

**REVELATION**  
**CHAPTER NINE**  
*The Fifth and Sixth Trumpet*  
**Dan Trotter**

Rev 02/14/21

- I. **Revelation 9:1 (NASB)** *Then the **fifth angel** sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth [**land**]; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him.*
- A. “star,” “fallen”
1. distinguish “star” which is Babylon in chapter 8:10-11(third trumpet)
  2. this star is Satan
    - a. Mounce cites those who say this, but then disagrees
    - b. Scriptures showing a “star” which had “fallen”
      - i. **Luke 10:18 KJV** “And He said to them, "I was watching Satan **fall** from heaven like lightning.”
      - ii. **Revelation 12:4 (HCSB)** His tail swept away a third of the **stars** in heaven and hurled them to the earth [**land**]. And the dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she did give birth he might devour her child.
- B. “bottomless pit”
1. usage in Scripture
    - a. original abyss that Holy Spirit hovered over in Genesis (Gen 1:2)
    - b. farthest extreme from heaven (Gen 49:25; Deut 33:13)
    - c. farthest extreme from high mountains (Ps 36:6)
    - d. deepest parts of the sea (Job 28:14; 38:16; Ps 33:7)
    - e. subterranean rivers and pools
    - f. the Red Sea through which the Israelites crossed
    - g. excommunication from God’s Temple and God’s presence (Jonah 2:2-6)
    - h. domain of the Dragon (Job 41:31; Ps 148:7; Rev 11:7; 17:8))
    - i. prison of demons (Lk 8:31; Rev 20:1-3; 2 Pet 2:4, Jude 6)
    - j. Ezekiel says flood waters from abyss under Tyre will be brought up to flood city (Ezek 26:19-21)
  2. Chilton: “Apostate Israel is to be cast out of God’s presence, excommunicated from the Temple, and filled with demons. One of the central messages of Revelation is that the Church tabernacles in heaven; the corollary of this is that the false church tabernacles in hell.”
  3. also translated as “abyss,” “deep”
- C. “given”
1. the devil had the key, but only because GOD gave it to him
    - a. the evil he does on the earth is only at the permission of God
    - b. note: it could be the angel that had the key, not the devil

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II. **Revelation 9:2 (NASB)** *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.*

A. “opened”

1. Satan fulfilled Jesus’ prophecy

a. **Matthew 12:41-45 (HCSB)** The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at Jonah’s proclamation; and look—something greater than Jonah is here! <sup>42</sup> The queen of the south will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and look—something greater than Solomon is here! <sup>43</sup> “When an unclean spirit comes out of a man, it roams through waterless places looking for rest but doesn’t find any. <sup>44</sup> Then it says, ‘I’ll go back to my house that I came from.’ And returning, it finds [the house] vacant, swept, and put in order. <sup>45</sup> Then off it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and settle down there. As a result, that man’s last condition is worse than the first. That’s how it will also be with this evil generation.”

i. this verse has been wrenched out of its original context

A/ it applied to “this wicked generation”

1/ not to individual demoniacs

ii. interpretation

A/ Jesus went all over Israel casting demons out

1/ and God-hating Jews invited them right back in!

a/ “last state is worse”

i/ certainly true after AD 70

2. **Revelation 18:2** “<sup>2</sup> And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.”

a. Chilton (p246) “the loss of all ability to reason, the frenzied mobs attacking one another, the deluded multitudes following after the most transparently false prophets, the crazed and desperate chase after food, the mass murders, executions, and suicides, the fathers slaughtering their own families and the mothers eating their own children. Satan and the host of hell simply swarmed throughout the land of Israel and consumed the apostates.”

B. “smoke”

1. appropriate

a. it’s coming out of hell (DT)

2. chokes, blinds, and suffocates peoples’ minds (Gore)

3. in ancient world, people would build large fires in path of the advance to try to stop locusts (Gore)

a. so it would appear that locusts came out of the smoke (cf. next verse 3)

III. **Revelation 9:3 (NASB)** *Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth [land], and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth [land] have power.*

A. “locusts”

1. demons

a. “scorpions”

i. this shows its demons

A/ **Luke 10:19** “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you.”

2. they are NOT Cobra helicopters

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3. in OT, stands for an irresistible plague
  - a. everything is stripped bare
  - b. Scriptures
    - i. **Nahum 3:15 (CSBBible)** The fire will devour you there; the sword will cut you down. It will devour you like the young locust. Multiply yourselves like the young locust; multiply like the swarming locust!
    - ii. **Joel 2:25 (CSBBible)** I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust ate, the young locust, the destroying locust, and the devouring locust — my great army that I sent against you.

