

Current Affairs #96 – Locusts Out of the Abyss

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Now, so much more can be said than I really do have time to say, so I want to keep going.

Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 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 (Revelation 9:3-4 NKJV).

Let's talk about that for a few moments. So they came up, and they were given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. In the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 8, verse 15, when Moses recites to Israel their journey up out of Egypt through the wilderness, he cites the words of God. He tells them what God says, and God said to Israel, in Deuteronomy 8:15, "I brought you through this vast and trackless desert, with its scorpions and snakes." He attaches the word "scorpion" to the word "snakes," speaking of the distress of Israel when they came through the wilderness—obvious analogies to being attacked by the serpent.

We know that there was a time, I believe it was at Rephidim, when poisonous serpents came into the camp. They stung the Israelites, and they were dying of these stings until Moses lifted up the serpent of brass.¹ He made a serpent of brass or bronze and named it Nehushtan.² All of these things would just be incidental references, filling in details, but for the fact that in notable passages, like in John 3:14-15 in the New Testament it would say, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up." There, the analogy is to Christ. But it is not an analogy that puts Christ in the same camp as Satan, because the serpent of brass or bronze raised up on the pole healed them. So, it was an analogy to Christ on the cross healing the world of the bite of the serpent.

All Scripture quotations are from the NKJV Bible, unless otherwise noted.

¹ See Numbers 21:4-9

² See *Nehushtan*, Strong's Hebrew 5180 - <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/5180.htm> ; see also 2 Kings 18:4

It is interesting. He said, “to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.” Scorpions, typically, like snakes, are found in the dirt. So, there is an analogy to that power. The demons have power in the way scorpions have power, and it tells us very plainly the connection to scorpions and snakes is that they have demonic power. They have power that has been given to demons.

Here again, we see it says, “and to them was given power.” We talked the last time about how Satan had to ask for authority to torment or to test Job. The demon, and Satan himself, does not have intrinsic power. They have the power of deception; so, humans cede their power to the demonic when they are deceived, as Adam did. But then God may give demons power as it pleases God, because all creation serves God, and angels in particular—all angels: fallen and unfallen, demons or those still categorized as angels—were all created to serve the purposes of God. That does not always mean that their duties are filled with light, and glory, and the like. It means that sometimes they are the tormentors of mankind, and their presence brings great distress and great distraction, and such is the case here. The reason they are analogized to scorpions is precisely because scorpions and snakes are in the same company and allude to the demonic. In creation they are like that.

They have power like scorpions, but they are locusts—once again, the analogy to the plague of locusts in Egypt. Now the typical case of locusts is that they devour grass, or any green thing, or any tree. It is what locusts do—physical locusts, locusts in nature. These were given a command that they obeyed: that they were not to feed on grass, and green things, or any tree. Clearly, these are not locusts. They are demonic. They have the authority to torment men, mankind, who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. You could readily see when those who are tormented in this fashion understand and observe those who have the seal of God on their foreheads, they will, like the people of old, seek to find refuge in whatever offers them immunity.

Again, here, I am not remotely suggesting that these seals are visible to other human beings, because ‘seal on the forehead’ is more a reference to the state of mind. What is it that goes on in your head? What do you believe? In whom do you trust? What is your epistemology (from the root

word *pistis*,³ which is the term for faith)? In what do you have faith? So, it is those who have no faith in God as compared to those who have faith in the living God, whose epistemology is the certainty of being cared for by Christ because they are in the Body of Christ. They have the seal of God on their foreheads; everybody else does not.

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 (Revelation 9:5).

These demonic spirits referenced as locusts have authority to torment them, but not kill them, for five months. Now in the norm, the lifespan of a locust is about five months in nature. But I believe more is referenced here than just the lifespan of an actual locust, because these are not actual locusts. They are demonic spirits. Five, however, is the number of grace. It is in the indication that like the Israelites who were sealed, if you would allow me to use that term, they were sealed by the blood, so “When I see the blood, I will pass over you,” giving rise to the term Passover.⁴ The ones who are sealed with the seal of God on their foreheads—which we understand to be their epistemology: what they believe—are therefore standing firmly in the midst of all of this woe. Unlike them, there is no grace.

The ones who are sealed with the seal of God live in grace for that same period of time that there is no grace for those who are stung by the torment of not being able to know what the truth is, not being able to rely on anybody or any basis of information, and having your life be in a state of torment, where you cannot rest in your skin. I would suggest to you, this is somewhat like the condition referred to as, “Where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched,”⁵ where you cannot turn because there is nothing you can turn to, and where there seems to be no end to the torment, no letting up. One cascading event after another comes, and there is no relief.

³ See *pistis*, Strong’s Greek 4102 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/4102.htm>

⁴ See Exodus 12:13: “Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you *are*. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt.”

⁵ See Isaiah 66:24; Mark 9:44, 46, 48.

This continues to sound like the period described as “birth pangs on a pregnant woman.”⁶ It is like the poison of when a scorpion strikes, the fiery poison, or the way the poison affects the cells and affects the pain sensors within the human body. It is like that, except that this is going on in the mind. The clear analogy is to the distinction between the torments of those whose minds are not renewed in the things of God. In my estimation that is the reason why, in the midst of this, it references those who have the seal of God upon their foreheads: men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads versus those who have the seal of God on their foreheads. It is a mental thing. The torment is mental. And the demonic torment robs men even of their ability to soundly judge anything, not to mention that in this time everything is dark, everything is obscured. You do not know what the truth is.

You know, people today who are playing around with “alternative facts” or with delusional thinking, who refuse to acknowledge and accept things that are patently obvious, they do not realize that what they are doing is making a space in their emotions for when such torments are demonically fueled. It is no joke to hold delusional positions. It is no joke. This is not just something discretionary. You will only be set free from this form of torment when you actually know the truth.

