

## **THE SERMONS, LECTURES, AND SONGS OF SIDNEY EDWARD COX**

Revelation – Chapter 9

The 5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet Judgment: The Bottomless Pit Opened and ‘Lucusts’ Emerge  
Overview of the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet Judgments - the Woe Judgments

**Editorial Note: This is a lecture by Sidney Cox that was part of a series of lectures on the Book of the Revelation that he taught while on the theological teaching faculty at the Toccoa Falls Bible Institute during the early part of 1962. He was 75 years of age at the time.**

**During the latter part of his life, Sidney Cox had developed a close relationship with the Christian and Missionary Alliance (“CMA”). CMA operates as a vast network of churches, similar to a “denomination.” Toccoa Falls Bible Institute was closely affiliated with the CMA, provided support to the Institute and the Institute sent many of its graduates into ministry within CMA churches. CMA and The Salvation Army, in which Sidney Cox served as an officer for 30 years previously in his life, share a similar theology and emphasis in Christian outreach.**

**From 1956 – 1960, Sidney and Violet Cox lived in Miami, Florida where Sidney was on the theological teaching faculty of the Miami Bible Institute, another CMA supported institution. They moved to Toccoa Falls, Georgia in 1960, where he served on the staff at the Toccoa Falls Bible Institute from 1960 – 1962.**

**As a lecture, he was obviously assuming that his students had prepared for class by reading and studying the pertinent scripture and other class material. Thus, his comments were not like a sermon, but lectures to enhance the students’ theological understanding. He emphasized a detailed study of the scripture and incorporated analysis that he gained from his study of Bible commentaries and books on the related subject matter. These lectures are remarkably free of any personal opinions, personal illustrations or “sermonizing” of any kind. While at other times in his career he was very much the preacher and evangelist, in these late-in-life roles of Bible Professor, he was very much the educator.**

**Lastly, it might be helpful to at least comment on the historical context in which these lectures were delivered. Many biblical scholars of that day associated some of what is found in the Book of Revelation with the Catholic Church – symbols of paganism, the movement of Satan/antichrist to establish one world church, etc. Many people viewed the Catholic Church with much skepticism and fear. Further, John F. Kennedy had just been elected the first Catholic president of the United States in 1960. His election was quite controversial and many non-Catholics were concerned about Kennedy’s catholic background. Elements of these concerns and mindset are found in these lectures. In 2008, many of these fears have been discredited and some would find them to be offensive and intolerant, but they were quite prevalent and not at all unusual in 1962.**

**John Douglas Cox, grandson of Sidney Cox. December 29, 2008.**

We're going on one step further in this ninth chapter with its strange, mysterious revelations. Don't  
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expect you're going to be thinking here. There are some things that the Lord may have to explain to us, and will, when we get to glory. It would be something if we knew every little detail down here and didn't have anything to learn when we get on the other side. But you'll find lots of things in this ninth chapter that will be a mystery to us and will be all the rest of our lives and God will give us light on it I'm quite sure when we are more capable of absorbing the light and understanding what is to be revealed.

Now, we have been watching this, the organizing of a world against the oncoming Christ. I put it in that way because that's the simple way of expressing it. Here is somebody who has taken the title deeds to a lost inheritance. He was found worthy to take the book and to unloose the seals. It was a time of rejoicing in heaven that somebody would be found worthy. Because it had evidently been a time of distress in heaven, that this inheritance down here that God had deliberately brought into being and proclaimed it as good, and out of which His great plan of redemption, or in which His great plan of redemption, is to be worked out; that the angelic hosts must have been glad when somebody came and was found worthy to take the book and unloose the seals there off.

