



PROPHETIC STUDY SERIES

THE ANTICHRIST

WHEN WILL HE APPEAR?

WAKE UP AMERICA SEMINARS
Proclaiming Revelation's Story

ANTICHRIST PART 2 OF 4

To the Reader,

If you have not read Part 1 in this series, please go to *wake-up.org/studies* and read Booklet #1 if you do not have the printed copy. Reading the booklets in order will make this subject much easier to understand. Additional study materials are also available at the web site.

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On occasion, I have inserted italics and brackets in Scripture quotations to enhance understanding, not to change the meaning

There are nine questions in this study guide which I hope you will answer. The author's choices are listed at the end of the booklet. May God bless your study on this critical and timely topic!

Larry Wilson

Other Booklets in this Series

The Antichrist Pt. 1 – The Man of Lawlessness
The Antichrist Pt. 3 – His Worldwide Deception
The Antichrist Pt. 4 – His Throne and Tattoo

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The Antichrist

Part 2 - When Will He Appear?

The Antichrist Will Appear at the Fifth Trumpet

The prophet John saw seven angels standing before God and seven trumpets were given to them. (Revelation 8:2) John says when the fifth angel sounds his trumpet, the Antichrist will appear! (Revelation 9:1-11) Although the Bible tells us the Antichrist will appear at the fifth trumpet, the knowledge is not helpful if we have no idea when the fifth trumpet will occur. God has a reason for obscuring when the Antichrist will appear because He wants to surprise people who rejected the testimony of the 144,000. In fact, He wants the appearing of the Antichrist to be “a powerful delusion.” Remember Paul’s words? **“They [the wicked] perish because they *refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.*”** (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12, insertion and italics mine)

It may seem inconsistent that a God of love would send a powerful delusion so wicked people will believe a lie; but once you understand the circumstances, it makes sense! Consider this Bible example: If God had wanted to save the world in Noah’s day, He could have left

the door of the ark open for a few hours *after* it began to rain. As it was, the door closed *before* the rain began because God had warned the people through His servant Noah for 120 years. Salvation always requires faith in God and a love for His truth!

Consider the world in Noah's day from God's point of view: **"The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the Earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord grieved that He had made man on the Earth, and His heart was filled pain."** (Genesis 6:5-6) God is responsible for the presence of human beings on Earth. He created us in His image and He sustains life. We cannot keep ourselves alive. He loves us, has given us free will with the power of choice. He has given us righteous laws and high standards by which to live so purpose and happiness fill our lives. When human beings become evil and violent, willfully and knowingly rejecting the clearest evidence of God's will, His only solution is to destroy them. This principle explains the flood and why God will permit the Antichrist to ruin cities, make the world a wilderness, and kill one-third of mankind before the Second Coming!

During the Great Tribulation, God will reveal His will to everyone through His servants, the 144,000. Most

people will not submit to God's requirements and rebel (the great rebellion). After a period of grace, when God determines extended mercy has no redeeming effect, He will release the Antichrist. God knows that by releasing the Antichrist, a few wicked people will come to repentance and be saved after seeing evil incarnate. Current illustrations of man's inhumanity to man is nothing compared with the cruel and revolting ways of the devil and his demons.

Loving truth is extremely important to God, but it does not normally appeal to our sinful nature. The Holy Spirit creates a love for truth within us when we are born again. A humble spirit, a teachable attitude, and an honest heart, are prerequisites for finding truth. God chose Noah to warn the world of a coming flood. 2 Peter 2:5 says that Noah was a preacher of righteousness. Genesis 6:3 says the Lord told Noah He was only going to tolerate humankind's wickedness for 120 more years. I believe Noah told the world *when* the flood was coming because he knew the year. However, people treated his message with contempt and they went about their activities. Jesus predicted a parallel: **“For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took**

them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.” (Matthew 24:38-39)

Question #1: Please circle the first three words of the sentence above best describing why God releases the Antichrist.