B. “scorpion”

1. “In hot climates the sting often occasions much suffering and alarming symptoms.”
2. sting usually does NOT produce death
  - a. this is a preliminary judgment

IV. **Revelation 9:4 (NASB)** *They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth [land], nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.*

A. “seal”

1. the 144,000 believers who were protected from the judgment on Jerusalem (Rev 7:3-8)

B. “grass,” “green thing,” “tree”

1. normally these are things eaten by physical locusts
  - a. but these locusts are demons coming after *people*
  - b. no need for them to eat these things (DT)
    - i. they were already 1/3 destroyed at the sound of the first trumpet
      - A/ **Revelation 8:7 (CSBBible)** The first angel blew his trumpet, and hail and fire, mixed with blood, were hurled to the earth. So a third of the earth (land) was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

V. **Revelation 9:5 (NASB)** *And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man.*

A. “kill”

1. the judgments intensify as we move towards the bowl judgments
2. a scorpion’s sting will not kill one (Gore)
  - a. but it will torment one

B. “five months”

1. options (not necessarily exclusive)
  - a. a reference to the typical length of a locust plague (Gore)
    - i. period of 5 months (May – Sep) when locusts appear
  - b. when Gessius Florus terrorized the Jews to incite them to rebellion (May-Sep 66) (Gore)
    - i. Gessius Florus was Roman procurator of Judea
    - ii. Starting May of 66 AD, end in September when Jews took over Jerusalem
      - A/ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem\\_riots\\_of\\_66](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_riots_of_66)
      - B/ when Gessius Florus slaughtered 3600 peaceful Jewish citizens
    - iii. Josephus dates start of Jewish War from this time (ii.xiv.9-xix.9)
    - iv. some Greeks sacrificed a bird in front of a synagogue in Caesarea, rendering it unclean
      - A/ Jews paid 8 talents to hear the case
        - 1/ Florus refuses to hear, then imprisons the Jewish petitioners
    - v. Florus took 17 talents from temple, said it was for Caesar

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- c. the last five months of the Jewish war (April-August 70 AD)(Gore)
  - i. “The entire generation became increasingly demon-possessed; their progressive national insanity is apparent as one reads through the New Testament, and its horrifying final stages are depicted in the pages of Josephus’ *The Jewish War*: the loss of all ability to reason, the frenzied mobs attacking one another, the deluded multitudes following after the most transparently false prophets, the crazed and desperate chase after food, the mass murders, executions, and suicides, the fathers slaughtering their own families and the mothers eating their own children. Satan and the host of hell simply swarmed throughout the land of Israel.” (Chilton)

VI. **Revelation 9:6 (NASB)** *And in those days men will seek death and not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them.*

A. “seek death”

- 1. J specifically prophesied this longing for death among the final generation
  - a. **Luke 23:27-30 (HCSB)** A large crowd of people followed Him, including women who were mourning and lamenting Him.<sup>28</sup> But turning to them, Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and your children.<sup>29</sup> Look, the days are coming when they will say, ‘The women without children, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed, are fortunate!’<sup>30</sup> Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’
  - i. **Revelation 6:15-16 (HCSB)**<sup>15</sup> Then the kings of the earth [rulers of the land], the nobles, the military commanders, the rich, the powerful, and every slave and free person hid in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains.<sup>16</sup> And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb,
- 2. OT Scriptures
  - a. **Job 3:20-21 (CSBBible)**<sup>20</sup> Why is light given to one burdened with grief, and life to those whose existence is bitter,<sup>21</sup> who wait for death, but it does not come, and search for it more than for hidden treasure,
  - b. **Jeremiah 8:3 (CSBBible)** Death will be chosen over life by all the survivors of this evil family, those who remain wherever I have banished them."This is the declaration of the Lord of Armies.

