

# CMBC Bible Study



## CMBC Bible Study Revelation 9:1-21

*1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. 2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. 3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. 5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. 6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. 7 And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. 8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. 9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. 10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. 11 And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon. 12 One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter. 13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. 15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. 16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. 17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. 18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. 19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. 20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: 21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.*

### Revelation of Jesus Christ – The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets

*Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!*

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V1-2 At the sound of the fifth trumpet, John sees “... *a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. 2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.*” What is the significance of the personification of the star here, what does it represent, and how does it fit in the narrative of the revelation of Jesus to John and to the church?

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The star from heaven “... *was given the key to the bottomless pit*”, from which arose as smoke “... *as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke...*” What is the significance of the phrase “... given the key to the bottomless pit”?

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What is the scripture meaning of the bottomless pit, and how should we understand God's purpose for it at this point? Provide biblical support.

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In light of the previous warning (8:13), explain how this sight relates to the “wrath of the Lamb.”

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V3-12 The Jurassic scene that is described coming out of the bottomless pit is said to have been given horrific power, and commanded “... *that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads ... that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months ... and their power was to hurt men five months.*” Why does God extend such cruelty, and what is the lesson to the church?

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What is the significance of the fact that the locust were given power, and what does this imply about divine permission?

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Why is the command given to locust described as scorpions to sting and hurt men for five months? Who will be protected and why? Support your argument with Scriptures.

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In modern days, we have found ways, and we even argue about “more humane” ways to inflict capital punishment and not prolong one’s agony. Scriptures say, “*6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.*” Explain how you perceive God’s way and judgment as described above, and the challenge that sets it against man’s way.

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V11 The deadly locusts-scorpions from the bottomless pit are said to have a king over them. What does this detail suggest about the forces of evil, and about God’s sovereignty in these calamities?

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“*12 One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.*” What is the significance of this grim reminder?

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V13-21

At the sound of the sixth trumpet, the sixth angel is summoned from the throne to “... *Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.*” Explain your understanding of this summon and its significance. Can you find other biblical parallels?

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When the sixth angel sounded, John heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, telling the angel to loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates . Should the description of the creatures released at the Euphrates river be taken literally or symbolically, and why? Give biblical support to your argument.

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The four angels that were loosed are said to have been “... *prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.*” What is this telling us about God's strategic planning related the wrath of the Lamb, and these last woes?

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John says to have heard the number of “two hundred thousand thousand” (200 millions?) of the army of horsemen which were loosed to inflict this mortal blow on one third of humanity. Why this specification?

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John describes the army of the horsemen and their horses. Explain what John sees, and the destruction they unleash.

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How does the massive army of horsemen described in Revelation 9:16 relate to historical or contemporary contexts?

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John gives another grim picture: “*20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and*

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*silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: 21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts."*  
Explain your understanding of this scene, and what it says about the "Wrath of the Lamb."  
Give biblical support for your argument.

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What does the unrepentant humanity in the face of these judgments teach us about (give biblical support for your argument):

human nature?

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human will?

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God's redemptive power?

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and God's judgment?

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