God Has Secrets

One day, **“The disciples came to Him [Jesus] and asked, ‘Why do you speak to the people in parables?’ He replied, ‘Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of Heaven has been given to you, but not to them.’ ”** (Matthew 13:10-11, insertion mine) Jesus hid the secrets of the kingdom of Heaven for two reasons. First, if Jesus spoke clearly about the requirements for the kingdom, the truth would have made the Jews furious and they would have tried to kill Him prematurely. In fact, this almost happened! (Luke 4:29.) Jesus summarized the importance of being discreet with truth saying, **“Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.”** (Matthew 7:6) More importantly, the Father reveals truth to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Jesus said, **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”** (Matthew 5:6)

The Father seeks a certain type of person for the kingdom of Heaven. Jesus said, **“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the Earth. . . Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”** (Matthew 5:5,8) **“True worshipers will worship the Father in *spirit and truth*, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is [humble in] spirit, and His worshipers must worship in [the same humble] spirit and in truth.”** (John 4:23-24, insertions and italics mine) Apparently, the Father wants a particular kind of people in the kingdom of Heaven because the Antichrist’s miracles, signs, and wonders will not appeal to them. Jesus said, **“A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign!”** (Matthew 12:39) Jesus said this because a miracle is a show of power, but a show of power does not change the heart! King Pharaoh saw ten miracles that did not change his heart. The Pharisees saw Jesus perform many miracles that did not change their hearts. The Antichrist knows this very well. He ruled over Pharaoh and the Pharisees. Therefore, the devil will provide many signs and wonders to satisfy people controlled by their sinful nature. He will deceive and soothe the consciences of billions of people, convincing them the 144,000 are demon possessed! Jesus warned, **“For false christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect [those who know better] – if**

that were possible.” (Matthew 24:24, insertion mine)
When right becomes wrong and wrong becomes right, the ultimate deception has occurred.

God's ways can seem strange at first, but when viewed in reverse, they always make sense. God set up circumstances in Noah's day so that salvation from the flood was a test of faith. God sent a messenger with a *timely* message and He tested the inhabitants of Earth to see who would love truth. Even the miracle of seeing wild animals calmly file into the ark, two-by-two (unclean animals), or in groups of seven (clean animals), did not convince the people! All but eight people drowned. Even the men who helped build the boat, other than Noah's sons, failed the test of faith. Now, I am speculating that men other than Noah's sons helped build this huge ship. The Bible does not address this point, but it would have taken many men to make an ark this size. During construction, many men entered the ark to build the stalls and accommodations; however, entering the ark for wages and entering because of faith are very different motives. Unfortunately, the same thing is about to happen again. God will set up circumstances for a test of faith. (Revelation 3:10) He will send 144,000 messengers throughout the world with a timely message and the Bible predicts a huge number of people will forfeit salvation because they do not love truth.

Question #2: Please circle the first three words of the sentence above best describing why many people will be attracted to the Antichrist's miracles.

Angels Are Everywhere, but We Do Not See Them

Booklet #1 shows the Antichrist, the man of lawlessness, is an angel cast out of Heaven. We may not be aware of it, but angels from Heaven and the Abyss are all around us. However, we do not see them because God keeps them out of sight. (Hebrews 1:14; 1 Peter 5:8) Most Christians do not anticipate seeing the devil in the form of a glorious man, but 'supernatural' will become the norm when God allows the Antichrist to appear. The following texts about people seeing angels illustrate this point:

1. Hagar, the mother of Ishmael, saw an angel. (Genesis 16)
2. Abraham saw three angels in the form of three men. (Genesis 18)
3. Jacob saw an angel in the form of a man. (Genesis 32)
4. Moses saw an angel. (Exodus 3)

5. Balaam and Balaam's donkey saw an angel. (Numbers 22)
6. Gideon saw an angel. (Judges 6)
7. Elijah saw an angel. (2 Kings 1)
8. Araunah, his four sons, and King David saw an angel. (1 Chronicles 21)
9. Daniel saw an angel. (Daniel 9)
10. Zechariah, a priest, saw an angel. (Luke 1)
11. Peter saw an angel. (Acts 12)
12. John saw an angel. (Revelation 19)
13. The whole camp of Israel saw and heard an angel! (Judges 2)

The World Will See an Angel King from the Abyss!

When the fifth trumpet sounds, the whole world will see the angel king from the Abyss.* He is the Anti-christ, he will claim to be God, and he will turn the world upside down. He will oppose and abolish the religions and governments of the world. He will destroy cities and make the world a wilderness. The book of Revelation describes the devil as the "beast from the Abyss!" (Revelation 17:8) You need to know this because when he appears, he will catch the wicked by

surprise. Thoughtfully consider the angel's testimony to John:

* **Note:** God used “the Abyss” (bottomless pit, KJV) to describe the spirit realm to John. The ancients thought Earth was a flat plate. If a person dug a water well too deep, he would create a bottomless pit and fall into the Abyss by digging through the plate. The ancients believed that demons lived beneath the Earth and volcanos were chimneys proving that a perpetual fire burned under the Earth. God used these contemporary images when He gave the Patmos vision to John and the language works perfectly well once you understand how God used these ancient ideas.

