal and symbolic language to describe how one third of mankind will be killed in this future battle.
- 3) Then in verses 20-21 John describes the spiritual state of mankind that was not killed during this war.

I will try to add a little color to the symbolic portion of these verses based on what I have heard or read about pertaining to these verses. Some of what I will discuss will be based on books I have read, however much of the analysis and scriptural concepts will be my own. Last, if you do not like any of these interpretations please feel free to create your own interpretation, given no one really knows the specifics. Note: I will tell you when I think a verse or word is literal or symbolic.

VERSE 17:

"The 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."

John opens up verse 17 by telling us that his description of what he was seeing was going to be in the form of symbolic language, "The horse and the riders I saw in my vision looked 'LIKE' this:". I do not think there is any question that what John was seeing was something that he did not recognize. Therefore, I think he was describing what he was seeing as best he could using the words or terms of his day that he thought would convey the same meaning as what he was seeing. I believe that my assumption about this is validated by John's use of the word, "LIKE". This one word ensures the reader, that what John was writing was similar to what he was seeing but not the exact thing, given John had never seen the actual things or items he was seeing because they had probably not been invented yet.

I believe that the next portion of this verse was written to convey one overall theme, large scale death through war. I base this on the outcome of this judgment; one third of mankind was killed. However, first let's look at the words John used to convey his vision, "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." There are some scholars that believe this description is of satanically inspired demonic beings sent to kill one third on all mankind. They base their opinion on the fact that the four angels who were bound at the Great River Euphrates were evil angels and that they controlled 200,000,000 demonic beings. I cannot say emphatically this this assumptions is incorrect, however, my opinion is that it is partially incorrect for the following reasons:

- 1) The words that John used to describe the sixth trumpet judgment up until now have been very detailed and very literal.
- 2) The demonic locusts in the fifth trumpet judgment had a finite life, five months and they were gone, Rev. 9:10. The only thing that is gone in this judgment is humans, exactly one third of all mankind.
- 3) And in sixth trumpet judgment, Rev. 9:16, John speaks specifically about 200,000,000 "troops", not demonic beings.
- 4) Last, if these 200,000,000 "troops" were really demonic being and not human troops I think God would have told us where they came from just as he did in the fifth trumpet judgment, Rev.9:2b-3a, "The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth..."

Conclusion:

Therefore, based on my understanding of this verse it is my opinion that the 200,000,000 'troops' described in Rev.9:17 are a human army. However, I would like to clarify that I do believe that these 200,000,000 humans are 100% evil and probably demon possessed. Given our words above that a house divided cannot stand, which I think bears itself out in John description of these, "riders" in the last part of verse 17. As previously stated it appears that the four 'bound' angels who were obviously very evil had power over many demons. It appears that they

were over at least 200,000,000 demons but keep in mind there will be very little good left on this earth at this time so these demons could just be 200,000,000 very evil men.

The last part of verse 17 is very descriptive and symbolic for sure. I would like for everyone to keep in mind two things that I believe are true when reading this verse:

- 1) When a writer wants his readers to truly understand the gravity and awfulness of a situation he will almost always use very colorful adjectives and descriptive language.
- 2) When men try to write a description of horrific battles they always write in symbolic language because the actual descriptions are so repulsive to the human mind that they cannot and will not accept such descriptions.

Therefore, it is my opinion that John is doing the best he can at describing what he saw given he had never seen such things before, and he was trying his best to describe the awful, savage and horrific nature of the battle that was taking place on planet earth. Remember John was describing the deaths of 2,330,000,000 humans in one battle, which could take place in a very short period of time, which could be as little as one day or even one hour. Such a total disrespect for human life could only come from Satan and his fallen angels and demons. However, remember God is still in control, he has allowed this to take place to get the remainder of man's attention to repent. Man does not repent see Rev. 9:20.

Now we will discuss the actual words in the last half of verse 17 from a more literal interpretation. "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 mouth came fire, smoke and sulfur." I believe that John was simply trying to convey the fact that this army was dressed for war and eager to destroy and devour human flesh. Many of the words he used bring to mind the ugliness of war, red for blood, the crushing power of a lion's mouth, fire, smoke and sulfur for the destruction caused by bombs. This same descriptive theme is continued in verse 19.

VERSE 18:

**“A third of mankind was killed by three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths.”**

Again I believe that John has already told us that this is a war of humans who are demon possessed and extremely eager to destroy human flesh in any way possible. Therefore, I believe that this is a description of a world at war using any means available to kill other humans. This would include any weapon currently in the arsenals of men, such as, chemical, biological, nuclear, EMP, neutron, as well as, any conventional weapons. John continues his description in verse 19 which I believe supports the literal interpretation of a world at war. However, we need to again note that these men will be driven by very evil demonic spirits that were released by the four ‘bound’ angels. Also, keep in mind that this is the second time that John has stated that one third of mankind will be killed, **“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.”** Rev. 9:15. It also makes it very clear that this was the reason for releasing the four angels. It appears to me that God is being very specific about the reason for and the results of his sixth trumpet judgment. I think the ‘reason portion’ is made very plain or clear in verses 2-21.

VERSE 19:

**“The power of the horses was in their mouths and their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.”**

Many scholars have written many books about what this verse means. Keep in mind that this is John’s symbolic language to try to describe what he was literally seeing or observing. I will describe the two most popular interpretations, which we can discuss more about each in class.

