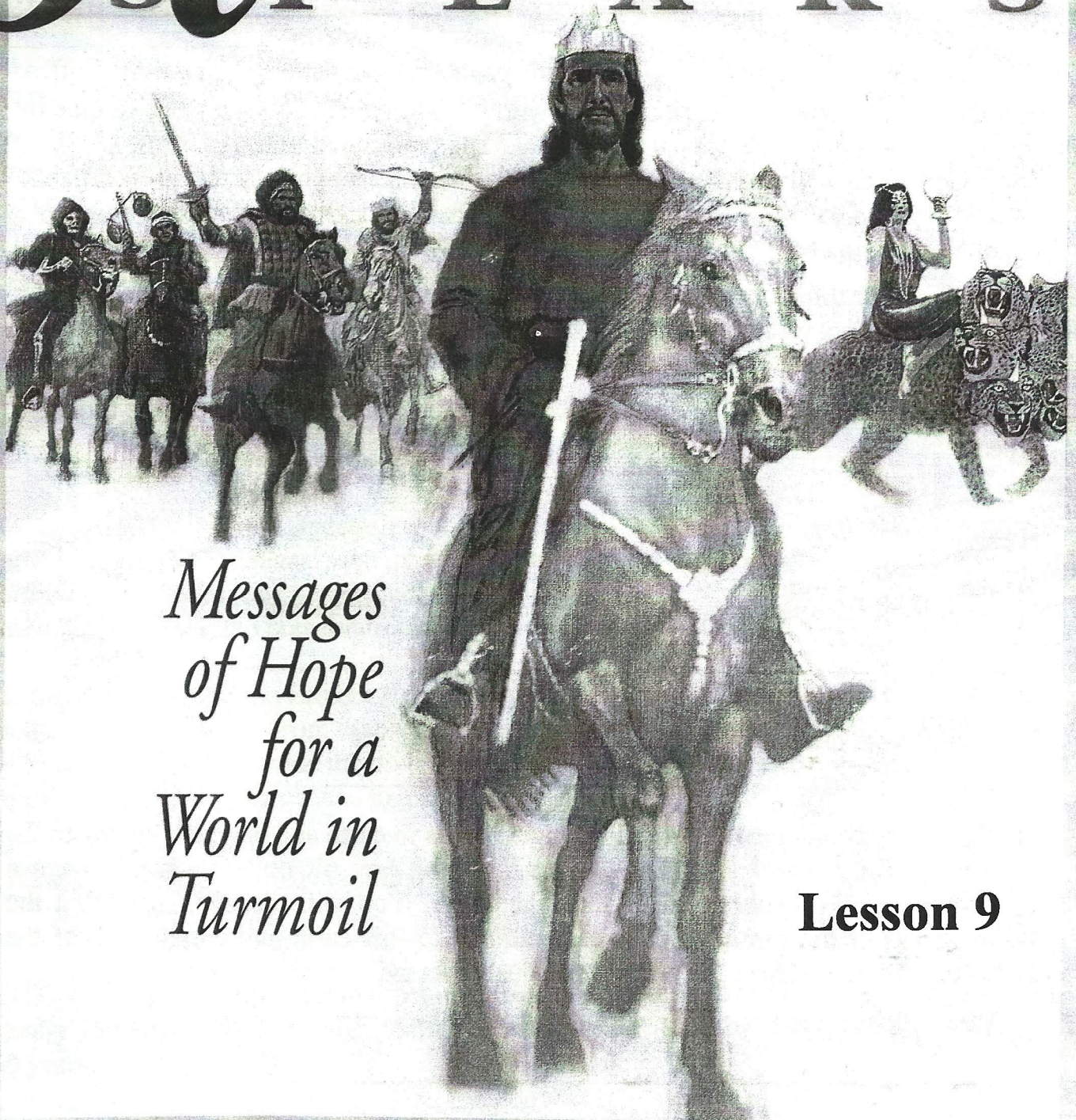


# Revelation

## S P E A K S



*Messages  
of Hope  
for a  
World in  
Turmoil*

**Lesson 9**



## The Seven Trumpets Part 2

[This chapter is based on Revelation, Chapter 9]

The last lesson closed with the lights of the pagan Roman Empire being turned off. We also noticed how the church, clothed with the sun, moon, and stars, had to hide in the wilderness because of severe persecution. The worldly church was being controlled by the spirit of the antichrist. So terrible was its apostasy that it became the worst of all persecutions! Just as saintly prayers called for deliverance from pagan Rome, later saints too prayed for deliverance from papal Rome and its persecution.

The first four trumpets were frightening enough, but now John hears an alarming shout, "Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth" (Rev. 8:13). John's heart must have stood still! What fearsome horror lay ahead!

Let's turn to our lesson and discover what prophecy has to reveal about the three woes!

*READ: Revelation 9:1-21. Last three trumpets.*

**1. In symbolic prophecy, what do stars represent? Revelation 1:20.**

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**2. What was given to this "fallen star"? Revelation 9:1**

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. NOTE: You will notice that this fallen angel comes to earth and is given the key to the "bottomless pit." The "pit" then, is on this earth. Any pit on earth would have a bottom, so this is symbolic, not literal, language. You will discover that often the Bible speaks of the forces of darkness confined to this earth and coming out of the bottomless pit. Therefore, the "pit" is obviously this evil world.