“[John,] **The beast, which you saw** [earlier in Chapter 12, John saw Satan represented as a great red dragon. John saw a war in Heaven between Michael and the great red dragon. The beast was thrown out of Heaven and cast into the Earth. The angel refers John back to the great red dragon saying, it], **once was** [visible] **now is not** [visible, because it was cast into the Abyss – the spirit realm], **and** [yet it, the great red dragon] **will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction.** [However, before the beast is destroyed,] **The inhabitants of the Earth whose names have not been**

written in the Book of Life from the creation of the world [that is, wicked people] **will be astonished** [surprised, overwhelmed] **when they** [actually] **see the beast** [because it will be the great red dragon in the form of a glorious man. The wicked will be caught off guard], **because he** [the beast] **once was** [visible], **now is not** [visible], **and yet will come** [out of the Abyss – the spirit realm and be plainly visible!].” (Revelation 17:8, insertions mine)

Question #3: Please circle the first three words of the sentence above best describing why the wicked will be astonished when they see the beast from the Abyss.

The wicked will be astonished when they literally see the man of lawlessness. His incredible glory and endless miracles, signs, and wonders will convince the wicked that God lives among men. Paul warned, **“The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie** [that he is God], **and** [he will use] **all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful**

delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.” (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12, NIV 2011 version, insertions and italics mine)

Very few anticipate seeing a demon from the Abyss even though we just reviewed the texts where people actually saw angels. For centuries, people have argued over the identity of the Antichrist, never entertaining the idea he could, or would, be a superior being to a human. When God wants people to see, He opens their eyes; and when the time is right, the whole world will see the “angel king from the Abyss!” (Revelation 9:11) Ages ago, God set the date when the Antichrist will appear.

God Set the Hour, Day, Month and Year

Please consider the timing of the sixth trumpet: **“The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice . . . It said . . . ‘Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.’ And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.”** (Revelation 9:13-15) Because God set the date for the sixth trumpet by His sovereign authority (Acts 1:7), it is reasonable to con-

clude God has also set the date for the fifth trumpet because the fifth trumpet lasts for five months before the sixth trumpet begins. (Revelation 9:10) Of course, God has set the dates for all the events that will occur during Earth's final days.

God has not yet revealed the hour, day, month, and year when the Antichrist will appear, but I believe the 144,000 will announce his appearance so the saints will be prepared. Even though the Bible does not give a date, we can narrow down the time. Consider how well these four items fit together:

1. Dates for the fifth and sixth trumpet have been set.
2. The fifth trumpet occurs after the fourth trumpet.
3. Paul says the wicked "refused" to love the truth. This indicates the whole world had an opportunity to hear the truth. Given the global destruction caused by the first four trumpets, it will take some time for the 144,000 to present God's truth to everyone on Earth.
4. A world-wide rebellion must occur before the Antichrist appears. Daniel says, **"When rebels have become completely wicked, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise."** (Daniel 8:23)

Time Study Versus Date Setting

I would like to present an idea that may be helpful in understanding when the Antichrist, the man of lawlessness, the beast from the Abyss, will appear. Given the nature of this idea, I need to first write that a world of difference exists between time study and date setting. God has put eighteen prophetic time periods in the books of Daniel and Revelation; properly aligning them is essential to understanding God's plans. Aligning these prophetic time periods is time study. Date setting, on the other hand, is a fool's errand.

I am wondering if the devil and his demons could be released from the Abyss on the 891st day of the Great Tribulation. Please consider the following: The Bible teaches God's wrath will initiate the Great Tribulation. Day One of the Great Tribulation will be marked by physical signs in the Heavens and in the Earth. (Revelation 8:5) There will be enormous bolts of lightning from the sky to Earth and horizon to horizon. There will be intimidating peals of thunder. There will be voices coming up out of the Earth and a global earthquake that tears apart power grids, runways, train tracks, and bridges. Everyone on Earth will tremble when a small sample of God's wrath is released on Day One.

God's wrath will come in two phases. The first phase contains mercy: People can repent and be saved. The second phase has no mercy: The wicked will commit the unpardonable sin and receive the mark of the beast. For reasons beyond the scope of this study, I understand the seven trumpets will last 1,264 days and the seven bowls will last 70 days.

