
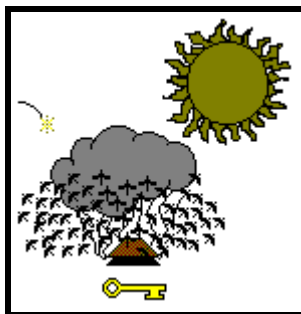


Chapter 9

John continues to see the events preceding the second coming of the Savior unfold. He sees the 5th and 6th trump sound. He sees the preparation of the banishing of the wicked, and a great and devastating battle.

Verses 1-6: The 5th  Trump is sounded. John sees "a star fall from heaven unto the earth, to him was given the key of the bottomless pit (verse 1)". Again John refers to servants of the most high as stars. This servant was obviously a fallen servant as he was fallen to earth. He was, however given a key. Like the keys of the priesthood, keys represent power and authority. This fallen angel was given power and authority over the bottomless pit. In the Book of Revelation, chapter 9, verse 11, John tells us that the fallen angel is the Adversary. When the thought of a bottomless pit comes to mind, the visual image of a castle dungeon with a lockable lid or a mine shaft is painted. The Greek translation for bottomless pit translates as "*the pit of the abyss*".



This might paint the picture of an endless hole filled with fire and brimstone, **Hell**. The Old Testament uses the word pit in reference to the grave; however, it is used in a very negative fashion. In the book of Numbers we read, "But if the Lord make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the Lord (Numbers 16:30)". It would appear that the wicked are associated with this pit. It represents the physical and spiritual death of those that provoke God. King David poetically wrote, "Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell; for wickedness is in their dwellings and among them (Psalms 55:15)". After David's transgression, he himself pleaded with the Lord that he might not be cast into the pit, "Let not the waterflood

overflow me, neither let the deep swallow me up, and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me (Psalms 69:15)". The pit spoken of by John represents the physical and spiritual death of the wicked. The angel was given the power and authority to open the pit, symbolizing that to him was given the power to prepare for the destruction of the wicked. The pit can have many names, here are just a few;

<i>Psalms 40:2</i>	<i>Horrible Pit</i>
<i>Psalms 55:23</i>	<i>Pit of Destruction</i>
<i>Psalms 88:6</i>	<i>Deeps</i>
<i>Isaiah 24:22</i>	<i>Prison</i>

The symbolic pit is not created by anyone but ourselves. As we make choices that go against God's voice of warning, we find ourselves digging our own pit. *"Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein; and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon them (Proverbs 26:27)".* It all boils down to the fact that we determine the course in life that we wish to take. No one can take away our freedom of choice; however, with that choice, comes the consequences that are eternally tied to it. We can choose to climb Jacob's Ladder or descend Satan's pit, the choice is ours. The symbolism of this verse shows that the angel of the Lord is preparing the graves for the wicked. The fact that the pit is bottomless symbolizes that the number of wicked to be destroyed will be very large. Bruce R. McConkie said, *"The bottemless pit is the depths of hell. It is not a literal pit without bottom, for such is a contradiction in terms. But it is a pit or prison where the inhabitants suffer, as mortals view suffering, to an infinite, unlimited, or bottomless extent. Referring to finite inability to comprehend the vastness of the suffering of those reaping the full measure of this status (Mormon Doctrine, Bruce R. McConkie, page 574)".* Elder McConkie continues his commentary by quoting Doctrine and Covenants, section 76, verse 48, which says, *"The end, the width, the height, the depth, and the misery thereof, they understand not, neither any man except those who are ordained unto this condemnation".*

The adversary opens the pit. *"And there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened (verse 2)".* Most of the time smoke indicates the connection between heaven and earth; however, this time John uses the smoke in it's association with the great furnace, as it were. The great furnace is a symbol of the terror, horror and anguish that awaits those who have rejected the voices of warning from their God. The rising smoke would symbolize that the furnace is lit and a place is prepared for the wicked. The fact that the sun and air were darkened might indicate the sorrow surrounding the event. The sun is usually associated with the Glory of God, and air usually represents the life of man. The fact

that the wicked must suffer physical and spiritual death, must be of great sorrow for the Father. All of us are His children, whether we choose to follow Him or not. It will also be of great sorrow for man as the earth will undergo great tribulations in order to remove the wicked and renew the earth. Since we read in the next chapter of the Book of Revelation that the opening of the pit is in preparation for a great battle, where the wicked will perish, the smoke and darkening of the sun and air might be literal results from war. We read in the book of Joel, where the prophet speaks of the great and final battle as *"a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread on the mountains; a great people and a strong: there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it even to the year of many generations (Joel 2:2)"*.

