**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: He who reads the newspaper knows what is going on in the world. He who reads the Bible knows why!**

1. By nature, we as human beings have an incredible gift for not dealing with things!
2. Much of the human race are *spiritual* procrastinators, as most of us were at one time!
3. When confronted with our sins we often "project" the blame *elsewhere*.
	1. In the Garden, when the God confronted Eve, she said it was the *serpent's* fault.
	2. When God confronted Adam, he blamed the HIM for the wife that HE had given him.
4. In spite of all that has happened on the earth so far, during this tribulation period, the people are *still rebellious* toward the Lord.
	1. Their hearts are still hard and they refuse to repent of their sins!

Let’s start where we left off, [**Revelation 8:13**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/8/12-13/s_1175012)(NKJV) **And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, “*Woe*, *woe*, *woe* to the *inhabitants of the earth*, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”**

1. You have heard the saying, "**You ain't seen nothin' yet:** Well, that is the message of the angel where we left off in
2. Up till now, all of the devastation from the trumpets has affected man only indirectly!
	1. At the 1st trumpet, 1/3 of the trees and all green grass burned up, consumed by the hail and fire and blood.
	2. At the 2nd trumpet, 1/3 of the sea became blood, 1/3 of the sea creatures died and 1/3 of the ships were destroyed by the mass from outer space.
	3. When the 3rd trumpet blew, a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from heaven. It fell on a third of the rivers and springs of water. (Wormwood and many died from the water)
	4. And at the 4th trumpet, the third part of the sun was struck, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; Their brilliance was reduced by 1/3.
	5. Although these judgments brought fear, and pain and death to many, but most survived!
	6. When things begin to return to normal, the panic goes away, and mankind resume their sinful rebellious lifestyle!
	7. Many people throughout their lives called upon the Lord when things get tough, only to forget the promises after the heat was off!!

**The fifth trumpet (The 1st Woe) brings demonic *locusts* from the bottomless pit.**

[**Revelation 9:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/9/1/s_1176001)(NKJV) **Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star *fallen* from heaven to the earth. To *him* was given the key to the bottomless pit.**

1. (Matthew Henry) Upon sounding the fifth trumpet, a star fell from heaven to the earth. Having ceased to be a minister of Christ, he who is represented by this star becomes the minister of the devil; and lets loose the powers of hell. On the opening of the bottomless pit, there arose a great smoke.
2. “Bottomless pit” is one word in the Greek of the New Testament and is literally the “[abyss](https://www.gotquestions.org/what-is-the-abyss.html),” which means “bottomless, unbounded, the pit, or the immeasurable depth.”
	1. Roman mythology featured a similar place called Orcus, a very deep gulf or chasm in the lowest parts of the earth used as the common receptacle of the dead and, especially, as the abode of demons.
3. *It’s real* - **Luke 8:30-31** **Jesus asked him, saying, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the *abyss*.**
4. **Then the fifth angel sounded**: This is the fifth angel that sounded a trumpet. There were seven seals, followed — by seven trumpets. In their arranged order, they are similar.
5. The first 4 seals and trumpets presented judgments directed against the *earth*.
	1. In the first 4 **seals**, these were the “four horsemen” bringing tyranny, war, famine, and death on the earth.
	2. In the first 4 **trumpets**, these were the ecological destruction of the vegetation, seas, fresh waters, and sky.
	3. The last 3 **seals** focused upon heaven: the cry of the martyrs, cosmic disturbances, and the heavenly prelude to the seven trumpets.
	4. The last 3 **trumpets** will speak of hell, in terms of the demonic.
6. **I saw a star fallen from heaven**: The text clearly shows us that this star is a *person* (**to *him***), not a literal star.
	1. The verb tense (**fallen**) indicates that he already fell (past participle of fall).
	2. But who is this **star**? Some suggestions have included Nero, a fallen angel, an evil spirit, Satan, a good angel, or even Jesus Himself.
	3. This "star fallen" is none other than Satan himself, a.k.a. "Lucifer", Lucifer fell because he wanted to be worshiped and *not* be a worshiper!
	4. **Luke 10:18 And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall *like lightning* from heaven.**
	5. His time is almost up! He is given the key to pit of demons to torture mankind!
7. **To him was given the key to the bottomless pit**:
	1. At this time, we notice that the **key** is **given** to *him*, and that it is **given** at a *specific time* and for a *specific purpose* that furthers God’s plan.
8. **The bottomless pit**: (Extremely deep as if there is no bottom) Some people think that the bottomless pit is symbolic only**.**
	1. Many people wonder where this pit is, and most bible scholars believe that it’s in the center of the earth with different compartments.
9. [**Revelation 9:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/9/1/s_1176001) is a good example of how the Book of Revelation is sometimes wrongly spiritualized in its interpretation. Some commentators say that the **star** is the word of God, the **pit** is human nature, and the lesson is that if the gospel is rejected, horrors are unleashed. But this is far from the real meaning.