Then we reminded ourselves as these seals were unloosed that it revealed to us the process by which the one who has had control of this inheritance for all these years, who won it by subterfuge and sin, and gained possession of it, that this one is to be driven away. Keep in mind, if you please, he is the lawless one. If he was under law, he wouldn't have to be driven out. No Israelite had to be driven off an inheritance when the year of Jubilee came. He knew, when he took possession of it in the first place, that when the year of Jubilee came, the fiftieth year, he would have to vacate. Now, there was no question there. But here is a lawless one and he's lawless and you can see it because he has no where else to go except one step downward. He has been driven from the highest heights down into this realm of the air and the earth and the bank of oil that covers it around it.

We know more about that in these days, don't we? We know more about the length of it, the content of it. We know more about the heaviness of it. I suppose there is a man, who right now, is probably riding down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, at this very minute, I believe, or sometime right soon, who knows more about that atmosphere than probably any other man on earth; who has had a more intimate contact with it - this blanket of air that is around this earth; this place where Satan came to be the prince of this world, and the prince of the power of the air. This man knows something what it means to go out of it and then to reenter it.

I think one of the most interesting things he ever said was that in his newscast, and that sort of thing, was the description of certain things connected with this space capsule in which he was riding that were burning up as he was coming down into the atmosphere again. And he could see these things flying, red hot, by the side of the little nineteen inch window that was on the side of this thing. I think that was one of the most interesting things. John Glenn knows more about the atmosphere and the air than probably any other man right now. There will be others that will know more about it than he does, unless he goes again as time goes by.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John Herschel Glenn, Jr. (born July 18, 1921) is a former United States Marine Corps pilot, astronaut and United States senator who was the first American and third person to orbit the Earth. Glenn was a Marine Corps fighter pilot before joining NASA's Mercury program as a member of NASA's original astronaut group. He orbited the Earth in Friendship 7 in E:\Sidney Cox Library Project\Subject Folders\Book of the Revelation. 1962. Toccoa Falls (Georgia) Bible Institute\Revelation Chapter 9. The 5th Trumpet Judgment. The Pit Opened & Locusts Emerge..doc

But here is this contest that's going on. This is Satan's habitation. We're going to see somewhere in a little later on, where he will be incarcerated for at least a time until he is finally put into his everlasting penitentiary. He'll be in a temporary place and we shall see where it is in just a little while.

Now we've been watching this and we have seen three things: One, the original organization of this world against the oncoming Christ. The gathering together of all the apostate forces, whether they be religious or whether they be governmental - because don't forget, a government can be apostate too. A government that chooses to live without God is apostate.

And one of the things that we need to watch in this dear land of ours is that our government doesn't become just like that too. We need to watch that because we can see with half an eye that there are forces all the way around, and some of them tremendously powerful, who would like to push God as much out of the United States government as God has been pushed out of the Russian and the Soviet Union. That's the movement all the way through. That's the movement, all the way through.

I listened with chills running up and down my spine on Saturday to a debate that was going on somewhere or some kind of a thing there with the subject of why the Bible should not be taught or should be taught in the public schools. And there were people that were giving their opinion on one side and opinion on the other. If you had heard some of the opinions that were given as to why the Bible should not be taught, and not only that, but what these people said about God in it. It was one of the most shocking things that I've ever heard in my life - their utter pagan ignorance of God, and what they said about Him in this thing. "We don't want a book that talks about a God like this and a God like that and a God something else." And to watch them and to hear them, no Russian, no devotee of the Soviet Union could ever have said more dreadful things about God than I heard over the radio in that debate on Saturday evening. It was awful. Now that's the move all the way through, the move is to get God out, to get God out, to get God out. In spite of what George Washington and the rest of our founding fathers said about it, that's the move all the way through. Now, this is the way in which this great organizing business is going on. It's getting folks together against God.

Now, we have noticed that the second thing that happens is that as this organization progresses, God sends a judgment. And I say that advisedly, because God's judgment, as seen in the Book of Revelation, is not one massive thing that comes and that's the end of it. It's a series of things, all the way through. Now, God sends judgment and knocks down these walls of Jericho that are being, and have been erected, no matter what they are, and you find the attack from heaven.