John says, *"there came out of the smoke locust upon the earth...unto them was given power, as the scorpions (verse 3)"*. Locust are not unfamiliar plagues to God's people. One of the ten plagues on ancient Egypt during the captivity of the children of Israel was a plague of Locust. We read, *"For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left: and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt (Exodus 10:15)"*. The latter day saints also experienced a plague of Locust after settling the Salt Lake valley. They had to rely on their faith and prayers for deliverance. Only after submitting themselves to the Lord, did he send seagulls which ate the locust and removed the plague. We can easily see that a plague of locust could be a very literal occurrence; however, knowing John's symbolic writings, we question if there is any figurative meaning behind the locust. The Hebrew translation for locust is *"arbeth"* meaning many. Locust can be used to symbolize invading armies, and the destruction and devastation associated with them. If the locust spoken of were symbolic of a large army gathering for the great and final battle, which the Book of Joel says it is (Joel 1:6), it would make sense that they were given the power of scorpions. Scorpions symbolize pain and torment. In the Old Testament we read, *"My father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions (1 Kings 12:11)"*. The wicked will not only perish, but be made to feel the wrath of God.

The imagery of John's account can appear quite frightening, even to the righteous. The renewal of the earth will be a time of great sorrow and death. The saints must remember as the Lord reminded his followers in the New Testament, *"I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you (Luke 10:19)"*. John says that the power is given them to hurt only those men not sealed up (*verse 4*).

Power is given them to hurt but not to kill men. They are allowed to torture men for 5 months (*verse 5*). Whether this five (5) months is a literal five (5) months or a figurative time frame, we do not know. We do know that men will wish to die but not be able to (*verse 6*). This kind of thought is not uncommon to soldiers of war. During periods of the Vietnam war, soldiers witness so much blood shed, anguish and pain, that they could often find themselves wishing for death, that they might be free from the happenings around them.

Verses 7-11: The locust are described by John in this section of scripture. The Old Testament recounts the same scene in the Book of Joel. They compare as follows;

Revelation 9:7-11

7 And the shapes of the *locust* were like unto *horses* prepared unto battle; and on their *heads* were as it were *crowns of gold*, and their faces were as the *faces of men*.

8 And they had hair as the *hair of women*, and their teeth were as the *teeth of lions*.

9 And they had breastplates, as it were *breastplates of iron*; and the sound of the *wings* was as the sound of *chariots of many horses* running to battle.

10 And they had *tails like unto scorpions*, and there were *stings* in their tails; and their power was to hurt men five months

11 And they had a King over them, which was the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

Joel 1-2

2:4 The appearance of them is as the appearance of *horses*; and as *horsemen* so shall they run.

1:6 For a nation is come up upon my land strong, and without number, whose teeth are the *teeth of a lion* and he hath *the check teeth of a great lion*.

2:5 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.

2:3 A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth..... nothing shall escape them.

With the amount of symbolism involved in this accounting, it is probably best that we list the possible definitions in dictionary fashion. Below is a list of the items used as possible symbols in these particular sections of scripture and there possible meaning;

