

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 9

Rev. 9:1 *And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven fallen unto the earth: and there was given to him the key of the pit of the abyss.* (ASV)

The angel makes a rapid descent from Heaven. Has to be God's angel for the Master holds the keys of death and of hades (Rev. 1:18). This pit of the abyss, a bottomless pit, is a holding place, a dungeon. Not the lake of fire. (See Revelation 20:2,3.) Prisons house and holding place until the resurrection of the wicked.

Personal Experience: In June 1989, I drove across Oklahoma from the northeastern part of the state where I lived to minister in a meeting for Pastor Charles Mendenhall in Guymon in the far west. It was a ten-hour drive. Along the way, I heard the Lord say in my spirit, "I want you to watch the news while you're in this meeting." He made me to know that something was going to happen regarding the end times, and He wanted me to watch....

I was going to preach on *The Glory of God and The Glorious Church*. Normally, when I preached, unless my subject involved current events as they revealed prophecy, I did not watch the news. But at the Lord's direction, I did so. And something did indeed happen.

The Ayatollah Khomeini died. He had led the 1979 Iranian Revolution that overthrew the friendly-to-the West Shah and turned Iran into a radical Islamic nation. As I watched the massive funeral procession (I'd been to a middle-east funeral), I knew the simple wooden coffin mourners were carrying high above their heads held the Ayatollah's shroud-wrapped body and was probably open. For later they would slip that body right out of the box and into the grave. "Our Father! Our Father," they cried hysterically. Suddenly, amidst the frenzy, I saw the Ayatollah fall out of his box! The screen went black.

Mourners Rip Shroud, Khomeini's Body Falls

June 7, 1989...Chicago Tribune

TEHRAN—Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini went to his grave Tuesday amid scenes of emotional frenzy unmatched since the dramatic mass demonstrations that brought his Islamic republic to power 10 years ago.

At one point, crowds of mourners brought Khomeini's funeral procession to a halt and, in a moment of hysteria, ripped his white shroud to pieces, causing the body to fall to the ground. It was swiftly recovered and carried by helicopter to the vast Behesht-e-Zahra cemetery on the southern outskirts of Tehran.

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The Lord spoke to me. "I will show you where he is." Then he took me to a passage, which has to do with the judgments of the earth.

Is. 24:19 The earth is utterly broken, the earth is rent asunder, the earth is shaken violently.

Is. 24:20 The earth shall stagger like a drunken man, and shall sway to and fro like a hammock; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it, and it shall fall, and not rise again.

Is. 24:21 ¶ And it shall come to pass in that day, that Jehovah will punish the host of the high ones on high, **and the kings of the earth upon the earth.**

Is. 24:22 **And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison; and after many days shall they be visited.**

Is. 24:23 Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed; for Jehovah of hosts will reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem; and before his elders shall be glory. (ASV)

I saw that the Ayatollah was being held in the pit that is the holding place until the resurrection and judgment of the wicked. I was told that he was in a cell there. And I knew the identity of another of Israel's worst enemy's who was in the cell next to him.

It's worth a word to say that this passage gives three reasons why earth's kings and nations know such judgment.

Is. 24:4 The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the lofty people of the earth do languish.

Is. 24:5 The earth also is polluted under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. (ASV)

The third is they broke "the everlasting covenant." The Word of our Covenant-Keeping God (Deut. 7:9) defines the everlasting covenant in Psalm 105:8-11 and 2 Chronicles 16:15-18.

Psa. 105:8 He hath remembered his covenant for ever,
The word which he commanded to a thousand generations,

Psa. 105:9 *The covenant* which he made with Abraham,
And his oath unto Isaac,

Psa. 105:10 And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a statute,
To Israel for an everlasting covenant,

Psa. 105:11 Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan,
The lot of your inheritance;

The judgment of the nations as nations immediately following the tribulation has solely to do with how they treated "His brethren the Jews" (Matthew 25:31-46).