VII. **Revelation 9:7-9 (NASB)** *The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. (v8) They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth like the teeth of lions. (v9) They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle.”*

A. “appearance” (v8)

- 1. options in my mind
  - a. was John just trying to describe what the locusts looked like in his vision?
    - i. an Arab source favors this option (Gore)
      - A/ “In head like a horse, in breast like a lion, in feet like the camel, in body like the serpent, in tail like the scorpion, in antennae like the virgins’ hair.”
    - ii. I favor this view
  - b. was he trying to describe what the demons were going to do to Jerusalem?
    - i. see Josephus quote below about effeminate assassins

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- B. “horses prepared for battle” (v8)
  - 1. an overwhelming attack force (Gore)
  - 2. Scriptures
    - a. **Job 39:19-20 (CSBBible)** <sup>19</sup> Do you give strength to the horse? Do you adorn his neck with a mane? <sup>20</sup> Do you make him leap like a locust? His proud snorting fills one with terror.
    - b. **Joel 2:3-5 (CSBBible)** <sup>3</sup> A fire devours in front of them, and behind them a flame blazes. The land in front of them is like the garden of Eden, but behind them, it is like a desert wasteland; there is no escape from them. <sup>4</sup> Their appearance is like that of horses, and they gallop like war horses. <sup>5</sup> They bound on the tops of the mountains. Their sound is like the sound of chariots, like the sound of fiery flames consuming stubble, like a mighty army deployed for war.
- C. “crowns” (v8)
  - 1. they’ll *rule* Jerusalem
- D. “men” (v8)
  - 1. intelligent enough to do a lot of damage
  - 2. could suggest the demons have human agents
- C. “hair”
  - 1. Hebrew word for “demon” is literally “hairy one”
    - a. Scriptures
      - i. Jer 51:27; Joel 1:6, 2:4-10, Lev 17:7, 2 Chron 11:15 (Chilton)  
A/ none of these say anything about hairy demons! (DT)
- E. “hair of women” (v8)
  - 1. feminine characteristics
    - a. contrasted with masculine characteristics
      - i. “faces of men”
      - ii. “teeth of lions”
      - iii. “breastplates of iron”
  - 2. possible referent
    - a. Josephus (iv.ix.10)
      - i. “With their insatiable hunger for loot, they ransacked the houses of the wealthy, murdered men and violated women for sport; they drank their spoils with blood, and from mere satiety they shamelessly gave themselves up to effeminate practices, plaiting their hair and putting on women’s clothes, drenching themselves with perfumes and painting their eyelids to make themselves attractive. They copied not merely the dress, but also the passions of women, devising in their excess of licentiousness unlawful pleasures in which they wallowed as in a brothel. Thus they entirely polluted the city with their foul practices. Yet though they wore women’s faces, their hands were murderous. They would approach with mincing steps, then suddenly become fighting men, and, whipping out their swords from under their dyed cloaks, they would run through every passerby.”
- F. “teeth of lions” (v8)
  - 1. they’ll rip the apostate Jews up
- G. “breastplates of iron” (v9)
  - 1. powerful, they can’t be killed
- H. “sound” (v9)
  - 1. in a swarm, locusts make a bodacious amount
  - 2. descriptions here generally associated with overwhelming force

VIII. **Revelation 9:10-12 (NASB)** *They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months. (v11) They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in*

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*Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon. (v12) The first woe is past; behold, two woes are still coming after these things.*

- A. “five months” (v10)
  - 1. **Revelation 9:5 (CSBBible)** They were not permitted to kill them but were to torment them for five months; their torment is like the torment caused by a scorpion when it stings someone.
- B. “angel of the abyss,” “king over them” (v11)
  - 1. Satan
    - a. one more indication the locusts are demons
      - i. and not Blackhawk helicopters
- C. “Hebrew” (v11)
  - 1. one of many indications of the essentially Hebraic character of Revelation
  - 2. R.H. Charles, *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary of the Revelation of St. John*, 2 vols., (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1920), Vol.1, pp. cxvii-cliz.
    - a. “while he [John] writes in Greek, he thinks in Hebrew”
- D. “Abaddon” (v11)
  - 1. “destruction”
- E. “Apollyon” (v11)
  - 1. “destroyer”
    - a. he’s going to destroy Jerusalem
- F. “first woe” (v12)
  - 1 the fifth trumpet
    - a. describes *internal* woes
    - b. the sixth trumpet will describe *external* woes

IX. **Revelation 9:13 (NASB)** *Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,*

- A. “voice”
  - 1. options (Mounce)
    - a. **Revelation 8:3-6 (CSBBible)** <sup>3</sup> Another angel, with a golden incense burner, came and stood at the altar. He was given a large amount of incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar in front of the throne. <sup>4</sup> The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up in the presence of God from the angel's hand. <sup>5</sup> The angel took the incense burner, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it to the earth; there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.
- B. “golden altar”
  - 1. the incense altar
    - a. to remind God’s people that His actions on earth are preceded by prayers from the saints
      - i. prayers go up, fire and blood come down
        - A/ the 7 trumpet judgments are preceded by . . .
          - 1/ incense (prayers) on the golden altar going up
          - 2/ an angel throwing blood and fire on the land going down