**3. Who is this fallen angel? Revelation 12:9, Luke 10:18.**

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## Revelation Speaks – 2

**4. What happened when Satan was allowed to open the “bottomless pit”? Revelation 9:2.**

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**5 What was darkened by the smoke? Revelation 9:2.**

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**6. What insect is the major symbol of this prophecy? Revelation 9:3.**

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NOTE: These insects *were* not ordinary locusts. Ordinary locusts do not sting. These were *more* like scorpions. They *were* wearing crowns of gold over their hair like women; their shapes *were* like horses prepared *for* battle. (See Revelation 9:7, 8.)

It is interesting to notice that the land range of the desert locust is approximately the same as the land range for the spread of Islam. "The range of the desert locust is notable *for our* purpose. It spreads over sixty different countries - all over north Africa, up into Spain in the west, northward into Asia Minor (Turkey) in the east, and eastward through Iran into Pakistan and India." -*God Cares*, Vol. 2, p. 246.

**7. Who were the locust-like scorpions told to hurt? Revelation 9:4.**

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NOTE: In spite of great apostasies in both western and eastern Rome, there *were* many groups of Christians who preserved the biblical faith of early Christianity. Normally, they *were* not persecuted by the Muslims. The verse suggests that Islam would play a role in the preservation of the church in the wilderness.

The Muslims plagued the Eastern Roman Empire, centered in Constantinople, and finally brought it down. From that base it would threaten the existence of the Roman Catholic Church and provide the diversion to papal armies long enough to give the Protestant Reformation a chance to grow.

**8. How long would this torment last? Revelation 9:5.**

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NOTE: Using a day for a year in symbolic prophecy (Ezekiel 4:6), five months is actually 150 years. Thirty days (a prophetic month) times the 5 months equals 150 years.



### **Revelation Speaks - 3**

Historian Edward Gibbons says that it was on July 27, 1299 that the Ottoman Turks first invaded the Greek Empire or Nicodemia. The assault was significant enough to start 150 years of almost continual warfare. Their king was Abaddon, or Apollyon, or "Destroyer."

#### **9. With which part of their bodies did these scorpions sting? Revelation 9:10.**

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NOTE: The Moslem warriors were expert horsemen. With long hair flowing from under their turbans, they would ride straight toward the enemy, turn around and pretend to retreat. Just as the opposing force dropped its guard, the Arabs would unleash a devastating barrage of arrows over the tails of their horses.

#### **10. What river is pictured as the source of the next woe? Revelation 9:13, 14.**

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NOTE: The Euphrates was well beyond the northern boundary of Israel. Many of her enemies often attacked Israel from this region. God's people were in apostasy at this time and were being punished by fanatical religious groups as pagan Rome was attacked by the barbarian tribes. The river is symbolic of the source of the enemies of God's people. The four evil angels may represent the four sultans, or kings, who comprised the Turkish Empire at the end of the 150 years.

#### **11. How long was the second woe to last? Revelation 9:15.**

Which were prepared for \_\_\_\_\_ to slay a third of mankind.

NOTE: 'As we have seen, 'hail' and 'fire' come from poetic descriptions of battles as thunderstorms. Hail fire and 'blood' taken together characterize warfare. Destruction of roughly a 'third' of the available greenery indicates significant military activity but certainly not global annihilation." -*God Cares*, Vol. 2, p. 237.

Here is the calculation:

1 hour = 15 days (1/24th of a year)

1 day = 1 year

1 month = 30 years

1 year = 360 years

Total = 391 years and 15 days

July 27, 1299 to 1449 . . . . 150 years (5 months)

1449 to August 11, 1840 . . . . 391 years and 15 days

## **Revelation Speaks - 4**

NOTE: Two years before 1840, a Presbyterian minister by the name of Joseph Litch published an article saying that the Ottoman Empire would fall in August 1840, based on this prophecy. A short time before the event, he declared it would be August 11. Such boldness was ridiculed. However, Litch received 1,000 letters from prominent infidels renouncing their position after the Sultan put himself under the protection of Christian powers on that very date.

### **12. What were the colors of the breastplate? Revelation 9:17.**

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NOTE: Ancient mosaics show these colors to be prominent on the Ottoman soldiers.

### **13. What came out of their mouths? Revelation 9:17.**

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NOTE: These horsemen have tails like serpents, which kill. Smoke and fire are emphasized as weapons. When the Ottomans discovered gunpowder, they toppled the Christian Greek Empire. The walls of Constantinople, that had stood for hundreds of years, crumbled before the onslaught. The second period found them completely overrunning the Middle East. Even Europe came very close to being conquered.

### **14. With all of these disasters, did people repent? Revelation 9:20,21.**

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NOTE: We will not come to the third woe until chapter 11. There are other momentous developments that must take place under the sixth trumpet.

### ***My Response***

\_\_\_ When troubles come your way, do you humble yourself before God and ask for help?

\_\_\_ Do you see that there are two opposing forces in the world, each working for our loyalty and allegiance?

\_\_\_ Is it your desire to follow God and obey Him whatever the cost?