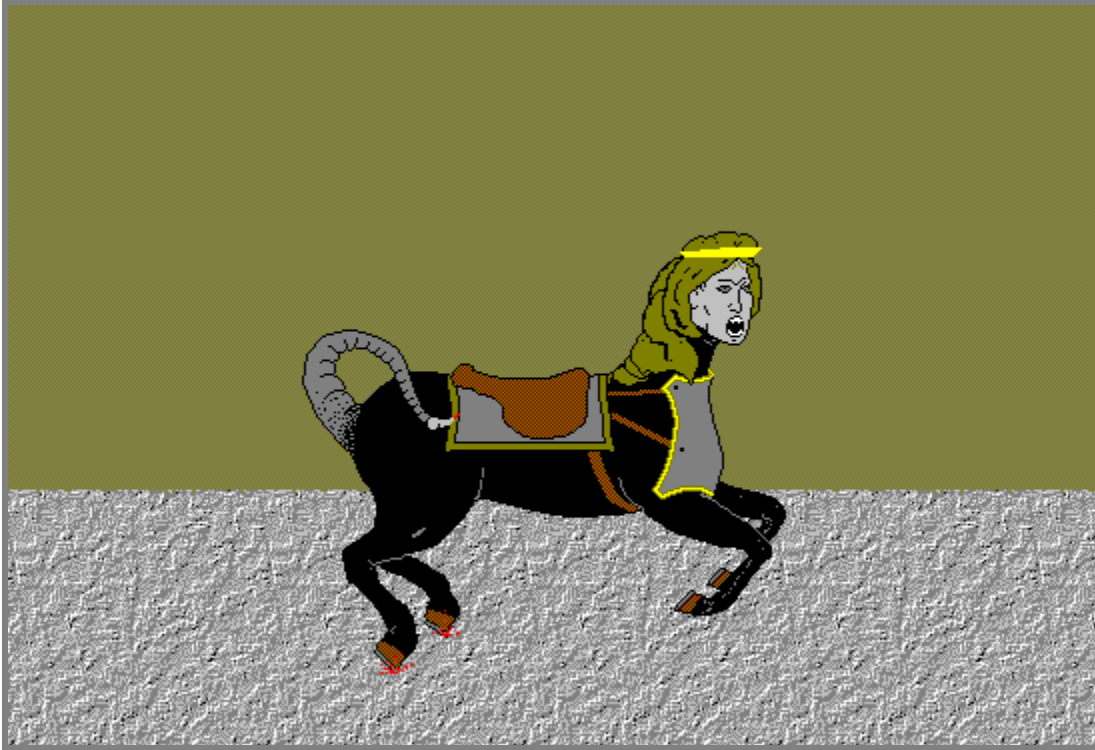
<i>Breastplate -</i>	Symbol of protection, it is the main and frontal part of a Soldiers armor.
<i>Chariot -</i>	Symbol of movement, and becoming and passing away.
<i>Crown -</i>	Symbol of royalty, nobility, power, majesty, and elevated stature.
<i>Faces -</i>	Symbolizes the countenance, or the state of ones being.
<i>Gold -</i>	Symbol for nobility, earthly possessions, love, the highest values of virtue, perfection, and eternity.
<i>Hair -</i>	Symbol of strength.
<i>Heads -</i>	Symbolizes intelligence and leadership.
<i>Horse -</i>	Used to Symbolize Life and Danger. They are also symbols of strength, movement and most common in the scriptures, War.
<i>Iron -</i>	Symbol for power, durability, inflexibility. Note that in the making of Solomon's temple iron tools could not be used. This might give iron an unfavorable symbol in the light of it's religious symbolism.
<i>Lion -</i>	Known as the "King" of terrestrial animals. Symbol of courage, wildness, wisdom, light, power, justice, and the resurrection of the dead at the day of justice.
<i>Locust -</i>	In Hebrew it means "many". Symbol of voracity, destruction, devastation.
<i>Men -</i>	Symbolize mortality, the carnal state, and the natural man.
<i>Running to battle -</i>	This could symbolize readiness, eagerness, or desire to engage in battle.
<i>Scorpions -</i>	Symbolizes pain and torment.

<i>Stings -</i>	Symbolizes the power to inflict pain and torment.
<i>Teeth -</i>	Symbols of strength, vitality, and aggressiveness.
<i>Tails -</i>	Tails are often used to indicate the power over ones following. Satan took 1/3 of the host of heaven with his tail.
<i>Wings -</i>	Symbol of action and the power of movement.