Question #4: Please circle the first three words of the sentence above best describing the commencement of the Great Tribulation.

It was customary in ancient times for kings to destroy two-thirds of the people who rebelled against them. (2 Samuel 8:1,2; Ezekiel 5:8-12; Zechariah 13:8) Kings did this because first, survivors could pay taxes and every king knew that more revenue in the treasury meant more money for his army. Second, if a conquered city was not destroyed, it became another outpost for the king. He did not have to spend time and resources to build a fort. Finally, the merciful act of sparing one-third of the people quickly changed the loyalty of many survivors. The king was no longer viewed as an enemy, he was regarded a generous benefactor.

You need to understand this custom to appreciate the language used in the seven trumpets. As you read the

following texts, notice the use of “thirds.” God repetitively destroys one-third, the inference, of course, is that He spares two-thirds. This reveals God’s great mercy for the people on Earth without using the word, “mercy.” Truth and gems have this element in common, they rarely lie on the surface.

First trumpet: “A third of the Earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.” (Revelation 8:7)

Second trumpet: “A third of the sea turned into blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.” (Revelation 8:8-9)

Third trumpet: “A great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water – the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.” (Revelation 8:10-11)

Fourth trumpet: “The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, 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 turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.” (Revelation 8:12)

Sixth trumpet: “And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.” (Revelation 9:15)

I have called your attention to God’s great mercy during the Great Tribulation to suggest that God may hold back the Antichrist for two-thirds of the time allotted for the Great Tribulation. Daniel 12:11,12 indicates the Great Tribulation will last 1,335 days. This odd number of days is evenly divisible by thirds (1,335 days divided by 3 = 445 days). Therefore, if God mercifully keeps the devil in the Abyss for two-thirds of the Great Tribulation, the devil would appear on the 891st day!

Beginning with Day One, the 144,000 servants of God would have about 29 months to present the gospel of Jesus before the Antichrist appears. This would be enough time for the world to hear and thoughtfully consider God’s truth. This would also give time for a worldwide rebellion to occur. After the 144,000 have proclaimed the testimony of Jesus for 29 months to billions of people under the worst possible circumstances, most of the world’s people will have decided to obey or reject the gospel of Jesus. If this scenario is true, the forward advance of the gospel ends as “the proper time” arrives for releasing the devil and his angels from the Abyss. The devil and his demons would be physi-

cally visible and active on Earth during the last one-third (445 days) of the Great Tribulation.

One final note on this possible scenario. The last three trumpets are called “three woes” because they are three curses poured upon wicked people. If God keeps the devil in the Abyss until the last third of the time allotted for the Great Tribulation, there is perfect harmony from the sum of the parts. After patiently waiting for 890 days for the people of Earth to hear the gospel and choose whom they will serve, God releases a destroyer (the Antichrist) to close the drama with sin and rebellion. If this scenario occurs, the final 445 days of Earth’s history will be filled with unspeakable misery and suffering. Of course, time will tell.

Question #5: Please circle the first three words of the sentence above best describing the repetitive use of “a third” in the seven trumpets.

The Fifth Trumpet Explained

The Bible teaches God will release the devil and his demons at the fifth trumpet. As you study this short commentary, try to put yourself in John’s shoes. God used ideas and objects in the vision that John understood. God wanted him to describe a scenario that has no

equal or parallel in Earth's history, so God used "building blocks" familiar to John. Notice God's constant use of metaphors to describe the prophecy by using familiar elements John had seen or experienced. The scenario presented in the fifth trumpet makes sense once you understand the use of metaphors!

1. **"The fifth angel [that stands before God] sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the Earth."** (Revelation 9:1, insertion mine) The fallen star is Satan, the "morning star," "son of the dawn," according to Isaiah 14:12 who was cast out of Heaven because of his rebellion. The Lord said of Satan, **"Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the Earth."** (Ezekiel 28:17) Centuries later, Jesus told His disciples, **"I saw Satan fall like lightning from Heaven."** (Luke 10:18)
2. **"The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss."** (Revelation 9:1) This sentence means that Satan cannot possibly escape the Abyss (the spirit realm) until God grants permission (gives him the key). Paul wrote, **"And now you know what is holding him [the man of lawlessness] back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time."** (2 Thessalonians 2:6, insertion mine)

3. **“When he [Satan] opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The *sun and sky* were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. And out of the smoke *locusts came down upon the Earth* and were given power like that of scorpions of the Earth.”** (Revelation 9:2,3, insertion and italics mine) When the devil and his angels are released from the spirit realm, the world will be plagued by a swarm of demons physically descending from the sky! From John’s perspective, the horde was so great the only thing he could compare it to was a dense swarm of locusts! Satan will descend from the sky masquerading as Almighty God with millions of fallen angels obeying his commands. The wicked will be astonished and overwhelmed by their supernatural powers.