**Locusts from the bottomless pit.**

[**Revelation 9:2-6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/9/2-6/s_1176002) **And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. And they were not given *authority* to kill them, but to torment them *for* five months. Their torment *was* like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.**

**This is *NOT* the 1st time God used locust to try and turn the hearts of man.**

**Exodus 10: 3-15 (NKJV) So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, “Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me. Or else, if you refuse to let My people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your territory. And they shall cover the face of the earth, so that no one will be able to see the earth; and they shall eat the residue of what is left, which remains to you from the hail, and they shall eat every tree which grows up for you out of the field. They shall fill your houses, the houses of all your servants, and the houses of all the Egyptians—which neither your fathers nor your fathers’ fathers have seen, since the day that they were on the earth to this day.’ ” And he turned and went out from Pharaoh. Then Pharaoh’s servants said to him, “How long shall this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God. Do you not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?” So Moses and Aaron were brought again to Pharaoh, and he said to them, “Go, serve the LORD your God. Who are the ones that are going?” And Moses said, “We will go with our young and our old; with our sons and our daughters, with our flocks and our herds we will go, for we must hold a feast to the LORD.” Then he said to them, “The LORD had better be with you when I let you and your little ones go! Beware, for evil is ahead of you. Not so! Go now, you who are men, and serve the LORD, for that is what you desired.” And they were driven out from Pharaoh’s presence. Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land—all that the hail has left.” So Moses stretched out his rod over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind on the land all that day and all that night. When it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts. And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested on all the territory of Egypt. They were very severe; previously there had been no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them. For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left. So there remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt.**

