

WHO ARE THE LOCUSTS?

(Excerpt from my book, "The Book of Revelation Decoded", pages 303-307)

In Revelation 9:2, we read:

"And he opened the pit of the abyss, and smoke went up from the pit like smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened from the smoke of the pit."

(AT)

Explanation of verse 2

The smoke that went up out of the pit darkened the sun and the air. This prophecy tells us that the time will come when the spiritual visibility will be greatly reduced on the symbolic "*earth*". The dwellers of the symbolic "*earth*" who do not have "*the seal of God on their foreheads*" (verse 4), in other words, those who are not born-again, **will not be able to see clearly** what will take place next; however, they will feel the terrible results of the work of the "*locusts*" as they are described in verses 3 and 4!

In Revelation 9:3, we read:

"And locusts came into the earth from the smoke, and authority was given to them, like the authority of the scorpions of the earth." (AT)

Explanation of verse 3

As the smoke came out of "*the pit of the abyss*" and as the "*locusts*" came out of the smoke, it is manifest that the "*locusts*" are evil angels. The Lord God will let loose those

evil angels in the symbolic **“earth”** to carry out His judgment against the dwellers of the symbolic **“earth”** who have not accepted His Son as their God and Savior, and against those who are born-again, but, who **live in sin** (1 Corinthians 5:5; Revelation 2:21-23).

It is not the first time that God lets loose **evil angels** to execute His judgment. Let us read Psalms 78:49. There it says,

“He sent on them the heat of his wrath, his bitter disgust, letting loose evil angels among them.” (BBE)

The people of the symbolic **“earth”** will feel the terrible torment, but it will be hard for them to accept the fact that the **tormentors**, the **“locusts”** which will hurt them like **“scorpions”**, **are actually demonic spirits**. As the visibility will be reduced because of the smoke, many of them will not believe that demons have authority to touch them and others will not even believe that demons exist; for this reason, **they will not repent from their evil works** (verses 20,21)!

However, the Bible gives comfort to those of the symbolic **“earth”** who are truly born-again Christians and who live a life of holiness (Hebrews 12:14): **They will not be hurt by those demonic forces which have the authority to hurt men like scorpions**. Let us read Luke 10:19,20 and 1 John 5:18:

Luke 10:19,20

“Behold, I have given you the authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and on all the power of the hostile one, and nothing shall hurt you, no, never! But stop re-

joicing in this, that the evil spirits submit to you. But rather rejoice that your names are written in Heaven.”

1 John 5:18

“We know that everyone being generated from God does not sin, but the one having been generated from God keeps himself, and the evil one does not touch him.”

In Revelation 9:4, we read:

“And it was said to them not to harm the grass of the earth, neither every green thing, nor every tree, except only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.” (AT)

Explanation of verse 4

In the above verse, we meet the following symbolic terms:

1. The “*grass of the earth*”.
2. “*Every green thing*”.
3. The “*trees*”.

What do the above symbolic terms signify?

As the symbolic term “*earth*” pictures “**all those who claim to know and to believe the True God of the Bible, i.e., the Judeo-Christian community**”, and since “*the grass of the earth*”, “*every green thing*” and the “*trees*” grow on the “*earth*” --- not in the “*sea*” --- they picture **individuals of various “spiritual” levels and status within that community.**

The following scriptures help us realize that as the symbolic term “*trees*” refers to people (please read the explanation of Revelation 7:1-3), so do the symbolic terms “*grass of the earth*” and “*every green thing*”:

Job 5:25

“Thou shalt know also that thy seed shall be great, and thine offspring as the grass of the earth.”

Isaiah 40:6,7

“⁶The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof is as the flower of the field: ⁷The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.” (Also read 1 Peter 1:24.)

Isaiah 37:27

“Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded: they were as the grass of the field, and as the green herb, as the grass on the housetops, and as corn blasted before it be grown up.”

Some of the above dwellers of the symbolic “*earth*” are saved and some are not. This is the reason the “*locusts*” were told **not to harm** any of the above elements **except those who “do not have the seal of God on their foreheads”**.

In Revelation 9:5, we read:

“And [the commandment] was given to them that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented

five months; and their torment is like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.” (AT)

Explanation of verse 5

From the above verse, we observe that, because of their evil works, **God delivered the people of the symbolic “earth” up to the tormentors.** This action of God is similar to the one we read in Matthew 18:34,35. There Jesus said,

“And being angry, his lord delivered him up to the tormentors until he pay back all that debt to him. So also My heavenly Father will do to you unless each of you from your hearts forgive his brother their deviations.”

The life span of the natural locusts is up to five months. Therefore, since these demonic beings have authority to **“harm men five months”**, it is easily understood that they will hurt men to the fullest.