



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

## Locusts

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



### Learn the Bible Online

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Locusts.

---

### Topics.

- Overview of locusts.
- Locust, character, habits, and lifestyle.
- Locust the king of Babylon and God's army.
- All Scriptures using the word locust and locusts.
- Overview of Revelation chapter nine.
- John the Baptist ate locusts.
- Snapshot of locusts in Scripture.

---

### OVERVIEW OF LOCUSTS

---

The locust is one of over five thousand species of grasshopper specially adapted for long migratory flights. They must flap their wings and jump high to get airborne, because of the weight of their bodies, but once in flight they are able to fly long distances. There are numberless swarms of locust, particularly the species that infests oriental countries. The locust will eat almost anything; they travel in huge numbers capable of destroying entire fields of cultivated plants and any nearby vegetation. Their wings make a clattering sound as they travel and in approaching swarms, they create an ominous hum. There are times when the swarms are so large, they block out the sunlight.

Locusts are normally shy, solitary creatures, but in a swarm, they are an unstoppable moving cloud of millions of flying grasshoppers capable of stripping fields of crops in a matter of hours. For these reasons the locust is a fitting symbol for the power and destructive might of armies and their allies. The Oxford team has found that "hot-spots" on the hind legs of the locusts are stimulated when they group together turning the relatively harmless insects into destructive pests. Even today millions of locusts have swarmed across several countries presenting major problems in the Middle East and many South African Nations. In the town of Eilat (a popular place with British tourists) thousands of dead locusts were found piled up in swimming pools.

In chapter seven we read:

- The Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people of the East lay along the valley like locusts in abundance, and their camels were without number, as the sand that is on the seashore in abundance. (Judges 7:12).

---

### LOCUST, CHARACTER, HABITS, AND LIFESTYLE

---

- Locusts are so remarkable for their numbers (especially in the East) that they often appeared like clouds and darkened the sky and as such are often used to symbolise numerous armies.
- Locusts are one of the world's most devastating pests.
- Locusts are a kind of metamorphosed grasshopper,

- Locusts can eat their own weight every day
- Locusts can invade all or parts of 65 countries from West Africa to India to Australia, affecting 20 percent of the of the earth's land.
- Locusts in Australia (2008) formed a swarm nearly seven kilometres long.
- Locust swarms with 40 billion insects have reached an altitude of 10,000 feet.
- Locust according to one expert are the only insect in the world that travels so far, over such inhospitable country, to remain alive, and no other insect is so swiftly able to expand both in its numbers and its territory when conditions develop in its favour.
- Locust will eat almost anything
- Locust travel in huge numbers capable of destroying entire fields of cultivated plants and any nearby vegetation.
- Locust wings make a clattering sound as they travel and in approaching swarms, they create an ominous hum.
- Locust swarms at times are so large they block out sunlight.
- Locusts are normally shy, solitary creatures, but in a swarm, they are an unstoppable moving cloud of millions of flying grasshoppers capable of stripping fields of crops in a matter of hours.
- Locusts have, "hot-spots" on the hind legs that are stimulated when they group together turning the relatively harmless insects into destructive pests.
- Locust in the millions, even in modern times have swarmed across several countries causing major problems in the Middle East and many South African Nations.
- Locusts in the town of Eilat (a popular place with British tourists) dead bodies were in their thousands found piled up in swimming pools.
- Locust that are natural do not have a sting in their tail.
- Locust do not have a king arranging their swarms or commanding them not to hurt the vegetation.
- Locusts do not attack humans to kill and eat them.
- Locust must flap their wings and jump high to get airborne, because of the weight of their bodies, but once in flight they are able to fly long distances.
- Locust that infests oriental countries are so great in swarms they are numberless.
- Locusts will eat almost anything and travel in such huge numbers they are capable of destroying entire fields of cultivated plants and any nearby vegetation.
- Locust wings make a clattering sound as they travel, and in approaching swarms create an ominous hum.
- Locusts are normally shy, solitary creatures, but in a swarm, they are an unstoppable moving cloud of millions of flying grasshoppers capable of stripping fields of crops in a matter of hours.

