

REVELATION 9:1-12 Part 1
SATAN'S ARMY (2.5)
INTRODUCTION

Three woes and the 5th and 6th trumpet. Woe is added to war. The war described in this passage is perhaps the most important.

The Demonic Belief System (vv.1-12)

The fifth trumpet sounds. All hell will break loose. The description and symbolism in this passage has produced a number of speculations about what is happening. It would seem that Satan's man is in firm control of the earth at this point.

Demons are real. Ancient cultures in every part of the globe have myths and legends surrounding angelic or demonic activity. On the Stela of Urnammus (c.2250 BC) shows angels flying over the head of the king while he is in prayer. The Bible mentions spirit beings in 34 books of the Bible, 273 times. The Bible teaches that God created these beings. "The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels"(Ps. 68:17). Like human beings, angels were created in a specific act by God at a time that is unknown. A hint is given in the ancient document, perhaps the oldest of all Biblical books, Job. "Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said . . .where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if you have understanding when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God sang for joy?" (Job 38:1,4,7). The NT declares they were created to glorify Jesus Christ Col 1:16-17"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."

Angels are spirit beings but have an eternal body of sorts. Paul said there are bodies terrestrial and bodies celestial. They eat food, apply force, and interact with human beings. They are invisible and can manifest themselves at appropriate times. They are innumerable. They possess intelligence, personality and distinction in appearance and being (they are not spirit clones!) Just like you and me, no two are alike!

1. Demons are restricted. (vv.1-2)

Rev 9:1-2

1And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him.

2And he opened the bottomless pit; and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a

great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit.
(NAS)

Who is this star? Is this demon different from the one in 8:10? We can only imagine what the earth will be like with the church gone and demons running rampage! It would appear that there has long been a group of angels kept in chains until this time. Scholars have long speculated there are two groups of demons. Those chained, and those unchained. Unchained demons have a certain amount of freedom, and those chained have great restrictions. This ancient demon prison may be spoken of
2 Pet 2:4

4For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;
(NKJ)

It could be the demons mentioned in Luke 8:31 knew of this prison house and begged Jesus not to send them there. Here the bottomless pit ('the deep') is also called the abyss. This is the place where Satan himself will be chained during the thousand year reign of Christ on the earth.

Imagine what life would be like if every prison door sprung open and every criminal was allowed to commit crimes without impunity. There will be a massive demonic prison break.

2. Demons are recognizable: These are fallen angels--yet they are angels. They have all the powers of godly angels. Yet God restricts them. "The horse, the man, the locust, the lion, and the scorpion all combine in their appearance. They are not ordinary locusts, for they are supernatural and are incapable of being killed" (John Phillips p.125).

3. (v.4) Demons are ravenous. Real locusts destroy everything. They have been known to eat every green thing. In the Middle East in 1951-52, there was a devastating locust attack over thousands of miles. According to records, hundreds of thousands of square miles of vegetation were destroyed. They create deserts. These demons are so hungry they attack everything and everyone, and the only reason why God's elect are not devoured is because of Divine restraint.

4. (v.5) Demons are restrained. The natural life of a locust is from May to September. Five months. They produce a sting that is so unpleasant that people will wish they were dead. Real scorpion stings are generally not fatal. But the poison in the system causes unbelievable anguish. Demons "torment" --the agony they produce is so great that people will become self-destructive. Bob Dylan says "people will beg God to kill them, and they won't be able to die. In a freakish, nightmarish circumstance, death will take a holiday.

5. (v.7) Demons are rebellious. They are ready to go. The horse here is a symbol of defiance. These demons are like race-horses, bred to run, filled with energy for destruction. Demons know they are on a doomed mission. Like Kamakazie pilots, they know what awaits them in eternity, and they don't care.

6. Demons are resolute. For a time they are unbeatable. On their heads are crowns of gold. There is only one weapon against demons. A right relationship with God. The humans have rejected God--thereby accepting demons. Demons must think that since man wants to rebel against God, their is a demon gang iniation. Medical technology, the psychiatric community, no real or psydo-science will do. There is no treatment or drug that will cure demonic affliction. Spiritual problems require a spiritual solution.