I am astonished at what I see, not just in the world—the world is awash with this today—but I am astonished at the lack of clarity in the church, who take their cues from vulgar and contemptuous men, many of whom are already convicted for lying. Look, what happened to the Spirit of God telling us what is true? So many of the leaders of the church right now get their information from news media, where the positions of these charlatans in the news media is already well-defined. They have an agenda. I cannot begin to tell you the numbers of people I am encountering in church, in the evangelical church, who believe anything they hear on the television networks of their own choosing. They do not choose to understand that these people all have agendas. But you know, it is the consequence of entire denominations that have refused to submit to the Spirit of God and refused to recognize that you can hear from God. The bill for this falsehood is coming due, and it is coming due right now.

⁶ See Matthew 24:8 NASB 1995: “But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs;” see also Mark 13:8.

We are in the antechamber of the very things we are reading about here in the Book of Revelation. It is not going to be that you have control indefinitely. This is a time when God has decided to release judgments by releasing the invisible beings who are largely responsible for the creation of deception upon the earth. That means that deception will be on steroids because now the agents who fabricated deception are now at work, having been released out of the place where they were held in captivity to do this work of separating between the holy and the profane. This is what is going on.

In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them (Revelation 9:6).

People typically commit suicide when all hope is gone, and they have nothing to hold on to, and life in their present circumstance is painful in an unrelenting fashion. It is like the fires of torment have reached conflagration within their minds. This is the condition being spoken of here. It is nonsense to suppose that these things have already happened. This is the culmination of evil in the earth that overtakes those who have either ignored the things of God and done their own thing and gone their own way, or those who played around with the things of God.

Over the years I cannot begin to tell you how many people—how many preachers even—that I have met and engaged who simply could not be bothered to change their mindsets when the truth was presented because it was uncomfortable, and they would lose their places and they would lose their ministries if they had to start over. You know, most ministries are based on the fact that people already agree with you. When people move from one city to another, if they grew up in a certain church, that is the brand they look for in that other city. It is not unlike any other form of shopping. If you are used to certain goods, that is what you look for, and you know to look at the franchises in that city, if you move from one city to another. Whatever the retailers are, you know to expect that they have standardized their fare. It takes courage for people, for preachers in particular, to actually speak what God is saying, because their standing is on the platform of the familiar. To go off that platform, God has to attend you. And many of the ones I have met over the years simply will not do that.

Because, when you do, you become ordinary. People are persuaded by what you say if, and only if, the Spirit of God stirs their spirits. The alternative is their ears are tickled by the thing they already believe and that is already familiar to them. They will have itching ears and heap to themselves teachers for whatever they lust for.⁷ This is the distinction between the seal of God on their foreheads and those who long for death, because now the demonic has gotten ahold of their thoughts, and there is no way out of the cycle of their thoughts, and they long for death as relief from it, and death does not come for five months.

So we have looked at the activities of these demonic spirits vis-à-vis human beings, and then he describes further how these demonic spirits now look.

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. They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth (Revelation 9:7-8).

All these things indicate certain levels of deception:

- Faces like men, but really, they are demonic beings.
- Hair like women's hair—appearing to be in order, because hair there is a reference to the fact that the hair of a woman shows that she is a covered woman—she is under covering. Which means she has the ability to function as God made her to function, but she enjoys the covering and protection from God. So, the idea here is that these demonic spirits pretend to be orderly in their progression.
- But they are really like horses prepared for battle, which means they understand their mission, and their mission is to subjugate human beings, to drive them toward, to drive them in the arms of, ultimately, the control of that great beast that arises on the earth. The reference to which I have already noted is the Book of Revelation, the 13th chapter; we are

⁷ See 2 Timothy 4:3: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;”

in the 9th chapter. So, these are all preparatory. They are preparing for this great battle, and these are their activities as they prepare for battle.

- On their heads they have crowns of something like gold. The word for “crown” there, of course, is the word *stephanos*,⁸ which is different from the term “diadem” or the term that refers to a diadem. It indicates that they might have had prior ruling positions, as opposed to the victors in a game, in the Olympic games. So the crowns, or what looked like crowns of gold on their heads, is more the reference to having fallen from positions of authority.

It makes me wonder whether or not there was an entire cast of the angelic that fell, who were put in Tartarus and kept there because their activities in the fall from heaven were so onerous. We do know that there are demonic princes, and for the most part, those do not appear so much as being imprisoned. Certainly, Satan is not in that prison, and certain of the demonic spirits with designations like the prince of Persia, the prince of Greece, and so on. Certain ones have been allowed to rule over human kingdoms and human nations.

But it would appear that there is a category of them that were imprisoned, perhaps—this is entirely my view, so I do not say this as Scripture; I am just thinking aloud as I understand the way things have been constructed in this realm, to the extent that I understand this realm—they may have been the chief lieutenants, the chief controllers. You see, angels, when they have served God, were orderly, but the state of disorder that came—Milton coined the phrase in *Paradise Lost*, the house of pandemonium. So certain spirits were evicted, and perhaps it is the removal of this rank of angels that allowed for this continuous bickering and chaos in the ranks of these angels. This reference to something like crowns of gold would indicate positions of rank that only now has been allowed to come forth upon the earth, but until then, they were held in Tartarus. And as they come forth, we will see the strengthening of the demonic hordes that herd people toward this capture of the great beast, the one with seven heads and ten horns.

We will continue in this discussion with their teeth being like the teeth of lions.

⁸ See *stephanos*, Strong’s Greek 4735 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/4735.htm>