Through the definitions of possible symbolism for the accounting we can conclude the fact that this great army (Joel 1:6) will be one of great strength and power. They will represent the power, pride, and haughtiness of the earth. They will be many and will have the power to inflict great pain on man. They will have great speed and movement, and none shall escape them. When reading John's accounting, one might picture something resembling the following illustration; however, one must keep in mind that John was seeing things as foreign to him as the illustration is foreign to us. It has been suggested that the images John saw were images of modern day warfare, helicopters, tanks, and armored vehicles. Bruce R. McConkie said, "*It is not improbable that these ancient prophets were seeing such things as men wearing or protected by strong armor; as troops of cavalry and companies of tanks and flame throwers; as airplanes and airborne missiles which explode, fire shells and drop bombs; and even other weapons yet to be devised in an age when warfare is the desire and love of wicked men (McConkie DNTC, Volume 3, pages 502-503)*". Whether or not this accounting is a description of modern day war equipment in terms John understood, or rather a metaphoric accounting of conditions in last days, where the wicked are combined in tormenting the world with their evil acts, we cannot say for sure. We do know that it will happen and that condition will be so bad that men will wish to die.

Verse 11: John calls the leader of this band of locust Abaddon, which is Hebrew for the "the place of the lost" or "destruction". He calls the leader also Apollyon, which is Greek for "Destroyer". Both of these words would indicate that they follow the commands of the great destroyer, Satan.


The Locust Described By John
Revelation 9:7-11



Verse 12: John said that three woes were to be unleashed on man. Webster's dictionary defines the word woe as follows;

woe - wō - n. **1.** Deep distress or misery, as from grief; wretchedness, synonym - regret **2.** misfortune; calamity. used to express sorrow and dismay

The release of the locust was the first woe to be pronounced on man. Two woes remain, and will be seen with the sounding of the next two trumps. Man will be warned that they are to come.

Verses 13-19: During these verses John sees the angel with the 6th  Trump sound. An unbelievable army of 200,000,000 is unleashed on man. They kill one-third of the men on earth, and the remaining people of the earth refused to repent.

Two great battles are discussed in scripture as happening prior to the second coming of the Lord. The scriptures discuss the battle of Gog and Magog, which is to happen just prior to the second coming (Ezekiel 38), and again after the millennial reign (Revelation 20). Ezekiel told of the invasion of the country of Israel by a county he called Magog. The King of Magog is said to be called "Gog". Magog represents the wicked, gentile nations of the north, more specifically the country or people north of the Black sea. Currently, that country

would be Russia; however, many things could change between now and the time of Gog and Magog. Magog is to combine with other wicked nations to come against the Lord's people, and consequently the Lord will destroy Gog and Magog. Gog and Magog is said to be named after an ancient battle that took place..... The other great battle spoken of is the battle of Armageddon. This battle is said to also occur just prior to the second coming. It is called such after the place it is said to happen. The word Armageddon translates from Hebrew to Greek as "**har meggido**" or the mountain of meggido, meaning "Mount of Destruction". The mount of destruction lies 50 miles north of Jerusalem. It lies in the western portion of the plains of Esdraelon.

It is on the plains of Esdraelon that the great and final battle of this telestial earth is to occur. Bruce R. McConkie suggest in his Book, "*The Millennial Messiah*", that the two battles (Gog and Magog, and Armageddon) are one and the same. He says that the final battle will be between the righteous, God's people, and the Abominable church, the followers of Satan. The Abominable church is said to be more than just an organization of clergy but represents the political and social following of the adversary. They are said to be "Magog" and their king is "Gog" (*Millennial Messiah*, pages 481-483). In verses 1 through 11 of this chapter, in the Book of Revelation, we are shown the proceedings to the great and final battle. We see what might be the aggression of Magog on the world, the infliction of pain. This might be interpreted as economic and social torment, or even physical torment. Is the battle described in these verses one of the great battles and is the battle of Gog and Magog the same as the battle of Armageddon? Let us look at John's accounting and compare it with other passages of scripture regarding the two great and final battles.

First, we will examine the scriptural references to Gog and Magog, and compare them with this section of John's accounting.

References to The Battle of Gog & Magog

John's Accounting
Revelation 9:12-21

Ezekiel 38-39

Daniel 8:23-25

12 One woe is past; and behold there come two woes more hereafter.

13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the Golden altar which is before God.