Then the next thing you find is the counterattack from earth - Satan recovering from this, his answer to it, and you find the movement back and forth all the way through: the judgment from heaven, the counterattack from earth. And if you keep that pattern in mind, you can see great things that fit into that general thought. Sometimes you can find it a judgment from heaven, sometimes you find it a counterattack from earth and it's going on all the way through.

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1962. A parade was held in Washington on February 26, 1962 to celebrate this feat. After retiring from NASA, he entered politics as a Democrat and represented Ohio in the United States Senate from 1974 to 1999.

And don't forget, that this great conflict is heading up for something or other that is called, we know what it's called there in the scripture, but it's coming to a head. Step by step, we shall see some of it in today's lessons. Step by step, it's coming to the final conflict. And the final conflict, which in reality is not a conflict at all, is called in the scripture the Battle of Armageddon.<sup>2</sup> Now you will find things, though the Battle of Armageddon is a good way ahead of us, but you will find things heading up into that. You will find things in this ninth chapter that have a relationship to what we call the Battle of Armageddon.

Because while the Battle of Armageddon presents great forces that have been now organized in the last desperate effort to resist the oncoming Christ, that when He does come, it isn't really any battle at all. There's no battle that takes place. There is a wholesale judgment and the wonder of it is that it takes place by the light of His countenance and not by any armed forces as we understand them. But you can see it all moving toward this. You'll see it here in this ninth chapter - tremendous things that are happening. You find that all the way through - something that is going to appear in its revelation, that is in its verbal revelation, we read about it, but you can see the streams leading to it there.

For example, we've been able to see that out of the midst of this situation that we find here on the earth, God is drawing out, taking out, a people for His name. Some of them are Jews, some of them are Gentiles. He has in mind something that He's going to do with them all. And we see how these people came to hear this good news that God is sending to them. And we see, evidently, somebody must have told them.

And then we read a little later on, that all the time here two witnesses have been giving their witness with supernatural evidences.<sup>3</sup> At the same time, a strange group called the 144,000, the description of which has not yet been given, and you can see what the effect of their witness is, have been going not only to people near, but to people far in order to gather out a people for God's purpose that is just around the corner. So that when our Lord comes back again in power and glory, chapter nineteen, He will not find an unoccupied earth. There is a satisfactory group of people who will be brought out to occupy the earth when He comes back to rule and to reign over it as the prophets have all spoken of from time immemorial.

Now, we can see this going on, this counterattack all the way through. And we have been watching the attack from heaven - what God has been doing. And don't forget that in each case, you find it's a judgment that only covers a certain portion of the earth and a certain number of people. It's not one great judgment. We said that a moment ago. It's not one great judgment that does the whole job all at once. It is done in stages and you see it going along.

For instance, when God brings this great judgment which is seemingly an answer to the prayer of the martyred saints, at least it comes right afterwards, and you find and listen to the cry and prayer of martyred saints who are crying for vengeance there, obviously not saints of grace, but saints under another dispensation all together, they are crying to God for vengeance and God answers. Now whether

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<sup>2</sup> Revelation 16:16.

<sup>3</sup> Revelation 11:3.

that be actually so or not, we do find these things side by side, the cry of the martyred saints and the immediate judgment of God. Now we've watched it coming under the heading of the four or the seven Trumpet Judgments.

The four of them first, that we have already looked at, and finally there will be the next two trumpet judgments, and then at the end, the seventh trumpet judgment out of which will come, as we watched it in the case of the seal judgments, out of the seventh one will come these that we speak of as the vial judgments, the bowl judgments, if you want to use that term.<sup>4</sup> Either one of them is correct. Now we see this going on.

And we notice this is going on. In the first four, and we bring to mind when we say that, the pattern of these things - four, more or less alike, and then a difference in the last part of it. We have noticed that four of these are brought as an attack from heaven, or a judgment from heaven, if you want to use that word, against certain things.