X. **Revelation 9:14 (NASB)** *one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”*

- A. “four”
  - 1. to emphasize the “four corners” of the Land are going to get hit (DT)

B. “angels”

1. options

a. **Revelation 7:1 (HCSB)** After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth [land], restraining the four winds of the earth so that no wind could blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

i. only a few commentators hold this (Mounce)

ii. problem (Mounce)

A/ Revelation 7:1 angels are at the four corners of the land

1/ Revelation 9:14 angels are at the river Euphrates

b. nobody knows which angels John is specifically referring to

B. “Euphrates”

1. both a symbolic and a literal reference

a. symbolic

i. the Euphrates was the northern border of Israel

A/ from whence all of Israel’s enemies came to invade and destroy

1/ examples

a/ Assyrians

b/ Babylonians

2/ Scriptures

a/ **Jeremiah 6:1** “<sup>1</sup> O ye children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee out of the midst of Jerusalem, and blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and set up a sign of fire in Bethhaccerem: for evil appeareth out of the north, and great destruction.”

b/ **Jeremiah 6:22 (HCSB)** This is what the LORD says: Look, an army is coming from a northern land; a great nation will be awakened from the remote regions of the earth.

c/ **Jeremiah 10:22 (HCSB)** <sup>22</sup> Listen! A noise—it is coming—a great commotion from the land to the north. The cities of Judah will be made desolate, a jackals’ den.

d/ **Jeremiah 13:20** “<sup>20</sup> Lift up your eyes, and behold them that come from the north: where *is* the flock *that* was given thee, thy beautiful flock? “

e/ **Jeremiah 25:9** “<sup>9</sup> Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.”

f/ Other Scriptures

i/ **Jeremiah 1:15 (CSBBible)** Indeed, I am about to summon all the clans and kingdoms of the north." This is the Lord's declaration. They will come, and each king will set up his throne at the entrance to Jerusalem's gates. They will attack all her surrounding walls and all the other cities of Judah.

ii/ **Jeremiah 25:26 (CSBBible)** all the kings of the north, both near and far from one another; that is, all the kingdoms of the world throughout the earth. . .

iii/ **Jeremiah 46:20 (CSBBible)** Egypt is a beautiful young cow, but a horsefly from the north is coming against her.

iv/ **Jeremiah 46:24 (CSBBible)** Daughter Egypt will be put to shame, handed over to a northern people.

v/ **Jeremiah 47:2 (CSBBible)** This is what the Lord says: Look, water is rising from the north and becoming an overflowing wadi. It will overflow the land

and everything in it, the cities and their inhabitants. The people will cry out, and every inhabitant of the land will wail.

vi/ **Ezekiel 26:7 (CSBBible)** For this is what the Lord God says: "See, I am about to bring King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, king of kings, against Tyre from the north with horses, chariots, cavalry, and a huge assembly of troops.

vi/ **Ezekiel 38:6 (CSBBible)** Gomer with all its troops; and Beth-togarmah from the remotest parts of the north along with all its troops — many peoples are with you.

vii/ **Ezekiel 39:2 (CSBBible)** I will turn you around, drive you on, and lead you up from the remotest parts of the north. I will bring you against the mountains of Israel.

- ii. symbolic of what
  - A/ an army of demons invading apostate Israel
- b. literal reference
  - i. Cestius invaded Palestine in fall of 66
    - A/ in reaction to a Jewish rebellion
      - 1/ which was itself in reaction to Gessius' Florus' "locust plague" in summer of 66
    - B/ Josephus, ii.xviii.9-xix.7
    - C/ sent large numbers of mounted troops from the region of the Euphrates
      - 1/ the Romans protected their eastern front with garrisons on the Euphrates