Note: The devil and his demons will imitate the Second Coming (descending from the sky) many times in order for people in different parts of the world to see their glory and power. They will walk on the Earth, speaking and associating with people. This is unlike Jesus when He returns. Jesus will not touch the Earth at the Second Coming. The saints will meet the Lord “in the air.” (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17) Jesus will

gather up the saints from Earth and take them to Heaven to fulfill His promise. (John 14:2,3) The devil will have to walk and live on Earth to do what he plans to do. He will promise a thousand years of peace and prosperity, but this is a lie. Jesus and the saints will not walk on the Earth again until He creates a new Heaven and Earth. The saints will reign with Jesus in Heaven as judges during the thousand years, and together, they will determine the amount of restitution wicked people will have to suffer in Hell. (1 Corinthians 6:2,3)

Question #6: Please circle the first three words of the sentence above best describing why the devil will walk and live on Earth.

4. **“They [the demons] were told not to harm the grass of the Earth or any plant or tree [the devil and his angels are not permitted to destroy the Earth during the five months of the fifth trumpet], but [they are permitted to torture] only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the**

sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man. During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.” (Revelation 9:4)

The devil and his demons will not be permitted to torture those who have the seal of God on their foreheads (the saints) during the five months of the fifth trumpet. The seal of God is a topic that everyone should study. (See wake-up.org/studies) Briefly, the sealing points to an incredible gift which God will give to everyone who passes the test of faith. The first people to be sealed will be the 144,000. During the Great Tribulation, all who love the truth and pass the test of faith will also be “sealed.” The sealing is the removal of the sinful nature and once the sinful nature is removed, a person will have no further inclination to sin!

When a person is born again, two natures constantly war against each other. The flesh wants one thing, the Spirit wants another. **“For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.”** (Romans 8:13) When a person is sealed during the Great Tribulation, the desires of the sinful nature are removed and the door to temptation is sealed! People who receive

the seal of God will be like Adam and Eve before they sinned!

When the fifth trumpet occurs, the world will be divided into three groups of people. The first group, the saints, will be sealed. I call the other two groups “the religious wicked” and “the non-religious wicked.” The religious wicked group is like the Pharisees when Jesus was on Earth. This group will be comprised of people who worship their religion because their religion is their God. These people do not love truth. They will reject the clearest evidence of God’s will because they love their religion. These wicked people will easily fall for the devil’s deceptions and after they see his miracles, they will believe that he is “God.” The final group, the non-religious wicked, is comprised of groups like communists, agnostics, and atheists. This is the group Satan’s demons will attack and torture during the fifth trumpet.

The devil will not attack his followers and he cannot attack the saints, so his prey will be the remaining group, the non-religious wicked. God restricts the devil because first, God wants, at the end of the Great Tribulation, sheep and goats. Everyone will either obey Jesus or the Antichrist. **“All inhabitants of the Earth will worship the beast – all**

whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.” (Revelation 13:8, italics mine) Second, when the religious wicked and non-religious wicked see the cruel torture Satan’s angels inflict on people, God knows some individuals will reconsider the truth spoken by the 144,000 and repent of their rebellion. God wants to save everyone. He is not willing that any should perish, but He has no grace for rebellious people who defy His sovereign authority! Therefore, God allows the devil to do what he delights (torture people), so many religious and non-religious people will come to their senses and realize that man is not sovereign. Instead, there are higher powers to which man must give an account. At the end of the Great Tribulation, everyone will be found obeying a higher power. Fortunately, during the time allotted for the seven trumpets, the door to salvation is still open.

Question #7: Please circle the first three words of the sentence above best describing the religious wicked.

Question #8: Please circle the first three words of the sentence above best describing the non-religious wicked.