For instance, the first one is against vegetation, and you find the trees and the grass that are withered. What more effective counterattack could be made against an organized group down here that have to live on earthly things? Now, the second one was the attack or the judgment on transportation that had to do with the sea and the ships. The third one was against sanitation, because here are great multitudes of the animals, and particularly the fish of the sea and the rivers and that sort of thing that would produce a problem of this kind. And then finally, with the darkened heavens and that sort of thing that we are reading about here.

And whether we understand it or not, and don't forget that in the three-fold formula of blessing that is given to us at the beginning of this book, it doesn't mention whether you understand everything or not. It says, "Blessed is he that readeth and believeth and obeys the Word."<sup>5</sup> It doesn't say anything about understanding. Understanding comes, of course, to a certain extent, but that's not the important thing about it. The important thing is, this is what God is talking about, and if we can see God through it all, how wonderful it is.

And so you find the attack upon illumination. And the darkness comes, and the sun loses part of its light, and the moon is shut up, and the stars and the rest of it. And here we find these supernatural manifestations.

Now that was as far as we were going, or at least we did go. Now we want to take one step further, and here again, we need to remind ourselves of that three-fold formula and don't get too disturbed if we are not able to understand these things.

Mrs. Cox said an amusing thing to me just as I was leaving the house to come down here. She said "I hope the Lord will make you a blessing to that class." She always says it. "I hope the Lord will make you a blessing to that class." And I laughed at her and I said, "You don't know what we're going to talk

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4 See Revelation 8 for Trumpet Judgments 1-4, Revelation 9 for Trumpet Judgments 5-6 and Revelation 10 for Trumpet Judgment 7.

5 Revelation 1:3

about. When you begin to talk about locusts coming out of the bottomless pit, that isn't much of a subject for blessing.” But that's what we're going to talk about just the same. And we're going to take a look at this thing.

Now I want you to notice another realm comes into view. And if we take it slowly and carefully and thoughtfully, it is surprising what satisfaction will come to our hearts as we dimly glimpse the truth of it, and what is described, even though we may not, and will not, be able to understand all of the detail regarding it. Now, I want you to notice please, and we're not starting at the beginning of this chapter at this particular point.

I want you to notice a new area, a new location that is now in view. It is called in scripture by three names, all of them meaning the same thing. It is called the Abyss, it's called the Pit, and quite frequently the Bottomless Pit, and again, it is called the Deep.<sup>6</sup> Three names are given to it. I think you'll find those in your notes there - the Abyss, the Deep, and the Pit. Now, the strange thing about this is that this location is occupied. Now that is quite simple to say that. It is not so simple to answer the question, by whom is it occupied? That is something else all together. Because here you find a strange, shall we say, group of somethings, I don't know whether to call them people or what they are. Obviously, people is not the right name, but here we find a strange group of occupants, such as we have not seen before. Now in the scripture there is abundant teaching that there is this strange group of demon forces that are there imprisoned in this place.

There is a seal upon it. There is an angel in heaven who has had the key to it and has been responsible for seeing that this thing has been sealed up. Now, it is quite obvious that these occupants of this abyss, this bottomless pit, are not fallen angels. Now, you will remember, that when Satan was cast out of heaven, that one third of the angelic hosts were cast out along with him. And they came down with him to this area that we call by the two names, the area of the world and the area of the air. Now those fallen angels have never been imprisoned. They were not the ones who were imprisoned. They have been loyal to Satan all the way through. That is the group through whom Satan has been working out his purposes in the earth, his attack upon God and His purposes, all the way through, just as there are angelic angels, to use an awkward phrase there, that are surrounding us, because God gives to us the protection, the supernatural protection of the angelic forces. Just in the same way, Satan has at his disposal those who were cast out with him. And he's using them constantly.

