



Art By Pat Marvenko Smith Copyright 1982/1992  
1-800-327-7330 www.revelationillustrated.com

# THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

*"Pit Unstopped"*  
9:1-11

**Revelation 9:1** 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.

**Revelation 9:2** 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.

**Revelation 9:3** Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

**Revelation 9:4** 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.

**Revelation 9:5** 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.

**Revelation 9:6** In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

**Revelation 9:7** 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.

**Revelation 9:8** They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

**Revelation 9:9** 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.

**Revelation 9:10** They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power *was* to hurt men five months.

**Revelation 9:11** 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.

---

*Oh, my job keeps getting easier  
As time keeps slippin' away  
I can imitate the brightest light  
And make the night look just like day  
I put some truth in every lie  
To tickle itchin' ears  
You know, I'm drawing people just like flies  
'Cause they like what they hear  
I'm gaining power by the hour  
They're falling by the score  
You know it's getting very simple now  
'Cause no one believes in me anymore!*

Those are lyrics from an old Keith Green song describing the subtleties of the devil in our day and age. Though there are cases of possession and oppression, most of his work is done in stealth-mode. As long as people don't really believe he exists the devil has them as his captives.

In the future, during the Great Tribulation, the devil and other demons will be allowed to take a much different approach. The terrifying truth of chapter nine describes their *invasions* and their *influences* on the earth for a five-month period in the middle of the seven-year Tribulation.

**Revelation 9:1** Then the fifth angel sounded...

The fifth angel **sounded** a trumpet. If you've been following our studies, Jesus took a scroll from the hand of His Father in heaven. The scroll is the title deed to the forfeited earth. It is sealed with seven seals. The opening of those seals will redeem the earth. As Jesus opened the seventh seal, a series of seven trumpets were blown in heaven releasing terrible judgments on the earth below. The

first four trumpet judgments affected the natural world. The next three involve supernatural phenomena.

**Revelation 9:1** 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.

The fifth trumpet reveals **a star fallen from heaven to earth**. Bear in mind that **star** is a word often used to describe an angel. This **star is** an angel - it is described as a person, a **him** who is given a **key**.

Some commentators object to identifying this angel as Satan. They don't like the idea of him having the key to the **bottomless pit**. I would note that he was given the key for a very restricted period of time. It is not unlike God giving Satan certain other freedoms and privileges but with restraints.

It is the devil. It is Satan. People may not believe that there is a personal devil; it makes no difference, there is! In this verse he is said to be **fallen from heaven**.

Jesus once said of him, **I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven**.<sup>1</sup> The devil's entire career is one continuous fall.

The Old Testament book of Ezekiel describes an angel who sinned against God and thereby lost his place of prominence in Heaven. The book of Isaiah names this angel Lucifer. He has many names throughout Scripture; we most commonly call him the devil or Satan.

Isaiah, discussing his fall, says,

**Isaiah 14:15** Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

Lucifer fell from his place and he will continue to fall until he ends up in **the lowest depth of the Pit**. In the mean time, in our day, he has fallen to a place between heaven and earth. The Bible speaks of him having access still to heaven, and of walking about on the earth. Thus one of his titles in Scripture is **the prince of the power of the air**.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Luke 10:18

<sup>2</sup> Ephesians 2:2

The **air** is the atmosphere; the devil's abode today is the atmosphere around earth.

In the middle of the Great Tribulation the devil will lose his access to heaven and be thrown down from the air to the earth. This is what is described in chapter nine of the Revelation.

Just to finish the story: **After** the Great Tribulation the devil will fall further, being cast into and confined in the bottomless pit for one thousand years. *That is still not the end of his fall!* After the one thousand year reign of Jesus, the devil will be thrown into the Lake of Fire - into Hell - just as Isaiah indicated.

Now returning to our text: It is about the mid-point of the Great Tribulation and Satan is thrown to the earth with a key to the **bottomless pit**. The Greek word is *abussos*, or abyss. It seems to exist in the center of the earth. That explains why it is **bottomless** - If you're encircled by a sphere, the only direction is up. There is no floor, or bottom, only a ceiling.

**Revelation 9:2** 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.

You can't find this *abussos*; it exists in the dimension of the supernatural. That's not to say that it isn't real; *it is all too real!*

It's a prison for demons. It's the Pelican Bay of supernatural corrections. In other portions of Scripture you read of fallen angels already incarcerated there:

**2 Peter 2:4** For 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;

Who are these **angels who sinned**? They are not the one-third of the angels who originally rebelled with Satan because they are still loose. They are probably the angels who sinned in Genesis six by co-habiting with human women just prior to Noah's flood. God punished them early by confining them to the pit. The word **hell** is the Greek *tartarus* and is used to describe a chamber in Hades where these fallen angels – these demons - are detained.

In the famous episode where Jesus commanded the legion of demons to leave the man and enter the herd of pigs they begged the Lord to not send them to the pit, to the *abussos*, to *tartarus* (Luke 8:31).

**Revelation 9:3** Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

This is a demonic invasion of the earth - the first of two. One of the reasons you know they are not really **locusts** is that you are told in verse eleven that they have a king over them. The Book of Proverbs, in chapter thirty verse twenty-seven, clearly tells you that **locusts have no king**. This is an army of demons whose behavior is like that of a plague of locusts - **only their prey is human beings!**

They are given bodies to inhabit that are locust-like. We'll see them described more fully in a moment.

**Revelation 9:4** 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.

Their food is to torment **men**. They swarm into cities and attack people. I get creeped-out by one bug that I can easily crush. The sheer terror of this swarm is radical.

In chapter seven 144,000 Jews were specially sealed by God for their ministry of evangelism. These will be spared from the torments of these demons.

What about other believers on the earth? The text doesn't say, but I believe that they, too, will be spared. Scripture says in Second Timothy 2:19,

**2 Timothy 2:19** Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His..."

In Ephesians believers are described as being "sealed."<sup>3</sup> First John 5:18 promises believers,

---

<sup>3</sup> Ephesians 1:13, 4:30



1 John 5:18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

**Nonbelievers** on the earth during the Great Tribulation will be the prey of this demon invasion, and they will be tormented as described in verses five and six:

Revelation 9:5 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.

Revelation 9:6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

We don't know the significance of **five months** but it is gracious of God to not allow it to continue beyond a set period of time.

Suicide and assisted suicide will be impossible. I can't imagine what that means, but it will be awful.

John described them:

Revelation 9:7 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.

Revelation 9:8 They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

Revelation 9:9 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.

Revelation 9:10 They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power *was* to hurt men five months.

Notice John's use of the word **like** throughout his description. These are literal demons, and they look **like** these things.

I don't think this was John's way of describing a helicopter or other modern instrument of warfare. This is not man fighting man. It is a demonic attack upon man.

Revelation 9:11 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.

Satan opens the *abussos*. Within it is the [angel of the bottomless pit](#), himself incarcerated. His Hebrew and Greek names mean *destruction*. He is the leader of this first demon army that is released.