7. (v.7) Demons are rational (they are intelligent). Demons are able to differentiate between believers and non-believers (Paul we know Peter we know--but who are you?). Human faces are expressive of intelligence. These demons are not just blindly afflicting people, but there is a rational, intelligent calculated war being fought by demons.

People want to believe in spirit guides, angels, aliens, interdimensional beings, ascended masters, discarnate ancestors, but for some reason they think "demons" you've got to be kidding. Are there evil, rational, beings who hate your guts? In the Hebrew language they are called "shedim".

Deut 32:17

They sacrificed to demons, not to God, to gods they did not know, to new gods, new arrivals that your fathers did not fear.

(NKJ)

They are also called Elilim, seirim, sair (from which we get satyr) unclean spirits, but there most common name is demons! "They shall no more sacrifice to devils (Lev. 17:7).

People may look at you with a sad face and say, "do you really buy those ancient superstitions? I mean really, demons? Come on, give me a break." Satan and demons are real. They may ask us to "peddle our theories to the publishers of science fiction. But it is true all the same. Once the pit is opened, the world of men will be invaded by a virus far more deadly than the bubonic plague, a virus all the more deadly because it is able to think and because it directs its attack against the soul rather than the body" (John Phillips p.127).

8. Demons are ravashing (v.8) "they have hair like a woman's hair" Demons rarely come as "demons" at first. They are seductive spirits. A woman's hair is here glory (ICor.11:6-7). A woman's hair is beautiful and seductive (most of the time). The long hair of the demons suggests there is something seductive and attractive about them (not that they are hippies from the sixties). The occult presses its interest upon people.

Demons use powers of seduction to press people with the supernatural. They will present themselves as beautiful creatures interested only in what is best for mankind.

9. Demons are raging (v.8) 'teeth like a lion's teeth'. Woe to the person who becomes demon bait in the tribulation. Lions tear their prey to pieces. "The teeth of a lion inflict a terrible wound, and even when its bite does not kill, the teeth are so filled with infection that the wound rarely heals completely" (John Phillips p.127-128).

10. Demons are recalcitrant (v.9) "breastplates as it were of iron".

11. Demons are relentless (v.9) "and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle" The demons pursue, they are inescapable.

12. Demons are rotten (v.10) 'they had tails like scorpions and they hurt men for 5 months' (the life-span of the locust). Reference has already been made to this. When the Holy Spirit repeats a detail there is a reason. The reason is to remember--the demons have one agenda and one agenda only--hurt men. Hurt people. For years men have rejected God, now they are given over to the foulest and fiercest demons in the universe. A quick glance in any concordance or topical reference and you can see what demons are able to do. In the scriptures they cause insanity (I Samuel 16:14; Daniel etc); some cause muteness of speech, some cause immorality; some cause deafness; some cause epilepsy; some cause blindness.

Demons are responsible in part for suicide, personal injury, physical defects and possession. Possession is something very frightening and very real. Its time you knew how to protect yourself.

Relationship and Fellowship with God.

13. Demons are ranked. (v.12) Solomon wrote, "The locusts have no king." (Prov. 30:27. Demon locusts do. These demons are led by the Head angel of abyss. This angel is not Satan-- he opens the abyss. God's demon prisons are run in an orderly fashion. His name is given in two languages, Hebrew and Greek. The reason in part is that his demonic hosts will dine on both Jew and Gentile. His name means "he who destroys". These demon soldiers are ranked and organized. They have a battle plan and they will follow it. One woe is past--two follow. Think about it, the world controlled by Satan, and infested with demons from every age, capable of every filthy and vile activity.

Human beings have been given over to demons for judgment. Has hard as it is to believe things get worse!

The Destructive Battle Scene (vv.13-21)

The sixth trumpet sounds the alarm for a well known battle in prophetic circles. This battle will alter the future like few conflicts. There will be another demonic jail break.