1. "Bottomless" in the Greek is "*abussos"* = translated "abyss".
2. **smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.** When this pit is finally opened, smoke fills the earth's atmosphere. So much so that the sun and air are darkened.
3. **Out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth**: These are obviously not natural locusts. They avoid plants.
	1. Who are their locust targets? {Any man or woman that doesn’t have the seal of God.}
	2. (Walvoord) They are “A visual representation of the hordes of demons loosed upon the earth.”
	3. The idea is simply that as part of the judgment of the great tribulation, God will allow demonic hordes, previously imprisoned, to descend upon the earth like a swarm of destructive **locusts**.
	4. They are not, as some have suggested, heretics, Muslims, Turks, Saracens, Jesuits, monks, or Protestants!
4. **The seal of God on their foreheads**: Those who have the **seal of God on their foreheads** (the 144,000 and perhaps more) are protected, but *none* other are. This is an inescapable judgment of God, unless they have the seal of God on their forehead.
5. **They were *not given* authority to kill them, but to torment them for 5 months**: Their purpose and period is expressly governed by God, and the purpose of all this is to bring repentance.
6. **In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them**: Death will offer no escape from this prolonged torture. Their **power** is described like the power of **scorpions**, and the bite of a scorpion, though extremely painful, is rarely fatal.
	1. People will want to die but will not be able to!
	2. Suicide - Guns will misfire or not, knives will cut but they won’t die, poisons will be ineffective. Many will maim and mutilate themselves, *but none will be allowed to die*!
7. **They will desire to die**: The tormented ones will want to die as Paul did in [**Philippians 1:21-23**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/phl/1/21-23/s_1104021), but for a completely different *reason* and *result* than Paul. For Paul, death led to eternal blessing, but for these tormented ones, death is a leap from the frying pan into literal fire.
	1. The idea of death through suicide as an escape, is a *deception from hell*.
	2. The “MASH” TV show had the theme song “Suicide is Painless”
		1. Play the theme song of Mash.
	3. The mass murderers of Columbine School made chilling home movies before their killing spree. Eric Harris (18) and Dylan Klebold (17) left behind a videotaped document spelling out their motivation. In the last segment of tape, shot the morning of the murders, Harris and Klebold were dressed and said they were ready for “our little Judgement Day.” Then Klebold, looking tense, said goodbye to his parents. He concluded, “I didn’t like life too much. Just know *I am going to a better place than here*.” It is a great and tragic deception to think — on the day you will murder many — that you will go *to a better place*. (So many people say when someone dies, well they’re in a better place!)

**The appearance of these locusts.**

[**Revelation 9:7-10**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/9/7-10/s_1176007) **The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces *were* like the faces of men. They had hair like women’s hair, and their teeth were like lions’ *teeth.* And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings *was* like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power *was* to hurt men five months.**

1. **The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle**: Many attempts have been made to show that this is an accurate (though poetic) description of natural locusts. This approach misses the obvious **demonic** connection.
	1. Why would God call them **locusts** if they are not locusts, but demonic spirits who swarm and destroy like locusts? Among other reasons, because locusts are agents of God’s judgment. This is a consistent Old Testament figure in passages like [**Exodus 10:4-14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/exo/10/4-14/s_60004)**,** [**Deuteronomy 28:38**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/deu/28/38/s_181038)**,** [**1 Kings 8:37**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/1ki/8/37/s_299037)**,** [**2 Chronicles 7:13**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2ch/7/13/s_374013)**,** [**Joel 1:4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/joe/1/4/s_877004).
2. **Like horses… like gold… like the faces of men… like women’s hair… like lion’s teeth**: The repetition of **like** indicates something other than a literal description is intended. The total impact of this picture is one of unnatural and awesome cruelty.
	1. Some suggest that these locusts actually describe something such as the gunship helicopters or a one-world government are interesting, but purely speculative, and don’t fit *all* the details.
	2. (H. Morris) “There seems to be no alternative to concluding that God, satisfying the age-long desire of those wicked spirits to possess bodies of their own, has created bodies for them, bodies appropriate in demonic appearance to the character of the demonic inhabitants.”
	3. (Mounce) “There can be no specific answer to the question of exactly who or what is symbolized by the plague of locusts. All we can know for sure is that in the period immediately before the end the wicked will be subjected to a time of unprecedented demonic torment.

[**Revelation 9:11**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/9/11/s_1176011) **And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew *is* Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.**

1. **And they had as king over them**: This is another indication that these creatures are not regular locusts but demonic locust.
	1. The Bible tells us that literal locusts have no king: [**Proverbs 30:27**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/pro/30/27/s_658027) **(NKJV) *The locusts have no king, yet they all advance in ranks*.** Yet these particular locusts do have a king.
	2. **Whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon**: Their king is named. **Abaddon** and **Apollyon** and both have the same thought of *destruction* or *destroyer*
	3. **John 10:10** (NKJV) The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.
2. **The angel of the bottomless pit**: Since this is the king of these locusts, and since his name is **Abaddon** or **Apollyon**, this is obviously Satan himself.

