

## The Book Of Revelation Study 43

*Revelation 9:1-12 (NKJV)*

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

Because our world is the theater where the glorious, God-honoring story of redemption is played out, Satan and his demon hosts have attacked the human race, turning the earth into the main battleground in their cosmic war against God, the holy angels and the elect.

Satan launched his first assault in the Garden of Eden, where he successfully tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God.

The disastrous consequences were that;

*Romans 5:12 (NKJV)*

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned--

After the fall God graciously promised a Savior who would come to destroy Satan and deliver people from his power;

*Genesis 3:15 (NKJV)*

<sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Following this the whole human race strayed from God and God destroyed them all but for just a few faithful, Noah and his family.

This then was the single greatest catastrophe the earth has yet seen.

Satan's tormenting of righteous Job reveals his hatred for the godly. "Satan sought to destroy Job's faith to take him from God's kingdom back to his own kingdom of darkness."

With God's permission, Satan destroyed Job's possessions, killed his children, and ruined his health.

Job was left with an embittered wife,

*Job 2:9 (NKJV)*

*<sup>9</sup> Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!"*

And his friends, whose inept counsel drove him to distraction, and many unanswered questions about why God allowed him to suffer.

But Job remained loyal to God, proving that saving faith is permanent and God holds on to His own, so that in the end God was vindicated, and Satan's attempt to destroy Job's faith, as it would with that of any other believer, was unsuccessful.

As he did with Job, Satan continually accuses believers before God

*Revelation 12:10 (NKJV)*

*<sup>10</sup> Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down."*

*Zechariah 3:1 (NKJV)*

*<sup>1</sup> Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.*

No Nation has experienced more of Satan's assaults than Israel.

He has always had a special hatred for God's chosen people, Reason!

*Romans 9:5 (NKJV)*

*<sup>5</sup> of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.*

Throughout its history, Satan lured Israel and Judah into idolatry, immorality, and disobedience to God's law.

As a result, God brought judgment on His people, sending them into captivity in Assyria and Babylon. In the future Tribulation period Satan will once again attempt to destroy the chosen nation.

*Revelation 12:1-6 (NKJV)*

*<sup>1</sup> Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.*

*<sup>2</sup> Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.*

*<sup>3</sup> And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.*

*<sup>4</sup> His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.*

*<sup>5</sup> She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.*

<sup>6</sup> Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

*Revelation 12:13-17 (NKJV)*

<sup>13</sup> Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.

<sup>14</sup> But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

<sup>15</sup> So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood.

<sup>16</sup> But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.

<sup>17</sup> And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

From the beginning to the end of Jesus' earthly ministry, Satan fought with all his impotent might against the Lord Jesus Christ. He tried to kill Him when He was a child, then he tempted Him for forty days at the beginning of His ministry, futilely seeking to turn Him aside from the work His Father sent Him to accomplish

*Matthew 4:1-11 (NKJV)*

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

<sup>2</sup> And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.

<sup>3</sup> Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

<sup>4</sup> But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,

<sup>6</sup> and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' "

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.' "

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

<sup>9</sup> And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

A long relentless war was waged against Jesus by the Jewish leaders, whom He identified as belonging to the family of the devil

*John 8:44 (NKJV)*

<sup>44</sup> You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Satan never ceased from that effort, even attempting to use, those close to Jesus against Him;

*Mark 8:32-34 (NKJV)*

<sup>32</sup> He spoke this word openly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.

<sup>33</sup> But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me,

*Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."*

<sup>34</sup> *When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*

Satan tried to destroy the faith of the apostolic leader, Peter, demanding from God the opportunity to test him severely with the intent of destroying his faith as he had tried unsuccessfully with Job.

*Luke 22:31-32 (NKJV)*

<sup>31</sup> *And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.*

<sup>32</sup> *But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."*

The test was allowed by God and was severe.

It brought Peter to fear and denial of his Lord on three occasions;

*Luke 22:33-34 (NKJV)*

<sup>33</sup> *But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death."*

<sup>34</sup> *Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me."*

*Luke 22:54-61 (NKJV)*

<sup>54</sup> *Having arrested Him, they led Him and brought Him into the high priest's house. But Peter followed at a distance.*

<sup>55</sup> *Now when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.*

<sup>56</sup> *And a certain servant girl, seeing him as he sat by the fire, looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Him."*

<sup>57</sup> *But he denied Him, saying, "Woman, I do not know Him."*

<sup>58</sup> *And after a little while another saw him and said, "You also are of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!"*

<sup>59</sup> *Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean."*

<sup>60</sup> *But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.*

<sup>61</sup> *And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."*

But Peter repented

*Luke 22:62 (NKJV)*

<sup>62</sup> *So Peter went out and wept bitterly.*

He was restored

*John 21:15-23 (NKJV)*

<sup>15</sup> *So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."*

<sup>16</sup> *He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep."*

<sup>17</sup> *He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said*

to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

<sup>18</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish."

<sup>19</sup> This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

<sup>20</sup> Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"

<sup>21</sup> Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?"

<sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."

<sup>23</sup> Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?"

He became a great preacher beginning with Pentecost

*Acts 2:14 (NKJV)*

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.

The Church also has become the target of Satanic assaults.

In the future, Satan will serve God's purpose by being permitted to launch another deadly assault against the human race.

The attack will come at the sounding of the fifth trumpet, during the time of God's judgment in the Great Tribulation. And we see that by the result.

*Revelation 7:14 (NKJV)*

<sup>14</sup> And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For Millennia the heavens have declared God's glory;

*Psalms 19:1-2 (NKJV)*

<sup>1</sup> To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge.

But in the future they will declare His wrath.

The first four trumpet judgments will all involve either objects hurtling to earth out of the sky, or, in the case of the fourth trumpet, the heavenly bodies themselves will be affected

*Revelation 8:7-13 (NKJV)*

<sup>7</sup> The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

<sup>8</sup> Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.

<sup>9</sup> And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

<sup>10</sup> Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third

*of the rivers and on the springs of water.*

<sup>11</sup> *The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.*

<sup>12</sup> *Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.*

<sup>13</sup> *And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"*

While the destruction caused by the first four trumpet judgments will be catastrophic, the remaining three will be far worse

That was the message of the eagle flying in the heavens (8:13)

The eagles message will give people one last opportunity to repent before the rising crescendo of divine judgment reaches its apex in the final three blasts of God's holy anger.

Now listen, it appears that those who go through the fifth trumpet judgment without repenting may be confirmed in their unrepentant state

*Revelation 9:20-21 (NKJV)*

<sup>20</sup> *But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.*

<sup>21</sup> *And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.*

*Revelation 16:9-11 (NKJV)*

<sup>9</sup> *And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.*

<sup>10</sup> *Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.*

<sup>11</sup> *They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.*

Each of the first four trumpet judgments affect the physical universe in some way, but with the sounding of the fifth trumpet the focus will shift from the physical to the spiritual realm

The traumatic events associated with that fifth trumpet vision unfold in four scenes;

## **The Pit Unlocked**

### **The Power Unleashed**

### **The Appearance Unveiled**

### **The Prince Unmasked.**