- Locusts normally live for four months and reach a length of three inches.
- Locust can eat the equivalent of their own weight in every day or go for four days without eating, living off stored body fat. If there is no food, they eat one other or slow their body processes until conditions improve, and this way may live as long as year.
- Locust swarms are so large that even though birds, beetles, flies and wasps feed on them, there is not enough of them to make much of a dent on a large swarm.
- Locusts form themselves into a ball when temperatures are extremely cold, so that those on the outside shield those on the inside from the cold, a similar process takes place when temperatures are extremely hot.
- Locusts take wing and form swarms in search for food and favourable living conditions when the rains die out.
- There are about two thousand species of scorpions, of which only about twenty-five to forty species can deliver enough venom to cause serious or lethal damage to humans and only about twenty-five of these species can deliver stings that are fatal to humans and most of these potentially lethal scorpions cannot kill healthy adults. Though in most cases they do not kill healthy adults their neurotoxins can cause troubling symptoms as convulsions; tingling and burning around the area that has been stung; numbness of the body; difficulty swallowing; difficulty breathing; blurry vision; seizures and in some rare cases, pancreatitis (a painful inflammation of the pancreas).

---

## LOCUST THE KING OF BABYLON AND GOD'S ARMY

---

2

---

In the book of Jeremiah God calls Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon His servant and in the book of Joel, God refers to the armies of Babylon as, "My great army."

- **Jerimiah 25: 9-11:** behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, declares the LORD, and for Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants, and against all these surrounding nations. I will devote them to destruction, and make them a horror, a hissing, and an everlasting desolation.
- **Joel 2:25:** I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army (Babylon), which I sent among you.

The armies of Babylon and its allies are called:

- His great army.
- The swarming locust.
- The hopper.
- The destroyer.
- The cutter.
- My great army.

The locusts are the armies and nations of the following verses:

- Nations that came against God's land, powerful and beyond number. (Joel 1:6-7).
- Powerful arm armies drawn up for battle, like warriors and soldiers that come up against Jerusalem. (Joel 1:5-9).
- Great and powerful people spread upon God's Holy Mountain on the day that the LORD is near. (Joel 2:1-2).

- God’s exceeding great and powerful army that executes His word. (Joel 2:1-11).
- The northern army. (Joel 2:20).

The Old Testament books tell us the LORD punished Judah for their rebellion and gross sin by using His servant Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon and his great armies. (See Jeremiah chapter 49, 50, 51, 52). Scripture shows; when Israel broke GOD’S covenant and turned to idols and pagan gods the LORD used the armies of secular nations as His servant to bring judgment upon rebellious and disobedient Israel. Locusts are the perfect symbolism for powerful and vast armies that cannot be numbered, for the following three reasons;

1. Locust fly in numbers that cannot be counted
2. In such vast numbers locust spread over the land and destroy everything in their path.
3. Locusts are enormously difficult to destroy and kill.

---

## ALL SCRIPTURES USING THE WORD LOCUST AND LOCUSTS

---

### LOCUSTS BRING GOD’S JUDGMENT ON ISRAEL

---

#### EXODUS 10:4

---

- If you refuse to let my people go, behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your country. (Exodus 10:4).

The locust here are real locusts that brought upon Egypt God’s judgment upon the land of Egypt by eating all the plants and the fruit in the land of Egypt.

---

### LOCUST ARE CHILDREN OF THE EAST

---

#### EXODUS 10:12-15

---

- **Exodus 10:12–15:** Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, so that they may come upon the land of Egypt and eat every plant in the land, all that the hail has left.”<sup>13</sup> So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind upon the land all that day and all that night. When it was morning, the east wind had brought the locusts.<sup>14</sup> The locusts came up over all the land of Egypt and settled on the whole country of Egypt, such a dense swarm of locusts as had never been before, nor ever will be again.<sup>15</sup> They covered the face of the whole land, so that the land was darkened, and they ate all the plants in the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Not a green thing remained, neither tree nor plant of the field, through all the land of Egypt.