You will remember, if you please, that there are some who assume religious authority in the earth and they are spoken of as, will you tell me what they're spoken of as? Now remember, we're talking about angels. They appear as what? Angels of Light. The ministering angels are those that God sends to look after us. But there are some that come looking like Angels of Light. And they dress themselves up in religious garments and preach a gospel that is so like the other, except for the essential things that are there, that multitudes are being deceived there by. Satan has his church, he has his ministers, he has his organization, the synagogue of Satan is as real as the actual church of Christ upon the earth. It isn't advertised as there. Nobody yet, although I wouldn't be surprised if this comes before too long. But nobody advertises a backslidden apostate church, and advertises the fact that it belongs to Satan. They'll all take a Christian name regardless. But one of these days, the Christian name is going. And

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<sup>6</sup> Revelation 9:1.

you will find, one of these days, that even loyalty to Satan itself will not be covered up.

Yes?

Student asks: Is there a reason for one third of certain things to be destroyed?

Yes, yes, the reason was given just a few minutes ago, that God doesn't do this thing all at once. If he destroyed it all at once, there are reasons why God sends the judgments in sections.

Student asks: And so when it speaks of one third of the earth, each judgment, that's not talking about each judgment just landing on that one third, but scattered all through..?

It may be that. It may not be just one little piece there, but of the total earth there is one third of it that's affected. It may be some here and some there and some there. But the total effect will be on one third of the earth's surface.

And you find exactly the same thing in a little while because here is an army that's coming - two hundred millions of them and they're coming from the east. And they're coming there at the permission of God and under the organization of Satan, getting ready for the Battle of Armageddon, and as they come, one third of the population of the earth is going to be destroyed. Now you find that one third quite frequently there. It doesn't mean to say that it's one third in one spot. But there will be some here and some there and some of it in one place and some another, and so on. That's the explanation of the one third, but the main thing is, God is doing this step by step and not in one tremendous judgment that clears the whole thing out of the way.

Why he does that, we do not know. Someday, perhaps, we may have the chance to ask Him. It might be alright. "Lord, when you sent those judgments and gave that revelation there and we were seeking to think our way into it and to move along steadily and get some reasonable ground there that would satisfy the longing of our hearts, why didn't you send the judgments all at once, why, why?" It'll be interesting to know what the answer is. But right now, we don't. He didn't give the answer. But what we know is, what He is doing, and so we're going to read, believe and obey what we do know.

Now let's look and see, because we've been talking here about a group that are inhabiting a location called the Pit. Now, it's quite obvious that they are not fallen angels, because fallen angels are not imprisoned. But there seems to be, before the flood, a Satanic emanation that came into the world and brought something into the world that God had to bring the judgment of the flood in order to get rid of it; and that those who were responsible for it were incarcerated in a penitentiary that is called the Pit. Now, who these are, they are obviously Satanic agents of some kind and they are not fallen angels. Now, let's look and see what they did do.

And here again, we talk softly and quietly and we remember that there was a time when these Satanic agents cohabitated with the daughters of men and produced a progeny that was so dreadful that the poison of it, the virus of it, percolated all the way through, permeated would be the better word, all the way through the bloodstream of the human race until at the end of it, there was only one man and his family pure in their generations. Now, who was that one man? Noah, exactly. That's the way it's

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described.

Now this is so dreadful that God did two things: One, destroyed the people that were affected by the flood, and incarcerated those who were responsible, these Satanic agents so that it should never happen again, never. And you read your scriptures, it hasn't happened again either.

There have been little fragmentary evidences of its affect that has been going on and you find some of them there. For instance, what's the explanation of a man like Goliath? Nine feet, six tall, with a spear like a weaver's beam. Where did he come from? What was it that produced this horrible phenomena? What? And while this general thing has been dealt with, to cover every single effect of it was quite another matter. And every once in a while you will find evidences that a little bit of this virus came over into the realms beyond the flood.

For example, when the ten of the twelve spies went into the land of Canaan, there were those who went down into the southern section and there saw something that just scared the daylights out of them. And they came back and said, "There are giants in the land."<sup>7</sup> Now, where did they come from? Where? Now, you don't need to answer. I'm only just throwing out a question that may start the wheels rolling here. Just throwing it out, that's all. Not attempting an answer. I don't know the answer myself. If you can tell me where they came from, I'd sure be glad, because I don't know where they came from. All I know is, they're there, that's all. And they scared everybody, but two.