**XI. Revelation 9:15 (KJV)** *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.*

A. "hour," etc.

- 1. four angels role in history is utterly predetermined by the God of history

B. "men"

- 1. this NASB translation ("mankind") would completely destroy the preterist case
  - a/ the futurists say the judgments are on all the *earth*
- 2. the Gk word is "anthropoi"
  - a. the NASB provides the Gk word in the margin
    - i. I'm sure it's because they felt guilty about the way they translated anthropoi
- 3. samples of English versions
  - a. some versions reflect a literal meaning of anthropoi
    - i. four translations which translate "men"
      - A) KJV, ASV, Third Millennium, Douay-Rheims
    - ii. "men" would satisfy a preterist interpretation completely
      - A) the 4 destroying angels destroy 1/3 of men in the land of Israel
  - b. most versions reflect a futurist bias
    - i. "mankind"
      - A) NASB, NIV, ESV, NKJV, RSV
    - ii. "human Race"
      - A) Holman, Good News
    - iii. "all the people on earth"
      - A) Living Bible
    - iv. "humankind"
      - A) New Revised Standard Version



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4. Greek reference works

a. Vines (anthropos, “Man,” Vol 3, p.32)

i. after 1 ½ pages of definitions that have nothing to do with “mankind”

A/ under Note (3)

1/ “In Rev 9:20, the RV translates the genitive plural of anthropos with the article, “*mankind*,” (A.V., “the men”); it might have been rendered ‘(the rest of *men*) [emphasis mine]”

ii. usage

A/ 544 times translated in the NASB

1/ only 5 times translated “mankind”

a/ 3 of which are in Rev 9

i/ query: why is Rev 9:6 translated “men” instead of mankind?

A/ <sup>6</sup> And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.”

B/ if NASB translated anthropoid as “men” in Revelation 9:6

1/ why would they not translate it as “men” in Revelation 9:15?

2/ “man,” “man’s”, or “men’s”

a/ 242 times

XII. **Revelation 9:16 (NASB)** *The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.*

A. “two hundred million”

1. literal Greek

a. “myriad of myriads”

i. Robert H. Mounce, *The Book of Revelation*, p201

A) “attempts to reduce this expression to arithmetic miss the point. A ‘double myriad of myriads’ is an indefinite number of incalculable immensity.”

ii. cf. **Psalm 68:17** “The chariots of God are double myriads, thousands of thousands”

2. it is NOT a 200 million man Chinese army, for crying out loud!

3. only two translations could I find that translated it as “myriad of myriads” (or similar)

a. J.P. Green’s Literal, Young’s Literal

XIII. **Revelation 9:17-19 (HCSB)** *This is how I saw the horses in my vision: The horsemen had breastplates that were fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow. The heads of the horses were like lions’ heads, and from their mouths came fire, smoke, and sulfur.<sup>18</sup> A third of the human race (KJV → men) was killed by these three plagues—by the fire, the smoke, and the sulfur that came from their mouths.<sup>19</sup> For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails, which resemble snakes, have heads, and they inflict injury with them.*

A. “fiery red”

1. symbolizes judgment

B. “hyacinth blue”

1. a flower, and a stone, both of deep purple color

2. parallel with “smoke” in “fire (red) and smoke (deep purple) and brimstone (yellow)”

a. riders’ breastplates and horses breath were of same color

C. “sulfur yellow” (NASB → brimstone)

“brimstone”

1. sulfur

a. found on the rim (*brim*) of a volcano (ChristianAnswers.net)

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D. “fire, smoke”

1. meant to symbolize hell, from whence the demons come
  - a. **Job 41:18-21** “<sup>18</sup> His sneezes flash forth light, And his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning.  
<sup>19</sup> Out of his mouth go burning torches; Sparks of fire leap forth. <sup>20</sup> Out of his nostrils smoke goes forth As *from* a boiling pot and *burning* rushes. <sup>21</sup> His breath kindles coals, And a flame goes forth from his mouth.”
    - i. This is the Leviathan (Dragon) from hell
      - a. “fire and smoke” are the same as Rev 9:17

E. “fire... and brimstone”

1. symbolic of hell
  - a. **Revelation 19:20** “<sup>20</sup> And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”
  - b. **Revelation 21:8** “<sup>8</sup> But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

F. “man”

1. actually, “men”
  - a. see on Revelation 9:25

G. “power”

- A. in the *mouths* because of the fire, smoke, and brimstone (powers of hell)
  1. in the *tails* because tails are like serpents (demons)
    - a. bad from front to back

H. “heads”

1. intelligence of the demons? (DT)
2. is the head of the tail the serpent’s head? (yes) (DT)

XIV. **Revelation 9:20-21 (NASB)** *The rest of mankind [KJV: men], who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to 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; (v21) and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.*

A. “mankind”

1. should be “men”
  - a. cf. on 9:15

B. “did not repent”

1. even after the famine, the mass murders, the cannibalism, and the crucifixion of their fellow Jews at the rate of 500 per day
  - a. Jews in Jerusalem went on heeding the insane ravings of false prophets
    - i. who promised deliverance but gave none
    - ii. Josephus (vi.v.3) “Thus were the miserable people beguiled by these charlatans and false messengers of God, while they disregarded and disbelieved the unmistakable portents that foreshadowed the coming desolation; but, as though thunderstruck, blind, senseless, paid no heed to the clear warnings of God.”