14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, loose the four angels which are bound *in the bottomless pit*.

15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year for to slay the third part of men.

16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone issued out of their mouths.

19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

38:14 In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?

38:15 And thou shalt come from they place out of the North parts, thou and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:

38:18when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord God, that my fury shall come up in my face.

38:19surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land Israel;

38:20 So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beast of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

38:22 And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire and brimstone.

39:9 And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth and shall set fire and burn the weapons, both the shields, and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall.

39:11I will give unto Gog a place thereof, graves in Israel, the valley of passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it the valley of Hamon-Gog.

39:12 And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that the may cleanse the Land.

23 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.

24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and holy people.

25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his land: and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace (*in the time of*) shall he destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of Princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

Now let us look at how John's accounting in the Book of Revelation chapter 9:12-21 compares with references in the scripture to the Battle of Armageddon.

References to *The Battle Armageddon*

John's Accounting

Revelation 9:12-21

Revelation 16

Zechariah 12-13

12 One woe is past; and behold there come two woes more hereafter.

13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the Golden altar which is before God.

14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, loose the four angels which are bound *in the bottomless pit*.

15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year for to slay the third part of men.

16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone issued out of their mouths.

19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

15 Behold I come as a thief, blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue, Armageddon.

18 And there were voices, and thunders and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a was not since men were upon the face of the earth, so mighty an earthquake and so great.

19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell....

12:2 Behold I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Juda and Jerusalem.

12:3 And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered against it.

12:9 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

12:11 In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.

13:6 And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.

Finally, we come back to the question at hand. Do the scriptures support the idea that the battle of Gog and Magog is the same battle as the battle of Armageddon? And is John's accounting in this section of scripture, one of these battle? We can site the following facts for each event from the scripture references previously cited;

**John's Accounting in
Revelation chapter 9:12-21**

Gog & Magog

Armageddon

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ An army of 200,000,000 will be unleashed upon man. ☞ They will kill 1/3 of the earth's inhabitants. ☞ Men will refuse to repent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Fierce King (Gog) will arise on the earth during a time of peace in Israel. He will begin to inflict pain on the world. ☞ Magog will be a Land North of Israel, whose king is Gog. ☞ Gog & Magog will be wicked. ☞ Other wicked nations will band with Magog. ☞ They will assemble a great army and come against Jerusalem. So great will be the size that it will take 7 months to bury their dead. ☞ The Lord will plead with Magog by plagues. ☞ A great earthquake will occur, leveling mountains and rising valleys. ☞ They Lord will destroy Gog and Magog. ☞ It will take 7 years to burn their weapons of war. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Jerusalem will be under siege, on all sides. ☞ All the people of the earth gather against Jerusalem. ☞ Lord will destroy the Nations that come against Jerusalem. ☞ There will be a great mourning in the valley of Megiddon. ☞ Israel will accept Christ as their Messiah. ☞ The whole earth will be gathered together at a place called Armageddon. ☞ A great earthquake will occur. The greatest since man was. ☞ The earthquake will divide Jerusalem into three parts.
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Based on these facts, I would conclude that the Battle of Gog and Magog is the Battle of Armageddon; however there is a slight difference, like the battle of Lexington was part of the civil war, it wasn't the entire war. It appears that the battle of Armageddon is the final battle, and the battle of Gog and Magog represents the entire war. John's accounting in chapter nine (9) of the Book of Revelations is only the beginning of the great battle. We see the persecution of the world by Magog in verses 1 through 11 and then the beginning of the great and final war in verses 12-21; however, the outcome of the war, and the gathering to the final battle ground is yet to occur in John's vision (chapter 15-16). John describes the dreadful army of Magog, in similar fashion to the description in verses seven (7) through eleven

(11), only this time the army is actually engaging in battle. Several new symbols are used by John in this description. They are as follows;