- 1) This is a symbolic description about a 200,000,000 man/being army which is composed of at least 100% evil men if not 100% demonic possessed men.

Therefore, the description John is giving us in Rev. 9:19 is describing men who probably were possessed by demonic being, which John had never seen anything like this before nor have men today ever seen anything like this before and will not exist until the sixth judgment. This sixth trumpet judgment would certainly fall under the supernatural category just as the locusts in the fifth judgment.

- 2) Keep in mind how hard this would be for John to describe this event, given he had never seen anything even remotely close to this type battle, event or picture. It was John's best effort to describe what he was literally seeing given none of these weapons and technology even came close to existing in John's day. Therefore, I think that John is using animals to describe what he is seeing because during John's life time animals were the primary machines used in war and many wild animals were responsible for the deaths of men both in the arena and in the wild. I also think snakes would indicate death and speed of death. These are just assumptions on my part but keep in mind how else or what other words would or could John use to describe modern tanks and jets and rockets and bombs and artillery and aircraft carriers and nuclear weapons, you get the idea. I think John used the words that people of his time would understand to describe an awful and horrific war. Therefore, I think what John is seeing is a 200,000,000 man army which is probably demon possessed and hungry for death and destruction. The results of which were 2.33 billion people die in a very short period of time. However, language that would describe this type of event has been used in the Bible before, Zech. 14:12, "This is the plague with which the Lord will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they are standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths." Sounds pretty descriptive to me! Again, I think when reading the Bible the literal or simple answer is always the best unless otherwise stated.

VERSES 20 & 21 will be analyzed together:

Verse 20 & 21

“The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues (GO BACK AND NOTICE THE WORD DESCRIBING HOW THE LORD WILL STRIKE THE NATIONS IN Zech. 14:12 above → “PLAGUE”) still did not repent of the works 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. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.”

These two verses need to be broken into two subsets to understand the lack of repentance by the people remaining alive on planet earth during this time period. We know for sure that two thirds of the people who entered the sixth trumpet judgment are still alive because only one third were killed by this judgment. The first part of verse 20 states, “The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues...” meaning the two thirds that remained. We also know that the plagues mentioned in this verse are the same three plagues described in verse 18, “A third of mankind was killed by three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur...” Therefore, we know for sure that the plagues consisted of ‘fire’, ‘smoke’, and ‘sulfur’.

The first subset within this non-repentant group is described by the following ‘spiritual’ actions, they 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.” This first subset appears to me to be describing idolatrous people whose hearts and souls have made gods of things of this world. Also, they appear to be very anti-God and very much pro-Satan who is always anti-God. Note; remember that the people living on the earth at this time ‘know for sure that God is in control of these judgments’ and they still refuse to repent and accept God for who he is; the God of creation and man. This seems very hard core anti-God to me.

The second subset within this non-repentant group is described by the following ‘physical’ actions, they did not repent, Rev. 9:21, “Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.” This second subset appears to me to be describing the physical actions that are the results of the demon possessed hearts and souls of the people remaining alive on the earth in verse 20. However, keep in mind that there will be people saved during this

period and would have to come out of this group. The door of salvation will be open for this group of people until the 'second coming of Jesus Christ'.

Note: again there are those who believe that this judgment should be taken symbolically and not literal. I have tried to share with you all of their logic as well as my own logic for the literal view. The choice is yours, however, please keep in mind when thinking about this that regardless of view, one third of all of mankind dies in Gods sixth trumpet judgment.

#### QUICK REVIEW OF EVENTS TODATE:

- 1) The church has been raptured → pre-tribulation rapture, Rev. 4:1
- 2) The seven seal judgments have been open by Christ. The results of which was 25% of the world's population was killed in the opening of the fourth seal judgment. The death toll from the other seal judgments is unknown but would certainly be very large. Rev. Ch. 5 & 6
- 3) God seals or protects 144,000 Jewish men. Again my assumption is as evangelist. Rev. 7:1-8. Also I have stated that I believe that all people saved during the seven year tribulation period will have Gods seal on their forehead; just as unsaved people will have Satan's mark on their forehead.
- 4) Chapter 7: 9-17 tell us that many people will be martyred for their faith in God.
- 5) The seventh seal judgment is opened which introduces the seven trumpet judgments. Rev. 8:1-5
- 6) Six of the seven trumpet judgments are directed against man and planet earth by God the Father. The results of which is that another one third of the world's population is killed by the sixth trumpet judgment. The death toll from the other trumpet judgments is not recorded but would appear to be very large and the ecological system of the earth is severally damaged.
- 7) I believe that chapters 10 and 11: 1-14 are interlude chapters which provide additional details about what was happening on planet earth since the opening of the seventh seal, Rev. 8:1.

8) It is my opinion that with the blowing of the seventh trumpet judgment we are at the mid-point of the Tribulations. Rev. 11:15. My opinion is based on the fact that the next chapters 12, 13 and 14 describe in more detail the events that are occurring on earth during this period.

## **THIS BEGINS THE INTERLUDE BETWEEN SIXTH & SEVENTH TRUMPET JUDGEMENTS:**

CHAPTERS 10 & 11:1-14,

In these two chapters there are three very important beings introduced (heavenly & human), but not identified. However, remember these two chapters are being inserted to provide us, the reader, with more details about what is going on during this time period. What we have been calling an interlude chapter. I am fairly sure that most of what is recorded in these two chapters is happening on planet earth, except for chapter 11: 15-19 which is in heaven.

CHAPTER 10: