

# The Fifth Trumpet Judgment

## Chapter One - Verse One

And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star  
fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him  
was given the key of the bottomless pit.  
(Revelation 9:1)

This book is a study of the first eleven verses found in the ninth chapter of the Book of Revelation. Let us begin our study of this chapter by first identifying this start in verse one. We need not speculate as to who or what this star might represent, since the Bible assures us in 2 Peter 1:20 that “...no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation.” Knowing this, we can rest assured that Scripture will interpret itself without man’s help. The task of the believer is to labor in the Word and search the Scriptures daily.

### CHRIST: THE STAR FROM HEAVEN

Christ Himself is pictured as a star in Scripture. We read of this in Numbers 24:17 - “...there shall come a star out of Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel...” Christ confirms this Scripture by what we read in Revelation 22:16 - “I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches, I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright and morning star.” Believers are encouraged and admonished in 2 Peter 1:19 - “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.” We see how the Gospel of Christ is comparable to a light that shines in a dark place. We are in total spiritual darkness without God’s salvation plan. Once we come to the saving knowledge and faith in Christ, as this verse states, the day will then dawn (meaning we will come to the light of spiritual truth), and the day star will arise in our hearts (Christ will indwell us forever). In the physical realm, what is the first thing one sees at dawn? Is it not usually the morning star? When we come into salvation, the first thing we realize is Christ - THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR. The Greek translation of the word star as used here in 2 Peter 2:19 means morning star or light bearer. How perfectly God has designed every jot and tittle of His Word.

Isaiah 9:2 gives us a prophecy of the coming Messiah - “The people that walked in darkness have seen a GREAT LIGHT: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.” Again, this is speaking of the Christ who

would come and redeem His people from spiritual darkness, saving them from eternal and outer darkness. Christ indeed was the LIGHT and the MORNING STAR that came into the world. It is no wonder He is symbolically portrayed in Scripture as the morning star; taking on the characteristics or attributes of a great radiance, as does the transition from darkness to dawn. “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light,” the prophet Isaiah declared centuries before its fulfillment. The New Testament confirms this in many places, declaring that Christ is indeed the light of the world. This word “light” in the New Testament Greek is defined as luminousness in the widest application.

## **TRUE BELIEVERS AS STARS**

True believers are also referred to in Scripture as stars. For example, consider Daniel 12:3 - “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.” Again we see this in Psalms 148:3 - “Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.” We read of God blessing Abraham and promising to multiply his seed in Genesis 22:17 - “That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars for the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.” It is here that Abraham’s spiritual descendants, that is his spiritual seed (all who seek God through faith in Christ), are compared to the sands of the sea shores, and as the stars of heaven. We understand that this is speaking of true believers, since this phrase “...and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies” must be in reference to victory over Satan. We have a parallel passage to this statement found in Luke 1:68-71.

### **Luke 1:68-71** -

68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,  
69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;  
70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

71 That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;

This is of course salvation language spoken of here. Our enemy whom we are saved and delivered from is Satan and his kingdom of darkness. This is what Genesis 22:17 had in view as it alluded to the seed of Abraham possessing the gate of their enemies. This spiritual seed will multiply as the stars of heaven. As Christ is the head of His Church, we the believers are to be joint heirs with Him. As He is the bright and morning star, likewise we are to be as stars that shine with His radiance.

## **SATAN’S MESSENGERS AS STARS**

Satan’s whole plan from ages past was, and still is, to exalt himself above God, and to be worshipped as the Creator. Consider Isaiah 14:13-14 -

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

As Satan ascends and mounts up into the congregations of God, he shall do so very discreetly. He will disguise himself as a star of or light bearer, while bringing forth false doctrines or half truths; being nothing more than damnable heresies. Let us recall II Corinthians 11:13-15 -

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Verse fourteen tells us that Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. This word light carries the meaning of luminous in the widest application. Not only is Satan transformed into an angel (meaning messenger of light), but likewise his apostles or servants are as well. If we are not serving Christ, then we are indeed serving Satan, whether we care to believe that or not makes no difference, since it is a biblical fact. Jesus said: "He that is not with me is against me...", (Matthew 12:30). Yes, Satan and his apostles are equated to stars in Scriptures, along with Christ and His faithful believers. In Satan's kingdom are found imitators of Godliness. They disguise themselves as apostles of light. We read in Jude verse thirteen how they are symbolically portrayed as stars. "Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever."

## **SATAN: THE FALLING STAR?**

From Revelation 9:1 this star is seen as falling. "...and I saw a star fall from heaven..." This word fall in the Greek carries the meaning of: To fall, or to fail. This verse doesn't appear to be in reference to Christ as some have supposed. God is perfect and cannot fall or fail in any way. On the other hand, Satan fell from the grace of God along with his angels. All of humanity is in a fallen spiritual state and under the spell of Satan. Only those who have been cleansed by the blood of Christ can be taken from this fallen condition and brought back into fellowship with God, as was our condition prior to man's fall in the Garden of Eden.

This star that fell from heaven seems to refer to Satan himself. He fell from...where? He fell from...heaven. Who else fell from heaven other than Satan and his host of angelic beings? No one. Adam and all of humanity have fallen from grace, of course, but we are speaking of falling from God's throne of heaven. God is the only one who knows for certain who or what this star is supposed to represent. It does appear fairly certain that it is a symbolic representation of Satan, however what we can know for a fact is that this star represents spiritual darkness and evil upon the church during the last days. The symbolic language in the Book of Revelation has much more in view than a mere shooting or falling star. The Bible deals strictly with the kingdom of Satan warring against the kingdom of Christ. Like it or not, man was born into this spiritual war. This is what all of the parables and the symbolic language is all about. Verse one of our study tells us that this star fell to the earth. "...and I saw a star fall

from heaven unto the earth.” We can immediately draw upon the Old Testament for many clues to the identity of this falling star. For example, let us site **Isaiah 14:12** - “How art thou **fallen from heaven, O Lucifer**, son of the morning! How are thou cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations?” Lucifer indeed fell from heaven precisely as we read (though in symbolical language) here in Revelation 9:1. Isaiah speaks of him as being “cut to the ground.” Interestingly enough, this word **ground** in the Hebrew is also translated as **earth**.

We again read of Satan being cast out of heaven in Ezekiel chapter twenty-eight.

**Ezekiel 28: 15-17** -

15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane **out** of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: **I will cast thee to the ground**, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Notice carefully in verse seventeen that Satan is said to possess **brightness**. This is another important link, in as far as Satan being the fulfillment of the falling star of Revelation 9:1. “Brightness” here is another Hebrew word for “shinning.” We read much the same in these verses as we read in Isaiah chapter fourteen. Verse sixteen here in Ezekiel chapter twenty-eight states that Satan was cast out of heaven, while in verse seventeen we are told that he was cast to the ground, which is the same Hebrew word that was used in Isaiah...meaning **earth**! In Ezekiel 28:18 God declares that He will bring Satan to “...ashes upon the earth.” This is depicting Satan’s total and final ruin, as he was first cast out of heaven, and finally he is to be cast into the lake of fire (a spiritual metaphor of eternal hell) at the second coming of Christ, Revelation 20:10.

We are shown yet another picture of Satan’s fall in **Ezekiel 32:7-10**-

7 And when I shall **put thee out**, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light.

8 All the bright lights of heaven will I make **dark** over thee, and set **darkness upon thy land**, saith the Lord GOD.

9 I will also vex the hearts of many people, when I shall bring thy destruction among the nations, into the countries which thou hast not known.

10 Yea, I will make many people amazed at thee, and their kings shall be horribly afraid for thee, when I shall brandish my sword before them; and they shall tremble at every moment, every man for his own life, in the day of thy **fall**.

Although the subject of this chapter in Ezekiel is Pharaoh, king of Egypt, it is nonetheless a metaphor in the form of an historic parable embracing a spiritual truth, which at that particular time was yet future in fulfillment. The word pharaoh is a

title given to Egyptian kings; therefore this prophecy cannot pertain to merely one of many kings who ruled in Egypt. However, when we view it in the light of Scripture we realize that Egypt portrays the world and is representative of mankind being in **bondage** spiritually speaking, while in the physical realm representing the children of Israel being captives and in bondage to Egypt. Who is this king who holds humanity captive in the spiritual realm? Yes, it is Satan himself, the “prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2) who was dealt a **death blow** at the cross of Christ. The term **at the cross** as used in this study will pertain strictly to the time of Christ’s crucifixion, when Satan was in all respects destroyed, as **Hebrews 2:14** tells us: “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that **through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;**” Looking back at Ezekiel 32:10 notice in verse ten God declares “...in the day of thy **fall.**” There are a great many things that believers do not yet understand as we try to grasp some of God’s deeper teachings within the Scriptures. In verses seven and eight of the above Ezekiel passages we see that these verses speak of **darkness** being upon the land as the time of Satan’s destruction, precisely as is written in the Gospel accounts. Please note that Satan’s destruction at the cross of Christ is neither final, nor complete **until** Christ’s second coming. But as we read this account in Ezekiel we can’t help but notice the similarities to the land of Israel being darkened at the crucifixion, which was also the time of Satan’s fall. Let us confirm this with some New Testament passages.

### **Darkness at the Crucifixion**

**Luke 23:44** - “And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a **darkness over all the earth** until the ninth hour.

45 And the sun was **darkened**, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.”

**Mark 15:33** - “And when the sixth hour was come, there was **darkness over the whole land** until the ninth hour.” Notice that Luke’s account says that the darkness was over all the **earth** while Mark’s account says that the darkness was over all the **land**. The Greek word that is used seems to be translated both ways, so we really don’t know how far from Jerusalem this darkness actually spread.

**Matthew 27:45** - “Now from the sixth hour there was **darkness over all the land** unto the ninth hour.”

The fearful darkness upon the land or earth was fulfilled at Christ’s crucifixion, precisely as declared in the Ezekiel passages. The Bible gives further evidence that this star that fell from heaven is in fact Satan.

**Luke 10:17-18** -

17 “And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

18 And he said unto them, **I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.**” This was stated by Christ as He was instructing seventy appointees to go out into the cities two by two and proclaim the good news of eternal salvation. Lightning as used in the above verse carries the meaning of **bright shining, glare, or to flash as lightning.**

Christ states that He saw Satan fall from heaven, as lightning. Revelation 9:1 has the same occurrence in view; Satan falling from heaven as a star or lightning, meaning bright shining. We also recall the words of Christ in **John 12:31** as He speaks of His death and resurrection. There we read: Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be **cast out.**”

## **Satan Defeated at the Cross**

Satan was totally defeated at the cross. **Hebrews 2:14** makes this clear: “...that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil.” This word cast, as used in John 12:31 means to excommunicate; to drive out; to expel; to send away; to thrust out; and so forth. Satan was cast down and defeated by Christ going to the cross on our behalf. We also see from **Revelation 8:10-11** a parallel passage of Satan being described as a **star falling to the earth.** There we read:

10 And the third angel sounded, and there **fell a great star from heaven**, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made **bitter.**

The word bitter in the Greek carries the meaning of being poisonous, while the definition of wormwood is defined as **bitter.** Here again, this star (depicted as a great star) can only be in reference to Satan. Who else has been commissioned by God to silence the truth of God’s Word? God allows Satan his final and most deceptive endeavor, toward the end of time, at attempting to destroy the pure Word of God. He comes to silence the Gospel! He comes to “...destroy the **third part** of mankind,” by causing them to become bitter or poisonous. The third part that God is speaking of can be shown from Scripture to be the Church of Jesus Christ. Please see the chapter in this study entitled “**The Church: the Third Part.**” It is this precious true doctrine of the Gospel of Christ that will be poisoned and made bitter during the time of the Great Tribulation. True believers within the corporate church are sealed and cannot lose their salvation, although those within the church whom yet have not experienced the new birth, that is to say being born again (new creatures in Christ; cf. II Corinthians 5:17), will fall prey to this massive onslaught once Satan is released from his spiritual prison, symbolically portrayed as the bottomless pit.

Let us consider yet another passage of Scripture where Satan is again seen being cast out of heaven, and unto the earth. We will begin at Revelation twelve and verse seven.

### **Revelation 12:7-12**

7 - And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was **cast out** into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. [cf. Revelation 9:1 “And I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth.”]

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is **cast down**, which accused them before our God day and night.

11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

12 ¶Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

We see strong language in these seven verses to support the fact that Satan was indeed cast out of heaven and unto the earth at the cross. From verse seven we learn that there was war in heaven, and this war was between Christ and His angels and Satan and his angels. This conflict was surely not resolved until Christ was sacrificed on our behalf, taking upon Himself the sins of all who would ever be saved. At that particular time as verse nine declares, Satan and his angels were CAST out of heaven and into the earth. This is the time where Christ spoke of as recorded in Luke 10:18 saying: “I beheld Satan as lightning **fall** [cast out] from heaven.” Christ references this also, as seen in John 12:31 where He declares: “Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the prince of this world be **cast out**.” Christ says that He is not of this world (John 17:16); however Satan is without question the prince of this world. In addition to his title given him, he is also mentioned being “the prince of the air,” (Ephesians 2:2), as we stated earlier. Satan will continue to sway the world into spiritual destruction until the day that Christ returns to this earth in judgment. Satan was unquestionably cast out of heaven at the cross, and his persuasion to deceive the world was most assuredly crushed at that time. Satan will remain in this condition until God releases him for a short period of time, near the end of this age, to go forth and once again deceive the nations of the world, as we read in Revelation 20:7. IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE WORLD HAS ARRIVED AT THAT TIME!

Up until the time that Satan is loosed, he is spiritually bound in the bottomless pit and cannot prevent God’s elect from coming into salvation. This is not contrary to what we reading 1 Peter 5:8: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” Satan is still very much in an active existence in this world today, nonetheless, he has been totally defeated by the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ. From that time Satan could no longer frustrate God’s plan of salvation. In this sense he has been cast into prison and his ability to hinder those who would come into salvation can no longer be prominent, as it was in the days of the Old Testament. Keep in mind that during the flood of Noah’s day there was only a minuscule amount that were saved - only eight souls being found righteous before God. Eight souls! Satan was indeed prevailing until he was locked in

his spiritual prison at the cross. When he is released from this prison at the sounding of the fifth trumpet, it will be for only a short while, known as the Great Tribulation. During this time Satan will once again be allowed by God to stifle and block the entrance of heaven, all in accordance with the Father's sovereign will. Consider what Christ says in **Matthew 12:28-29**:-

28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

An extremely clear and precise portrayal of just how Christ first bound Satan, this **strong man**, that He may plunder his house. Since the time of the cross, the Gospel of Salvation through Christ has been plundering Satan's house (this world) more vigorously and forcibly than at any other time since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden.

Satan, in one sense, was cast out of this world at the cross. His ability to prevent the going forth of God's Word was crushed; however not only was his hindering power limited and cast out of this earth, he himself (along with his fallen angels) were indisputably cast out of heaven at this time. "...neither was their place found any more in heaven," Revelation 12:8. What then occurred in heaven immediately after the casting out of Satan? **Revelation 12:10** gives us the answer: "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ." Again, we repeat...when did this occur? When did salvation through Christ come into the world? When did the "power of Christ" or the "kingdom of our God" come to earth? Let us recall the words of John the Baptist, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: "...make straight the way of the Lord." (John 1:23); and again in **Matthew 3:1-3**:

1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

John the Baptist went out ahead of Christ to declare that the kingdom of heaven was at hand. For something to be at hand means that it has arrived. John was sent from God to declare the arrival of the kingdom of God. Yes, when Christ went to the cross, descending into the lower parts of the earth (Ephesians 4:9), and paying the eternal price for all who would become saved; this is the time wherein God's kingdom and salvation plan was fully given. This was the arrival of the kingdom of God. This was also the time in which Satan and his angels were cast out of heaven, thus the time in which Satan, this great star fell from heaven.

**Revelation 12:12** - ¶Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. **Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.**

Was Satan given the ability in God's overall plan to hinder or prevent salvation from the time of his fall (at the cross) until the return of Christ at the last day? Is this the space of time that the above verse twelve of Revelation chapter twelve speaks of? Satan was defeated at the cross and cast to earth with great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time left. Rather than assume that this short time is the entire Church Age, it is much more likely that the short time represents the length of the Great Tribulation period; a time wherein Satan will once more be loosed for a little season, [short time], (Revelation 20:3). That is the time where his wrath will be the greatest, thus the reason Christ deemed that period as Great Tribulation, because God will allow Satan to hinder the hearing of the Gospel. Christ tells us in Matthew 24:22 and Mark 13:20 that those days will be shortened... a little season?

### **Satan's Prey**

Who or what does Satan pursue once he is cast to the earth? Revelation 8:10 tells us that Satan fell upon the third part of the fountains of waters and upon the third part of the rivers. Just how are we to understand this type of language? Why would Satan want to pursue and attack rivers and fountains of water? Was he thirsty from falling all the way from heaven? A ridiculous thought, of course, but if one insists upon interpreting Scripture from a strictly literal perspective, then this kind of foolishness would have to be taken into consideration. Christ taught in symbolical language, being not only the author of the four Gospels, but being the writer of the entire Bible itself, from Genesis to the Book of Revelation. One of many names given to Christ in Scripture is The Word of God, found in Revelation 19:13. To ponder upon the "words in red" in many bibles, and to believe that these are the only words of Christ, is not only a half truth, but is in actuality tantamount to subverting the authorship of God. Let us now consider how God defines rivers and fountains of waters.

### **Rivers and Fountains of Water**

**Revelation 21:6** - And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

**Revelation 7:17** - For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

**John 7:38** - He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

**Jeremiah 2:13** - For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

**Jeremiah 17:13** - O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the **fountain of living waters**.

**Zechariah 14:8** - ¶And it shall be in that day, that **living waters** shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the fountain of living waters; the good news to man that contains eternal life. Living waters being another metaphor or analogy, assuring that whosoever truly drinks of this water will live forever. Christ asked, in John chapter four, the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well for a drink of water. The Samaritan woman replied, (paraphrasing) how is it that you, being a Jew, have asked me, a woman of Samaria, for a drink? For the Jews have nothing to do with the Samaritans. Jesus replied to her in John 4:10 - "Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee **living water**." The woman had no understanding of this, and went on to tell Jesus that he had nothing to draw water with, and furthermore the well was very deep. "How are you going to draw this living water?" she asked, still not understanding the spiritual implications of her conversation with Christ. "Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this well?" Jesus answered her, saying:

**John 4:13-14** -

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

14 But whosoever drinketh of the **water** that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the **water** that I shall give him shall be in him a **well of water springing up into everlasting life**.

From Revelation 8:10 we discovered that when Satan fell from heaven at the time of the cross, he fell upon the third part of the **rivers** and upon the third part of the **fountains of waters**. This phrase third part, as was stated earlier, is a reference to the congregations of the Church of Jesus Christ here on earth. Satan indeed goes straight to the church congregations in his attack after his expulsion from heaven. This is where his attack and deception is aimed. The inhabitants of the world who are already on the outside of the church are not subject to Satan's deceptive tactics. Why should they be? They are, for the most part, deceived already with the love and care of this world. Satan has already manipulated and deceived the multitudes into thinking that the Gospel is an elementary and obsolete custom reserved mainly for the weak and simpleminded. No, Satan is not concerned about them in the slightest, knowing that they are very much deceived into his grip. However, it is in fact the rivers and the fountains of living waters that Satan must silence! These are Christ's Word among congregations that are still bringing forth the true Gospel of salvation. **These waters are the true Gospel and those who proclaim it.** These are the rivers

and fountains of water that this great **star** Satan falls upon, causing them to become bitter. Again it is imperative to note that true believers CANNOT be deceived or lose their salvation. It is the Word of God that Satan will stifle along with the multitudes of tares within the hearing of Gospel. Once the Gospel is made bitter, it is no longer effective and cannot bring forth salvation. Satan would have every church congregation on earth to shrewdly turn God's word into a half truth; therefore preaching lies and damnable heresies.

### **The Dragon and the Woman**

Revelation 12:13 states that when Satan (the dragon) saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman that brought forth the man child. From this chapter we once more encounter similar details, only with a different type of symbolism. This woman is representative of national Israel, which brought forth the man child...that is Christ Jesus. After the resurrection of Christ, God's attention is no longer focused solely upon national Israel, but is focused upon the transition of this same woman who has now become the bride of Christ, the church or the New Testament Israel of God, (Galatians 6:16). This is the spiritual Israel in which Old Testament national Israel was foreshadowing. Revelation chapter twelve concludes with the following verse:

Revelation 12:17 - And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The remnant of the seed of Israel would unquestionably be the church; those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus. Today's true church consists of all who have been saved, Old and New Testament saints combined. Revelation 14:9 answers the question as to the identity of these two entities: "Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Today's national Israel is undoubtedly and positively not a part of the entity "those who keep the commandments of God," as much of today's fundamental Christianity is teaching. This entity is the church, of course, consisting of a remnant from every nation on earth, including national Israel. The Scriptures tell us plainly that "they which are of faith [faith in Christ], the same are the children of Abraham," Galatians 3:7. Please see the section of this study entitled "God's Spiritual Israel" for a detailed analysis of this matter. It is again this remnant, this third part that Satan wages war against, once he is cast out of heaven. Near the end of time Satan will be loosed from the bottomless pit with full fury to wage his final battle for the souls of men; to make war with the saints of God. Daniel 7:21 declares: "I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;" Satan comes masquerading and duplicating Christ by employing cunning and deceptive false doctrines. He counterfeits and disguises the truth, even as in Daniel where he leads the little horn in his final bid to silence the Gospel.

And it was given unto him to make war with the saints,  
and to overcome them: and power was given him over  
all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. (Revelation 13:7)

## **SATAN GIVEN KEY TO THE BOTTOMLESS PIT**

The remainder of verse one of our study of Revelation chapter nine speaks of Satan being given the key to the bottomless pit. Let us remember that Satan was cast down to the bottomless pit at his destruction at the cross. It should be emphasized here that Satan is not given any power or authority after being cast to earth until the time appointed. Satan was not given the key to the bottomless pit immediately upon being cast to earth. There is a great span of earthly time from his fall at the cross until he rises from the bottomless pit. He and his angels were cast into outer darkness as we read in **Jude verse six**:

“And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness until the judgment of the great day.” We also see this same truth brought out in **II Peter 2:4** - “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivereth them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.”

Satan is a created being and a fallen angel, therefore he would, out of necessity, be put into this category. He is in spiritual prison, in darkness, awaiting the final judgment when he, along with his angels and fallen humanity, are cast into the lake of fire (eternal damnation) at the last day. This darkness spoken of here in Jude and in II Peter can be shown to be the bottomless pit.

Who ultimately holds the **KEY** to this bottomless pit? It is Christ alone who has the power to open and to close the gates to this eternal darkness. We see proof of this from **Revelation 20: 1-3** -

- 1 ¶ And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.
- 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,
- 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

This “little season” seems to coincide perfectly with “short time” of Revelation 12:12 - “Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, [cast to earth] having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time [little season].”

We should clearly understand that it is Christ, and Christ alone, who has the power over Satan to cast him into the bottomless pit. Christ holds the keys to this

bottomless pit. Verse one is speaking of Christ having or possessing these keys. In studying chapter nine of the Book of Revelation, we see that Satan does not possess the keys to this pit, but rather was merely **GIVEN** these spiritual keys; a figurative statement indicating that Satan is given power to spiritually deceive the nations. Christ is the rightful owner of these spiritual keys. The following verses speak to this:

**Revelation 1:18** - I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

**Revelation 3:7** - ¶And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

We have nearly identical language in the Old Testament concerning the coming of Christ and His power over death and hell. In Isaiah 22:22 we read the same type of language concerning the coming of Christ:

**Isaiah 22:22** - And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

What magnificent language and insight God has laid down in His Word! Centuries before the appearance of Messiah, Old Testament Scripture foretold of His coming. It should be no surprise to the believers in Christ; knowing that all of Scripture, both Old and New Testaments are written to testify of Christ. God the Father will lay upon the shoulders of Christ the key of the house of David. In simple terms this tells us what we should already know; Christ, the Anointed of God who is Himself the God of all things, has been given authority over His eternal kingdom, the eternal House of David, symbolized by, represented by, figured by and pictured by Old Testament Israel. No man can thoroughly understand the Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, yet we receive it in faith.

Satan will stay bound in his prison until, and only until, Christ unlocks or opens the pit, giving Satan full power and authority to desecrate the congregations as judgment upon the corporate church. Again, the true believers will not be deceived by this global assault. Some interpret this period of Great Tribulation to last twenty-three hundred days, as seen from Daniel 8:13-14. We also want to consider **Revelation 20:7-8**:

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed [released in the Greek] out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

### **The Thousand Years**

The term thousand years in the above verse seven is taught in Scripture to represent God's completeness, and cannot mean a literal one thousand year period. If so, this would be inconsistent with the rest of the Bible. This thousand year period

mentioned here is again a symbolic term representing God's completeness, and finds its fulfillment in the Church Age. This is the time for harvesting souls, since Satan is now bound and cannot frustrate God's salvation plan. The number ten, one hundred, or one thousand frequently represents the completeness of God's plan. Some examples are: the ten coins of the parable of Luke 15:8-10 represent the completeness of all believers. The one-hundred sheep of the parable of Luke 15:3-7 likewise represent the completeness of all believers. The thousand generations of Psalm 105:8 represent the completeness of all who are commanded to believe the Gospel. Likewise, the thousand generations of Deuteronomy 7:9 represent the completeness of all those throughout time who will keep God's commandments through faith. No man can keep God's commandments. This is why we are in such a great need for a Savior.

### **Satan Loosed From Bottomless Pit**

It is at the time near the second coming of Christ that Satan is released from the bottomless pit as judgment upon the corporate church. Christ gives Satan the key to the bottomless pit as we read in Revelation 9:1. Verse two states that he, that is Satan, opens the bottomless pit. In order for Satan to release himself from this bottomless pit, he first must be **GIVEN the KEY**; meaning to be given authority. As we read earlier, Christ alone holds the keys to death and hell, and of the bottomless pit. Why is Satan given these keys? For the purpose of being God's instrument of judgment upon the corporate church! Let us consider the following verse:

#### **Revelation 11:7** -

And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the **bottomless pit** shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

We plainly read that when God's two witnesses have finished their testimony Satan will then be allowed to rise up out of his spiritual prison, the bottomless pit, to wage war on them (NOT the world, but to the wage war on the Words of Christ- The Gospel). Chapter eleven of the Book of Revelation speaks of the two witnesses who testify of Christ to the world. These two witnesses are NOT two mere individuals, as many have outrageously claimed. No, these two witnesses are one entity of global witnesses and can only be those who proclaim the true Word of Christ. In the spiritual essence, they will be overcome and killed. In other words their witness and testimony (Gospel) will be silenced in accordance with God's plan for the end of the age. The Church (the two witnesses) is also defined in Scripture as the two candlesticks and the two olive trees. "These are the **two olive trees**, and the **two candlesticks** standing before the God of the earth," (**Revelation 11:4**).

Revelation 11:7 is in perfect harmony with the rest of Scripture. When these two witnesses have finished their testimony at God's appointed time, Satan will then be allowed (given the key) to leave his prison and go forth for a little season or for a short time to destroy or silence the Gospel of Christ. This then is nearly identical language to the subject of this chapter, the loosing of Satan. It is identical language

to what we read in Revelation 9:1 where Satan is given the key or loosed from the bottomless pit.

We also read of Satan being released from the bottomless pit in **Revelation 17:8** - 8 "The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."

Here we have yet another picture of Satan being released from his prison before he is judged at the last day and cast into the lake of fire; that is the eternal hell of the second death. Satan will be loosed for a short time, prior to being cast into hell along with his fallen angels and all of fallen humanity. Notice carefully that the above verse eight speaks of Satan going into perdition after his release from the bottomless pit. Perdition is translated from the Greek, meaning damnation; ruin, or loss. This is the sentence of Satan and all who are under his power and authority. Satan must first be released from his prison for the purpose of deceiving the nations, as he did prior to the cross, and this will not occur, as we read in Revelation 20:3 "**TILL**" the thousand years should be fulfilled. In other words, it occurs at the end of the Church Age when God's completed time for harvesting souls is finished. Then, and only then, will God allow Satan to ravage the congregations. This tribulation period will be of such great magnitude as to be unparalleled in the history of mankind. Never before has the enormity of such an event occurred on such a global scale. The world will then unknowingly go into what Scripture declares as the **Great Tribulation**; for the salvation of souls will have come to its end, or at least have nearly ended. Man shouldn't declare positively that no souls will be saved during that time period, although it certainly looks that way. There are a few verses that seem to hint of a trickle of souls still being saved during the Great Tribulation. We do know for certain that if any will be saved, it will be few in comparison to the number that was saved (during an identical time span) prior to this tribulation period. No wonder Christ warns us of this time in Matthew 24:21, declaring: "For then shall be Great Tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." What could possibly be worse than the hope of eternal salvation being lost and replaced with the surety of outer and eternal darkness?

## **END OF CHAPTER ONE**