Matt. 25:31 ¶ But when the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the angels with him, then shall he sit on the throne of his glory:

Matt. 25:32 and before him shall be gathered all the nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats; (ASV)

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The Locust Plague
Revelation 9:3-23

- Demonic – Not natural. Natural locusts have no king (Prov. 30:27).
- Abaddon and Apollyon – Both names mean destroyer.
- A torture to which death is preferable, but not possible.

Larkin: God's judgment is foremost in this infliction, but there is also Satan's power in it."

The Sixth Angel/Trumpet
The Second Woe

Rev. 9:13 ¶ *And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the horns of the golden altar which is before God,*

Rev. 9:14 *one saying to the sixth angel that had the trumpet, Loose the four angels that are bound at the great river Euphrates.*

Rev. 9:15 *And the four angels were loosed, that had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, that they should kill the third part of men.*

The Vast Army

Rev. 9:16 *And the number of the armies of the horsemen was twice ten thousand times ten thousand: I heard the number of them.*

Rev. 9:17 *And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates as of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone: and the heads of the horses are as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceedeth fire and smoke and brimstone.*

Rev. 9:18 *By these three plagues was the third part of men killed, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone, which proceeded out of their mouths.*

Rev. 9:19 *For the power of the horses is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails are like unto serpents, and have heads; and with them they hurt.*

In my study, I found different points of view. Again, we see through a glass darkly. Time will tell. To sum up, two prevailing views are: 1. Demonic armies. 2) Actual physical armies.

Clarence Larkin, *The Book of Revelation*, page 79

Satan has his armies, and among them horsemen...the 200,000,000 Horsemen mentioned here are Satan's Horsemen, for no such army of ordinary horsemen ever was, or ever could be, assembled on this earth.

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Dr. Hilton Sutton, *Revelation Revealed*, pages 116-121

The angels who rebelled with Satan against God were exiled to earth and bound in chains of darkness (Jude 6). These four angels of verse 14 are part of that company of fallen angels.

...given a fixed period of one year, one month, one day and one hour...to operate. During that time, they create a vehicle through which they will destroy one third of the people in their path. That vehicle is an awesome army of 200 million men equipped with weapons of tremendous military firepower...not natural horses...John is describing a military vehicle with awesome firepower which has taken the place of the horse...

Revelation 16 also relates the story of earth...and both events (Revelation 9 and 16) involve the river Euphrates.

Rev. 16:12 ¶ And the sixth poured out his bowl upon the great river, the river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way might be made ready for the kings that *come* from the sunrising.

Only the Orient can produce a 200 million-man army...

Early in the last month of the seventh year of the tribulation, the Oriental army arrives at the then dry river Euphrates. The army crosses and turns south into...Israel... Its members gather into the Valley of Megiddo, which stretches into the plains of the Valley of Jezreel...for the Battle of Armageddon.

The European and Mediterranean armies, under the leadership of the Antichrist and the False Prophet, also gather for the Battle of Armageddon.

The Oriental army is under the command of fallen angels, not of the Antichrist. The Orientals are on a collision course with the Antichrist, both forces attempting world conquest. When they discover a common foe—Jesus Christ—they combine forces to resist His return. Of course, their defeat is inevitable. On the final day of the tribulation, the Orientals and the armies of the Antichrist are destroyed in one hour. This accounts for the last month, one day, and one hour.

They Refuse to Give Up Their Sin

Rev. 9:20 *And the rest of mankind, who were not killed with these plagues, repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and the idols of gold, and of silver, and of brass, and of stone, and of wood; which can neither see, nor hear, nor walk:*

Rev. 9:21 *and they repented not of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.*

It is a wonder to me, that even deep into the tribulation, first, that the offer to repent is still open, but most of all, that men refuse to repent.

Murder:	Violence. No regard for life.
Sorcery:	The Greek word is <i>pharmakeia</i> . Our word pharmacy comes from it. It includes drugs. Drug induced sorcery. Witchcraft. The occult.
Fornication:	All sexual immorality. Spiritual fornication includes idolatry.
Theft:	No regard for the rights or property of others.