From these verses we learn that the locusts:

- Come upon the land of Egypt from the East. (v13).
- Eat every plant in the land. (v12).
- Settled on the whole country of Egypt as a dense swam that had never been before, nor ever will be again. (v14).
- Covered the face of the whole land and darkened the land. (v15).

- Ate all the green plants, and fruit of the trees that hail had not destroyed. (v15).
- Where brought by an east wind, which means the wind came from the Eastern countries which is Arabia, being eastward of Egypt

---

## THE LORD CONTROLS THE LOCUSTS

---

### EXODUS 10:19

---

- **Exodus 10:19:** The LORD turned the wind into a very strong west wind, which lifted the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea. Not a single locust was left in all the country of Egypt. (Exod. 10:19).

This verse shows that not only are the locusts controlled by God, but so too is the wind.

---

## ISRAEL WAS PERMITTED TO EAT LOCUSTS

---

### LEVITICUS 11:22

---

- **Leviticus: 11:22:** You may eat: the locust of any kind, the bald locust of any kind, the cricket of any kind, and the grasshopper of any kind.

---

## LOCUST ARE A JUDGMENT FOR DISOBEDIENCE

---

### DEUTERONOMY 28:36-38

---

- **Deuteronomy 28:38:** You shall carry much seed into the field and shall gather in little, for the locust shall consume it.
- **Deuteronomy 28:42:** The locust shall possess all your trees and the fruit of your ground.

Locust plagues are one of the curses and judgments that would fall upon Israel if they disobeyed the laws of the covenant

---

## THE PEOPLE OF THE EAST ARE LIKENED TO LOCUST

---

### JUDGES 6:5

---

- **Judges 6:5:** They (people of Midian) would come up with their livestock and their tents; they would come like locusts in number, both they and their camels could not be counted, so that they laid waste the land as they came in.

Locusts here are likened to the numerous people of Midian and the people of the East who would come up like locusts in number and devour the planted crops, the sheep, ox, and donkeys in the land of Israel and leave no nourishment and food in Israel.

---

## LOCUST, COME FROM ARABIA

---

### JUDGES 7:12

---

- **Judges 7:12:** The Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people of the East (Arabians) lay along the valley like locusts in abundance, and their camels were without number, as the sand that is on the seashore in abundance.

The people of the East, the Arabians, are likened to locusts in that they are numerous in number.

---

## LOCUSTS ARE SIGNS OF GOD'S JUDGMENT AGAINST ISRAEL

---

### KINGS 8:35-37

---

- **1 Kings 8:37:** If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence or blight or mildew or locust or caterpillar, if their enemy besieges them in the land at their gates, whatever plague, whatever sickness there is,

Here God warns Israel, that He will afflict them with plagues of locusts if they sin against Him.

---

## LITERAL LOCUSTS PLAGUES THE LAND

---

### 2 CHRON. 6:28

---

- If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence or blight or mildew or locust or caterpillar, if their enemies besiege them in the land at their gates, whatever plague, whatever sickness there is. 2 (Chron. 6:28).

Locusts here refers to literal swarms and plagues of locusts in the land of Israel.

5

---

---

## GOD CONTROLS THE LOCUSTS

---

### 2 CHRON. 7:13

---

- **2 Chronicles 7:13:** When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people.

This verse shows that locusts are in the control of God.

---

## THE LORD MADE THE HORSE LEAP LIKE A LOCUST

---

### JOB 39:20

---

- **Job 39:20:** Do you make him leap like the locust? His majestic snorting is terrifying.

Here war horses are likened to leaping locusts.

---

## GOD BROUGHT LOCUSTS UPON EGYPT

---

### PSALM 78:46

---

- **Psalm 78:46:** He gave their (Egypt's) crops to the destroying locust and the fruit of their labour to the locust.

Locusts were one of God's judgments against the land of Egypt.