<i>Breastplates of Fire-</i>	Breastplates are symbols of protection, it is the main and frontal part of a Soldiers armor. Fire represents wrath, cleansing, and destruction.
<i>Brimstone-</i>	Represents the wrath, indignation, and Judgment of God on the wicked. It is also used to symbolize total destruction.
<i>Fire-</i>	Fire represents wrath, cleansing, and destruction. It can be used to symbolize hell, torment and anguish.
<i>The Four Horns -</i>	Horns can be used as symbols of power. The number four is used as a number of completeness and perfection. It is often used in reference to the complete earth, i.e. the four corners of the earth.
<i>The Golden Altar-</i>	The color gold is used to represent nobility, earthly possessions, love, the highest values of virtue, perfection, and eternity. The altar represents sacrifice, communication with God, and being in the presence of God.
<i>Heads-</i>	Symbolizes intelligence and leadership.
<i>Heads of Lions-</i>	This could symbolize that the leadership or intelligence thereof was courageous, wild, wise, enlightened, powerful, and/or justice.
<i>Horsemen-</i>	In line with the horses symbolic meaning of war, horsemen represent men prepared for war.
<i>Jacinth-</i>	Is a gem, more specifically a bright red zircon, which is used to symbolize blood or death, and the atonement.
<i>Mouths-</i>	Represent the whole person, for example, "the mouth of the Lord spoke."

Serpents-

Symbolize fear and deception. It can be used as a metaphor to show the ability to strike quickly, or bring death quickly.

Smoke-

Symbol of the connection between heaven and earth. Can be used to symbolize the present of fire and it's symbolism.

Tails-

Tails are often used to indicate the power over ones following. Satan took 1/3 of the host of heaven with his tail.

***Literal Picture of the Imagery
used by John in
Revelation 9:12-21***



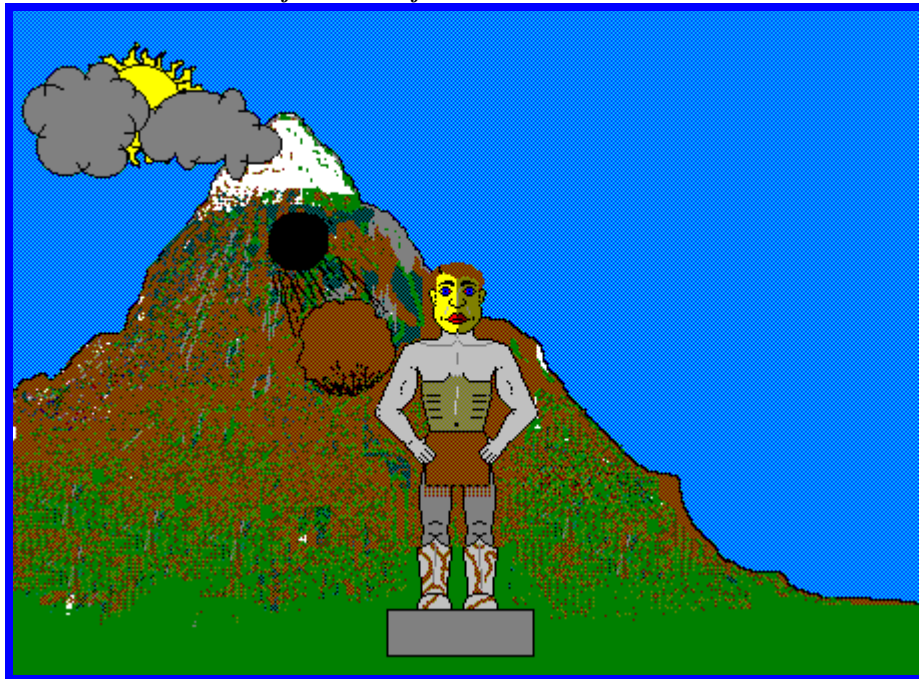
From the list of possible definitions for John's symbolic accountings, we can summarize the passage as follows;

A servant of the Lord, standing before the four horns of the golden altar before God, or rather before the entire earth to which God has all power and dominion, gives the command to sound the sixth

trump, or the sixth warning of the coming of the Son of God. With the sounding of the trump, four angels, who are symbolized as being from the bottomless pit, are unleashed upon man. They are angels or servants of the adversary, who are given power to kill 1/3 of the population of earth. These four servants were given power over a great army, numbering an incredible 200,000,000 soldiers. John describes the army in symbolic terms, that could be translated to say that they were incredibly powerful, with the ability to strike fast and bring quick death upon men. Their leadership and intelligence was cunning, and deceptive. A great multitude of the earth would follow this evil band. Even after great death and devastation, this great voice of warning fell on deaf ears, as men still would not repent of their sins. It is very apparent that the realization of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream is being fulfilled. Daniel told of the King's dream where he saw a "rock cut out of the mountain without hands" that rolled forth to destroy the nations of the world.