5. **“The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle.”** (Revelation 9:7) – John used a metaphor, “the locusts looked like,” so that we can understand the demons are on a deadly mission. They will appear glorious and to those who embrace the Antichrist as “God,” they will be very gracious to make his deceit effective. Make no mistake, the demons are determined to destroy the human race and the world.

“On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces.” (Revelation 9:7) – The metaphor “crowns of gold” means even the lowliest demon has sovereign authority over human beings. They have faces like human beings, because they were created in the image of God.

“Their hair was like women’s hair, and their teeth were like lions’ teeth.” (Revelation 9:8) – The metaphor “women’s hair” means they will be beautiful beings to look upon. Paul wrote, **“If a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering.”** (1 Corinthians 11:15) The metaphor, “lions’ teeth,” means these aliens from the Abyss will be powerful and deadly. Mankind will be powerless. They will do whatever they want, unimaginable evil, and no one can stop them. If the man of lawlessness has no respect for the laws, religions

and governments of the world, do you think his demons will be any different?

6. **“They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle.”** (Revelation 9:9) – The metaphor, “breastplates of iron,” means they cannot be killed. The metaphor, “thundering of many horses and chariots,” means the whole world is under siege.

“They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months.” (Revelation 9:10) – The metaphor, “like scorpions” means they will be able to inflict searing pain on their helpless victims by simply touching them. When the five months have ended, many people will be left among the non-religious wicked group. The devil will kill them along with others when the sixth trumpet occurs.

7. **“They [the demons] had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek, is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer). The first woe [curse] is past; two other woes [two remaining curses] are yet to come.”** (Revelation 9:11-12, insertions mine) The angel king of the Abyss is the devil, the man of lawless-

ness, the great red dragon, the beast that will come up from the Abyss and astonish the wicked. The first four trumpets fall on wicked places, the last three fall on wicked people. The two remaining curses are the sixth trumpet (second woe) and seventh trumpet (the third woe which marks the beginning of the seven bowls).

Note: Jesus is given many titles in the Bible and so is the devil. This practice is necessary to describe the nature of their character and work. For example, Jesus is called “The Lamb of God,” “The Word,” “Messiah,” “I Am,” “The Son of God,” “King of kings and Lord of lords,” “The Son of Man,” and many other titles. Each title reveals an identity that other titles do not address. Similarly, the devil is called, “morning star,” “son of the dawn,” “the man of lawlessness,” “a master of intrigue,” “Satan,” “the angel king of the abyss,” “the king of the north,” “the great red dragon,” “the beast from the abyss,” “the false prophet,” and other titles.

Quiz #9: Please circle the first three words of the sentence above best describing why Jesus and the devil have numerous titles.

Summary

God has set the hour, day, month, and year of the fifth trumpet when the Antichrist will appear. He has not revealed the date, but we have clues indicating when this event will happen. If God holds back the devil and his angels' arrival for two-thirds of the 1,335 days allotted for the Great Tribulation, they could appear on day 891; time will tell.

God intends to surprise the wicked with the devil's appearing because they willingly and knowingly refused to love the truth and be saved. When man's rebellion has exhausted God's patience, God will release and reveal the man of lawlessness. The prophet Daniel also wrote about this: **"In the latter part of their reign, when rebels have become completely wicked, a stern-faced king, a master of intrigue, will arise. He will become very strong, but not by his own power. He will cause astounding devastation and will succeed in whatever he does. He will destroy the mighty men and the holy people."** (Daniel 8:23-24)

The devil will appear on Earth in the form of a man, but he will not be an ordinary man. He will be a lawless man who will oppose and abolish the governments and religions of the world. He will abolish the religions and governments of the world to set up a counterfeit theocracy, his own government and religion. He will appear to be King

of kings and Lord of lords for a short time. God will give him permission to rule over and destroy the whole Earth. Isaiah says he will turn the world into a wilderness. John says his **“name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek, Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).”** (Revelation 9:11)

I pray you will prepare for the fulfillment of God's Word! I encourage you to study further into this topic because you love truth. Hopefully, you will share this message with friends and family so that they too will not be deceived by a miracle-working demon. Please review this study and answer the quizzes. Then, read Parts III and IV as soon as possible.

Answers to Study Questions

(Note: Some sentences may begin with the same three words, so if an author's choice doesn't make sense, search for another sentence.)

1. They [the wicked] perish because
2. Therefore, the devil
3. The inhabitants of
4. Day One of
5. This reveals God's
6. The devil will
7. The religious wicked
8. The final group
9. This practice is

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