---

## LOCUST TRAVEL AS A MASS AND IN INFINITE NUMBERS

---

### PSALMS 105:34-35

---

- **Psalm 105:34-35:** He (Moses) spoke, and the locusts came, young locusts without number, <sup>35</sup> which devoured all the vegetation in their land and ate up the fruit of their ground.

At Moses word plagues of locust came upon Egypt in infinite, immeasurable, countless, and inestimable numbers.

---

## LOCUSTS SYMBOLIZE DAVID'S DESPAIR

---

### PSALM 109:23

---

- **Psalm 109:23:** I am gone like a shadow at evening; I am shaken off like a locust.

David accusers are scorning and mocking him to such an extent he feels like a locust that is cast away.

---

## LOCUSTS HAVE NO KING

---

### PROVERBS 30:27

---

- **Proverbs 30:27:** The locusts have no king, yet all of them march in rank.

Natural locusts do not have a king arranging their swarms.

6

---

---

## LOCUST LEAP AND RUN TO AND FRO

---

### ISAIAH 33:4

---

- **Isaiah 33:4: (ESV)** and your (Sennacherib king of Assyria) spoil is gathered as the caterpillar gathers; as locusts leap, it is leapt upon.
- **Isaiah 33:4: (KJV)** <sup>4</sup> And your (Sennacherib king of Assyria) spoil shall be gathered *like* the gathering of the caterpillar: As the running to and fro of locusts shall he run upon them.

These words are addressed to the Assyrians they are the ones who came to spoil and it is them who will find themselves spoiled. As plagues of caterpillars and locusts devour all the green herbage, likewise the people of Jerusalem will strip the Assyrian camp of all its treasures. It refers to the treasure and booty that the Assyrian army had gathered from the different nations on their march toward Jerusalem, and which would now be left by them in their flight to be collected by the Jews.

- **2 Kings 19:35:** And that night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies.

This was the answer of the LORD to the prayer His people had prayed while trapped within the walls of Jerusalem by the Assyrian armies. The LORD'S people would be victorious and enjoy the spoils of their enemies as easily as the caterpillar (or locust), gathers and consumes herbs and every green thing; or as easily as they are gathered, and laid on heaps,



being weak and unable to defend themselves, which is exactly what happened to the mighty armies of Assyria after the destruction of them by the angel, and the Jews walking into their camp and gathering their spoil.

**The running to and fro of locusts:** the symbolism of these words, is of the 185.000 Assyrian soldiers being slain in their camp and the people of Judah running amongst the corpses and through the camp without any fear gathering all the treasures, spoil, and plunder like a plague of locusts and caterpillars jumping and hopping through a field of rich ripe herbs and green plants.

All, of the following expressions are perfectly suited to fit the cries and prayers of God's people trapped within the walls of Jerusalem.

- LORD, be gracious to us.
- We wait for you.
- Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble.
- Peoples flee when you lift yourself up, nations are scattered.
- Your spoil is gathered.

These are the cry of the inhabitants of Jerusalem who are suffering extreme famine, disease, and sicknesses in the city of Jerusalem

---

### LOCUST SYMBOLISE THE ARMIES OF BABYLON

---

#### JEREMIAH 46:23

---

- **Jeremiah 46:23:** They (the armies of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon) shall cut down her (Egypt) forest, declares the LORD, though it is impenetrable, because they are more numerous than locusts; they are without number.

Here the armies of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon are pictured as being more numerous than locusts without number.

---

### LOCUSTS SYMBOLISE THE MEDES AND THEIR ARMIES

---

#### JEREMIAH 51:14

---

- **Jeremiah 51:14:** The LORD of hosts has sworn by himself: Surely I will fill you with men, as many as locusts, and they shall raise the shout of victory over you.

Here locust refer to the armies of the Medes (v11) who God is about to use to carry out His vengeance against Babylon to destroy it.

---

### LOCUSTS SYMBOLISE THE MEDES AND THEIR ARMIES

---

#### JEREMIAH 51:27

---

- **Jeremiah 51:27:** Set up a standard on the earth; blow the trumpet among the nations; prepare the nations for war against her (Babylon); summon against her the kingdoms, Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz; appoint a marshal against her; bring up horses like bristling locusts.