And there was one man who never forgot them. And forty years afterwards, an old man, eighty-five years old, who hadn't yet retired, he was eight-five years old and he said, "I'm going to have a bang at those giants if it's the last thing I do!" And when the inheritances were given out, his inheritance, "You give me those mountains. I'd sure like to clear that crowd out of there. They've got their dirty hands on the most sacred spot in all Palestine, in all the land of Canaan. That's the place where Abraham was buried and where Sarah was buried, right down there. And they've got their dirty hands on it and I'd sure like to clean them away." Coming back to what we were talking about when we went off on that interlude there, you'll do it one of these days, you don't need to worry. You'll do the same thing.

But when we started there we were talking about, where did these giants come from? Now it seems that in this subterranean supernatural place, these people or these things, if you like to use that term, I don't know what term to use about them, have been incarcerated and every once in a while you see evidences of the fact that they were not all imprisoned. Now whenever you find demon possession in the scripture, and demonology, you are not talking about angels. Now one of the things that you notice about this crowd, whatever they are, in this abyss, this bottomless pit, is they don't like it. That's one thing. Those that have been able to get out of it in some way or other, don't want to go back into it again. I'll give you a scripture for that in just a minute.

Then in addition to that, you find they don't want to be out of it disembodied. In some way or other, they take up their abode in some kind of a live body. It may be human, it may be animals, it may be a man mad on the hillsides of Gadara or it may be in a herd of swine. But do you remember what those demons said when our Lord cast them out. They said, "Don't send us down into the pit. Don't send us

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<sup>7</sup> Numbers 13:32,33

down into the abyss. We don't want to go down there. Let us become embodied in something, anything, anything, even a herd of swine.”<sup>8</sup> Now, in some strange way, whenever you find these demon forces coming out of the pit, you always find them embodied in some way or other. Now, you'll find that as we go along.

Here's a strange thing that appears. I don't understand it, of course not. But here, out of the smoke and the fire and the stench of this place there is coming a supernatural army that are evidently under the control in some mysterious way of Satan himself.

Now, I want you to notice a conversation that must have gone on, and we have seen this sort of thing before. It must have gone on between Satan and God. You remember that back in the early days when Job was on the earth, that one of the things that Satan did was to challenge God about Job. And he says “You'll let me do what I want to do with this one and he'll curse you to your face.”<sup>9</sup> And God said, “You can go so far and then a little further and then a little further.” Now here is this evidence that Satan is aware of the fact that when he builds up, it is a comparatively simple matter for God to knock it down. And he is challenging Him and saying “Now, all you've let me do up till now,” and don't forget that Satan cannot do anything without the permissive will of God; don't forget that he's saying “You have let me do everything down here, but you haven't let me use this crowd out of that abyss yet. You let me turn them a loose on this earth and these people on this earth, if there are any left that are loyal to you at all, will curse you to your face. Now you let me use these.” Now you pick up the story here.

In response to that, God evidently gives permission, for this place would not have been opened at all apart from permission of God. An angel has the key to it. You find in here in Chapter 9, you will find him again in Chapter 20. In Chapter 9 he unlocks it. In Chapter 20 he fastens it. It's the angel that possesses the key. Now, who that angel is, again, I do not know. There are some that think he is some great angelic force. There are many who even think he's the Lord Jesus. The point about it is, a great angel comes down and unfastens this thing, he had the key of it, and out of it comes, by permission of God, for the use of Satan, these things that are described in this way - these Satanic things, whatever they are, now embodied. They don't come out as a spiritual force without any body around them, not at all. They all come out embodied. Now we shall look at the body of them in just a little while.

