

Chapter 9:

The fifth angel sounds his trumpet. The “star that had fallen from the sky” was given the key to access the Abyss. The “star” is Satan. Note the key was “given” to him to access the Abyss. I believe the Abyss may be a part of Sheol, (Hebrew word for it) or Hades (Greek word for it). Sheol is separated into different levels or sections. All souls here are awaiting resurrection. The righteous souls are blessed and the souls that are evil are being tormented. The Abyss, could be part of Sheol reserved for the fallen angels that was removed from heaven with Satan. I’m not certain if there is any scripture anywhere that backs this up. At this time in my study, this is what I have landed on.

I believe the “fallen” reference above, references past events concerning Satan. I believe he is given the key in a future time as these events unfold, perhaps by an angel. When Satan opens the Abyss, John describes smoke rising from it like a gigantic furnace. There is so much smoke that it darkens the sky. Keep in mind there is already less light since the sun has been struck. This darkens the daylight, and nightlight, even further.

“And out of the smoke, locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.” These locusts would not go after vegetation but people and sting them like scorpions. The group of 144,000 that were sealed by God, are protected from these locusts. During these days people will feel so much pain they will wish they were dead and even try and kill themselves, however, they will not be able to. This period of time is stated to last for five months.

Versus 7-10 further describes the locusts. When you read the physical descriptions of these locusts, they sound like some type of demonic creature. These are potentially previously fallen angels that serve Satan and have been in the Abyss awaiting this time. It is repeated in verse 10 that this period of time will last for five months. The king of the Abyss is named Abaddon in Hebrew and Apollyon in Greek, that means Destroyer. Some people believe this is Satan. I do not; I believe this is one of Satan’s generals or trusted leaders. Whoever it is will be with these creatures. The fact that John calls out the Greek and Hebrew name is further evidence that there is no one safe from this torment. Only the sealed 144,000 will not be touched.

Verse 12 states the first woe is now complete. There are two more woes yet to come. The sixth angel sounds his trumpet and John overhears a voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar that is before God. This is a divine communication from God to the sixth angel providing the instruction to release the four angels, more fallen angels that work for Satan, to usher in the next events that will kill another one-third of mankind. This specific judgment is focused only on “mankind”.

The number of mounted troops, mounted would indicate they are on horseback or some type of equipment, was twice ten thousand times ten thousand. John states he heard the number of them. $(10,000 \times 10,000 = 100,000,000) \times 2 = 200,000,000$ Two hundred million troops! That is a very big number.

John describes the horses and riders. The riders he only described as having breastplates that were fiery red, dark blue and yellow as sulfur. Those colors are used by China. Russia has the red and yellow as well. I don't want to over-speculate here, just calling that out as a possibility. The heads of these "horses" are compared to that of a lion. Fire, smoke, and sulfur is described as coming out of their mouths. John would not have known about fire arms and canons, so he may have been describing what would become current military arms. The tails John describes as being like snakes, having heads that inflict injury. This doesn't currently make sense to me, but I'm guessing some form of technology will be developed that will resemble this in the future.

John states the rest of mankind that was left alive, still did not repent of their evil ways. He describes much of the evil practices he was seeing: idol worship, murdering, magic arts, sexual immorality, theiving, evil work done with their hands. What stands out here to me is that people still have the opportunity to repent. Our God is a forgiving God. There are different places in Revelation that references repentance. I believe there are people that will still be saved during this period of time, but I do not believe it will be a big number.