C. “worship demons”

1. Judaism is a false cult claiming biblical authorization
  - a. and illustrates the nature of Judaism
    - i. which is NOT OT religion
    - ii. Judaism is a SATANIC religion

D. “murders”

1. why this refers to Jews

a. Scriptures

- i. **Acts 2:14, 23** “<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: <sup>23</sup> Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:”
- ii. **Acts 2:36 (HCSB)** <sup>36</sup> “Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah!”
- iii. **Acts 3:12, 14-15** “<sup>12</sup> And when Peter saw *it*, he answered unto the people, ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? <sup>14</sup> But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; <sup>15</sup> And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.”
- v. **Acts 7:51-52** “<sup>51</sup> Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye. <sup>52</sup> Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: “
  - i. this is Stephen speaking to his Jewish judicial murderers (Acts 7:58-60)

2. summary of who Jews killed or tried to kill

- a. the prophets
- b. the Messiah
- c. the first Christian martyr, Stephen
- d. Paul was stoned and left for dead

E. “sorceries”

1. Scriptures

- a. **Acts 13:6-11 (HCSB)** When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came across a sorcerer, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. <sup>7</sup> He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and desired to hear God’s message. <sup>8</sup> But Elymas the sorcerer (this is the meaning of his name) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith. <sup>9</sup> Then Saul—also called Paul—filled with the Holy Spirit, stared straight at the sorcerer <sup>10</sup> and said, “You son of the Devil, full of all deceit and all fraud, enemy of all righteousness! Won’t you ever stop perverting the straight paths of the Lord? <sup>11</sup> Now, look! The Lord’s hand is against you. You are going to be blind, and will not see the sun for a time.” Suddenly a mist and darkness fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand.
- b. **Revelation 18:23-24 (HCSB)** the light of a lamp will never shine in you again; and the voice of a groom and bride will never be heard in you again. [All this will happen] because your merchants were the nobility of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery, <sup>24</sup> and the blood of prophets and saints, and of all those slaughtered on earth, was found in you.
  - i. Jerusalem is the city in which was found the blood of prophets

F. “immorality”

1. in Revelation, John uses 12 times to refer to Israel’s apostasy
  - a. **Revelation 2:14 (CSBBible)** But I have a few things against you. You have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to place a stumbling block in front of the Israelites: to eat meat sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality.
  - b. **Revelation 2:20 (CSBBible)** But I have this against you: You tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and teaches and deceives my servants to commit sexual immorality and to eat meat sacrificed to idols.
  - c. **Revelation 2:21 (CSBBible)** I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to repent of her sexual immorality.
  - d. **Revelation 9:21 (CSBBible)** And they did not repent of their murders, their sorceries, their sexual immorality, or their thefts.
  - e. **Revelation 14:8 (CSBBible)** And another, a second angel, followed, saying, "It has fallen, Babylon the Great has fallen. She made all the nations drink the wine of her sexual immorality, which brings wrath."
  - f. **Revelation 17:2 (CSBBible)** The kings of the earth committed sexual immorality with her, and those who live on the earth became drunk on the wine of her sexual immorality."
  - g. **Revelation 17:4 (NASB)** The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality,
  - h. **Revelation 18:3 (CSBBible)** For all the nations have drunk the wine of her sexual immorality, which brings wrath. The kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown wealthy from her sensuality and excess.
  - i. **Revelation 18:9 (CSBBible)** The kings of the earth who have committed sexual immorality and shared her sensual and excessive ways will weep and mourn over her when they see the smoke from her burning.
  - j. **Revelation 19:2 (CSBBible)** because his judgments are true and righteous, because he has judged the notorious prostitute who corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality; and he has avenged the blood of his servants that was on her hands.
  - k. **Revelation 21:8 (CSBBible)** But the cowards, faithless, detestable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars — their share will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."
  - l. **Revelation 22:15 (CSBBible)** Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.