King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

"The form thereof was terrible" Daniel 2:31



The King saw a statue who's "form thereof was terrible". The head was made of pure gold, the shoulders and arms were silver, the

abdomen of fine brass, the legs were of iron and the feet were of iron mixed with clay. Each part of the statue represented the progressive leadership of world power. The meanings of the parts of the statue are as follows;

<i>Head of Pure Gold</i>	"Thou (<i>Nebuchadnezzar</i>) art this head of Gold" - The nation of Babylon represents the head of Gold. Daniel 2:31
<i>Chest and arms of silver</i>	Cyrus united with Medes and Persia to conquer Babylon in 538 BC. They founded the Persian Empire. The Persian Empire represents the chest and arms of silver.
<i>Abdomen of Brass</i>	Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire in 334 BC. He was named King of "Macedon" and his people were known as the Greeks.
<i>Legs of Iron</i>	Alexander the Great died in 323 BC. There arose no solid empire until approximately 66 BC when the great Roman Empire arose. Like the division of legs, the Roman Empire became divided. It split into the Holy Roman Empire and the Ottoman Empire.
<i>Feet of Clay and Iron</i>	After the Roman Empires collapse the countries of Europe divide into many nations. They were strong like iron, but their weakness lied in their division, like Iron mixed with clay.

What was the rock that was cut out of a mountain without hands? Mountains can symbolize the earth or a nation of the earth. Rocks are usually used in scripture to symbolize the gospel, kingdom, and power of God. For example, "the rock of my salvation", or "upon this rock I will build my church." The fact that the rock was cut without hands would indicate that no human hand could build or accomplish such a feat, but rather the almighty is responsible for this. So, out of the earth, or a nation of the earth, the Lord will bring forth his kingdom. This kingdom will go forth, and destroy the kingdoms of the earth to establish Christ as the King of this earth.

Verses 20-21: John starts what appears to be a conditional statement that gives a condition without consequence. The condition is the wicked who

were not killed by these plagues and repented not. In John's words, *"And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts"*. Though there is no apparent consequence listed for those that fit the condition, I believe John gave the consequence earlier, when he issued a warning that there are more plagues to come. At this point, the final trump is to sound. It is to issue the final plague. The dictionary defines a plague as follows;

plague - *plāg* - *n.* *1.* A wide spread affliction or calamity, especially one seen as divine retribution.

Those that refuse to hearken unto the words of the Lord will feel His judgments. The wicked that fight against Zion will be destroyed. Ample time will be given of the Lord for mankind to repent of their ways. Those that choose to continue to walk after the ways of the devil, will face destruction.

Interestingly, John describes the wicked of our day as worshippers of idols, made of gold, and silver, other precious elements. It seems almost unreasonable for people in our day to worship idols; however, John is speaking of our devotion to worldly wealth. In a very real sense, our modern world worships money, and riches, and all manner of vanity. We have become a society of idol worshippers, in that we devote ourselves to the riches of the world. Though we worship riches, we do not realize that money cannot buy eternal peace and happiness. Because of this, John uses the symbolism that such idols cannot hear nor see nor walk. They cannot satisfy the purpose of our existence.

Because of mankind's devotion and worship of worldly riches, he has been led to commit murder and theft and all manner of fornication. Such is the great secret that Satan taught to Cain, that man can secretly murder and steal to get gain. Sadly enough, there are many on this earth that believe that great secret to be true. It will not be until they feel the judgments of God, and see the purpose of their mortal probation crumble before them that they will realize that wickedness never was happiness.