But what we want to know, what we want to look at first of all is the way in which this thing begins. Here is the beginning, the opening or the sounding of the fifth trumpet. Now, you tell me, what's the first thing you know, or you notice, when the fifth trumpet is sounded? What is it? A star falls from heaven. Now, a star is nearly always the picture of an angel. Now, here is an angel coming from heaven. And his progress down is so tremendous that it is the same word by which it is described as when the Lord Jesus said, “I saw Satan fall from heaven.”<sup>10</sup> The progress is so tremendous that the only word to describe it is 'fall from heaven.'

Now, was there anything else that you noticed? Did you see anything flying? What do you see flying?

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8 Luke 8:32

9 Job 1:11

10 Luke 10:18

What? Can you see it? What is it that's flying? What is it that flies through the air and cries, "Woe, woe, woe," because remember, the last three trumpets that are going to be sounded are spoken of as the Woe Judgments. W-O-E. They are spoken of in this way. Here is a great sound that goes, like lightning across the sky. It is given a form, of course. What form? A flying eagle, that's right. A flying eagle. In the usual versions there, or in some of them, you will find it a flying angel. But in practically every one of the revised versions, you will find the word is eagle. And here is an eagle flying across the sky announcing these last three judgments are about to begin, and they are going to be Woe Judgments. The intensity of them, the awfulness of them is going to be such that we're almost overwhelmed as we look at them.

Now, let's look and see. Here are these creatures, whatever they are, they are involved in this judgment of the fifth and the sixth trumpets, and the seventh for that matter, that are called the Woe Judgments. Now you look at them here, and here again all you can do is to just look at them.

Remember, this is the kind of Satanic whatever it is that has to be embodied. The moment that it is released from this place, some kind of a form, a bodily form must be assumed. While they're down in the pit, that is not necessary, but when they come out of the pit, some kind of a bodily form is there. Now, you notice, and please don't ask me to explain this, because I can't. All I know is what the Word of God says about it.

You will notice that these ones are embodied in a form spoken of as, locusts. Now, we've seen locust plagues upon the earth before. There are plagues of locusts that strike our own land and are dreadful and terrible in the extreme. And we have seen and heard, if we have not experienced something about that. But this is quite different. We have also noticed that in the plagues of Egypt, this kind of thing appeared again. But they were more the natural locusts, rather than this. These are called locusts because that's the only word that John can use that will bring the thing down to our level of thinking because there are certain aspects of the activity of these things that resemble the locusts. Now, you see just what is said.

First of all, power is given to them. Now, they're going on a mission. We see their strange appearance. They are on a mission. Now they are on a mission that is quite unlike that of the locust. Don't forget that the locust naturally does not attack men, it attacks vegetation. But God's attack and God's judgment on vegetation has already taken place. This is not an attack on vegetation at all. This is an attack or a judgment that is allowed to come upon people. Now, you notice in a little while who these people are, because we shall see them there.

First of all, we want to notice this, which may explain why they are called locusts, because the time element is five months. Again notice, it isn't one great climactic judgment that clears the whole business out of the way. Here is a fragment of time that's involved. One third of the earth, one third of the people, a little bit of a fragment of time, five months. Why five months? Why? That's the natural lifespan of the locust. The locust always appears in May and it disappears in September. That's the lifespan of the locust. And here is a five month period in which these supernatural Satanic things are carrying on their mission. And it only lasts for a time. It lasts for the same length of time as this lifespan of the locust.

Now, I want somebody there who's got your Bible, I only have my Testament here, I'm sorry about that. But I want you to turn please, if you will, to Joel 2:4-9. Joel 2:4-9. Alright John, stand up will you and turn around and you... just wait a minute until we've all got it here, and then read it slowly, and you will find that you are almost listening to this ninth chapter of the Book of Revelation as you read it. Here is Joel describing something and this is what he says about it. Now, you follow it please and just listen. And John, read it slowly, will you? The reference is Joel 2:4-10. Joel 2:4-10. Alright, start at the fourth verse, will you?

“The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness. They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:”

Thank you very much. Now, with that thought in mind, our class is dismissed, of course. That's where we'll pick it up again when we meet on Wednesday. Thank you so...

(audio ends)