**The worst is yet to come.**

[**Revelation 9:12**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/9/12/s_1176012) **One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.**

**Numbers 14:11** *the LORD* (speaking) *to Moses:* (asked of the children of Israel) **Then the LORD said to Moses: “How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?**

**The sixth trumpet: an army of destruction.**

[**Revelation 9:13**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/9/13/s_1176013) **Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,**

1. **I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar**: In the tabernacle and temple of Israel, **the golden altar** was the altar of incense, which was a representation of the prayers of God’s people.
2. **The four horns of the golden altar**: These stood at each corner of the altar. Atoning blood was applied to the horns. From these **horns**, John heard a **voice**. In this, John recalled a repeated theme: the prayers of God’s people play a large role in the end-times drama.

[**Revelation 9:14-15**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/9/14-15/s_1176014) **Saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill *a third of mankind*.**

1. **Release the four angels who are *bound* at the great river Euphrates**: I don’t believe that these four angels are the four angels of [**Revelation 7:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/7/1/s_1174001)**.**
	1. Whoever these angles are, they are bound and **prepared for the hour and day and month and year** of the unleashing of this judgment.
	2. **Were released**: (Newell) “Most of Satan’s angels are yet free — being the principalities against which we wrestle, but some terrible offenders of high rank have been bound”.
	3. This assumes these are “bad” angels; and that they are servants for a divine purpose.
	4. **Were released to kill 1/3 of mankind**: The demonic locusts described earlier in the chapter were restricted to tormenting mankind. But these **four angels** have the authority to ***kill*** on a *massive* scale.
	5. These angels have a specific job (**a third of mankind**), and are only activated in God’s timing.
2. **The great river Euphrates**: These angels were connected with the Euphrates River because the Euphrates was a landmark of ancient Babylon. It was the frontier of Israel’s land as fully promised by God ([**Genesis 15:17-21**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/gen/15/17-21/s_15017)). It was also the boundary of the old Roman Empire, which will be revived under the Antichrist.

**Description of the army led by these angels.**

[**Revelation 9:16-19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/9/16-19/s_1176016) **(NKJV) Now the number of the army of the horsemen *was* two hundred million; I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses *were* like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. By these three *plagues* a third of mankind was killed — by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails *are* like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.**

1. **The number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million**: Is this number literal or symbolic?
	1. (Hocking) “It is possible that the number is not to be taken literally, but simply suggests an army that is impossible to count and is greater than anything mankind has ever seen.”
2. **Breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone**:
	1. These **horsemen** are described in weird, grotesque terms. This is a powerful picture of horror, destruction and demonic association.
	2. Human armies this size has never been seen. The total size of all armies at the height of the Second World War was only approximately 100 million.
	3. In 1965 China claimed to have an army and militia of 200 million, but this claim was doubted by many. Even if such an army was assembled, and marched towards the west, it is hard (but not impossible) to see such an army killing a billion or more people — **a third of mankind**.
	4. Therefore, the safest interpretation is to see this as a literal 200 million strong army, but a demonic army invading earth. This continues the idea of the demonic army like locusts described earlier in the chapter.

**The response of man.**

[**Revelation 9:20-21**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/9/20-21/s_1176020) **But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.**

1. **But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, *did not repent***: In general, mankind showed no repentance, despite the presence of some pretty overwhelming signs and wonders.
2. **That they should not worship demons, and idols**: Instead, man continued with his idol worship in a “business as usual” sort of way. They continued in their worship of **demons**, whether their worship is knowing or unknowing.
3. It is amazing to see how quickly things return to what is thought to be normal after some calamity such as an earthquake. We are quick to forget God’s lessons, even the lessons that come in judgment.
4. **And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts**: This list of sins is a striking accusation against our present age.
	1. Certainly, our modern world is characterized by **murders, sorceries** (this is the Greek word pharmakeiā which is where we get or word pharmacy, so sorceries pertains to drugs not witchcraft), **sexual immorality** and **thefts**.