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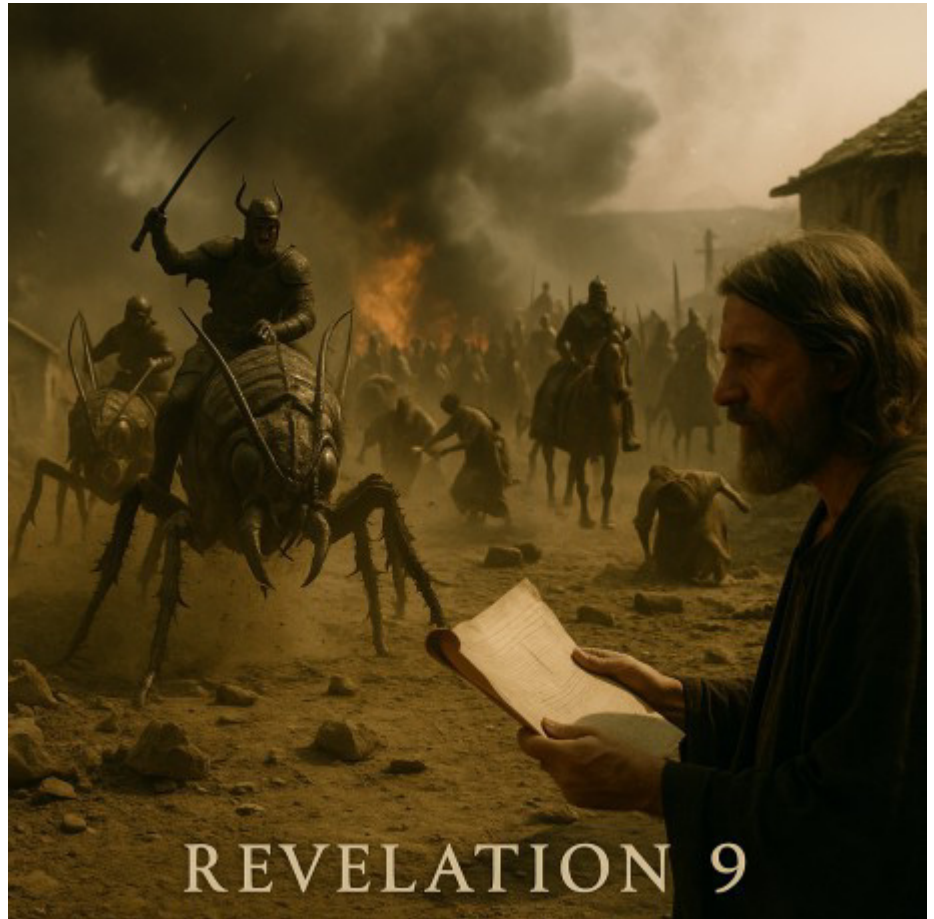
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Revelation 9 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:1-2

Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key to the shaft of the abyss was given to him. He opened the shaft of the abyss, and smoke ascended out of the shaft like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened from the smoke of the shaft.

† The fallen star represents a fallen ruler or angelic power. Stars symbolize leaders in Scripture, Isaiah 14:12, Revelation

1:20. This star is not Christ but one cast down.

† The abyss imagery recalls Isaiah 24:21-22, where rebellious powers are imprisoned. The smoke darkening the sky shows spiritual deception and chaos covering the land.

Revelation 9:3-4

Then out of the smoke came locusts onto the earth, and power was given to them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

† Unlike literal locusts, these harm people, not vegetation. Their symbolic nature is clear. They represent invading forces unleashed in judgment.

† Proof, Joel 2 describes locusts as an army advancing in ranks, a type fulfilled here in the Roman and allied forces that invaded Judea.

† The sealed, God's faithful, were spared this torment, proving God's protection for His own during judgment.

Revelation 9:5-6

And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a person. And in those days people will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them.

† Five months is the lifespan of a locust swarm, a symbolic but limited period of judgment. It shows God's wrath restrained, not total annihilation.

† Proof, Josephus (Wars 5.12.3) describes people inside Jerusalem suffering in torment, longing for death but unable to escape the horrors of siege and famine.

Revelation 9:7-10

The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for

battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like human faces. They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like the teeth of lions. They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots of many horses rushing to battle. They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt people for five months.

† The grotesque imagery emphasizes terror. Locusts "like horses prepared for battle" points to cavalry swarms. The human faces and lion's teeth symbolize intelligence and ferocity.
† Proof, Parthian cavalry, famed for their hair and horse tactics, were often feared by Rome. Many scholars see the description fitting the eastern auxiliaries that Rome employed. Their tormenting raids, rather than outright killing, match John's description.

Revelation 9:11

They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.

† Abaddon and Apollyon mean "Destroyer." This contrasts with literal locusts, which have no king (Proverbs 30:27). These are organized, destructive forces under satanic rule.

† Proof, Rome itself is portrayed as under the Destroyer's authority, executing divine judgment on Jerusalem, yet itself driven by dark powers.

Revelation 9:12-15

The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still coming after these things. Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they

would kill a third of mankind.

† The Euphrates was Israel's historic boundary with invading empires (Assyria, Babylon). Releasing forces from the Euphrates signaled invasion from the east.

† Proof, Rome's eastern legions and auxiliaries, stationed near the Euphrates, marched into Judea. Josephus (Wars 3.4.2) records auxiliaries from Arabia, Syria, and beyond, all crossing into the land.

Revelation 9:16

The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

† The number is symbolic of overwhelming force. John hears the number, but no literal army of that size existed. The point is terror and impossibility of resistance.

† Proof, Josephus (Wars 6.9.3) records Jerusalem surrounded by "an innumerable multitude," showing the overwhelming presence of Roman forces and allies.

Revelation 9:17-19

And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: the riders had breastplates the color of fire, of hyacinth, and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire, the smoke, and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, and have heads, and with them they do harm.

† This terrifying imagery portrays unstoppable destruction. The colors of fire, hyacinth, and brimstone match battle imagery of burning projectiles and sulfur.

† Proof, Josephus (Wars 5.6.3) describes the Roman siege engines hurling fiery missiles into the city, setting houses and

even entire sections ablaze. The vision mirrors this destruction with fire and smoke overwhelming the people.

Revelation 9:20-21

The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see, nor hear, nor walk; and they did not repent of their murders, nor of their witchcraft, nor of their sexual immorality, nor of their thefts.

† Even under devastation, the survivors refused to repent. This reveals the hardness of heart in Jerusalem, clinging to idolatry and rebellion against God.

† Proof, Josephus (Wars 5.13.6) laments the madness of the people, who, though surrounded by armies and consumed by famine, continued violence and abominations in the temple itself.

How it applies to us today

† God's judgments are just, even when executed through worldly powers.

† Evil forces bring torment and destruction, but the faithful are sealed and preserved.

† Hard hearts persist in rebellion, proving that external calamity alone cannot bring repentance, only the Lamb's blood can cleanse.

† We are called to remain faithful, knowing the Lamb reigns even in the midst of judgment.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Isaiah 14:12 – fallen star imagery

† Isaiah 24:21-22 – abyss and imprisoned powers

- † Joel 2 – locusts as an army
- † Proverbs 30:27 – locusts without a king
- † Matthew 24:28 – eagles and destruction
- † Josephus, Wars 3.4.2 – eastern auxiliaries
- † Josephus, Wars 5.6.3 – fiery siege weapons
- † Josephus, Wars 5.12.3 – suffering and longing for death
- † Josephus, Wars 5.13.6 – abominations in the temple
- † Josephus, Wars 6.9.3 – innumerable multitude of armies

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