Locust here symbolises the kings of the Medes their governors and deputies (v28-29) and the armies of the nations that God is about to bring up against Babylon and make her a desolation.

---

## LOCUSTS AND WARRIORS AND ARMIES WITHOUT NUMBER

---

### JOEL 1:4-9

---

- **Joel 1:4-7:** What the cutting locust left, the swarming locust has eaten. What the swarming locust left, the hopping locust has eaten, and what the hopping locust left, the destroying locust has eaten. <sup>5</sup> Awake, you drunkards, and weep, and wail, all you drinkers of wine, because of the sweet wine, for it is cut off from your mouth. <sup>6</sup> For a nation has come up against my land, powerful and beyond number; its teeth are lions' teeth, and it has the fangs of a lioness. <sup>7</sup> It has laid waste my vine and splintered my fig tree; it has stripped off their bark and thrown it down; their branches are made white.

The locust here symbolizes the powerful and fierce armies of Babylon. God used the armies of Babylon to punish Israel for their gross wickedness and worship of pagan gods. The warriors and soldiers Babylon's massive and powerful armies beyond number going into battle are likened to locusts coming up against Jerusalem

---

## SWARMING LOCUSTS SYMBOLISE BABYLON'S GREAT ARMIES

---

### JOEL 2:20-25

---

- **Joel 2:24-25:** "The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. <sup>25</sup> I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you.

8

---

Here the armies of Babylon are likened to swarming locusts. God calls the armies of Babylon, "My great army" (v25) (symbolised by locusts) and used them to bring judgment upon His people Israel, because they had corrupted His word, turned to gods of superstition and were full of pride, selfish ambition and were hypocritical.

---

## LOCUSTS ARE A SIGH OF GOD'S JUDGMENT ON ISRAEL

---

### AMOS 4:9

---

- **Amos 4:9:** I struck you with blight and mildew; your many gardens and your vineyards, your fig trees and your olive trees the locust devoured; yet you did not return to me, declares the LORD.

Here swarms of Locusts are God's judgment upon the rebellious Israel.

---

## GOD PREPARES LOCUSTS FOR LOOMING JUDGMENT

---

### AMOS 7:1

---

- **Amos 7:1:** This is what the Lord God showed me: behold, he was forming locusts when the latter growth was just beginning to sprout, and behold, it was the latter growth after the king's mowings.

Here Israel is so corrupt and rebellious God prepares literal locusts to invade their land, and Amos intercedes and the LORD relented.

---

## BABYLON'S ARMIES ARE LIKENED TO LOCUSTS THAT WILL DEVOUR NINEVEH

---

### NAHUM 3:15-17

---

- **Nahum 3:15-17:** There (the forts of Nineveh) will the fire (the armies of the king of Babylon) devour you; the sword will cut you off. It will devour you like the locust. Multiply yourselves like the locust; multiply like the grasshopper! <sup>16</sup> You increased your merchants more than the stars of the heavens. The locust spreads its wings and flies away. <sup>17</sup> Your (Nineveh's) princes are like grasshoppers, your scribes like clouds of locusts settling on the fences in a day of cold— when the sun rises, they fly away; no one knows where they are.

Here the armies of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon are pictured as being more numerous than locusts without number that will devour the forts of Nineveh like locusts and the merchants of Nineveh are likened to locust multiplying and their princes and scribes like locusts flying away when trouble comes.

---

### LOCUST FROM SMOKE FROM THE BOTTOMLESS PIT

---

#### REVELATION 9:2

---

- **Revelation 9:2-3:** And he opened the bottomless 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 by reason of the smoke of the pit.

**The sun and the air were darkened:** locusts in the East are so remarkable for their vast numbers that they often appeared like clouds and darkened the sky and as such are symbolical of numerous armies of men. This symbol of numerous armies likened to locust is often employed by the prophets.

9

---

---

### LOCUSTS FROM SMOKE AND SCORPIONS

---

#### REVELATION 9:3

---

- **Revelation 9:3:** Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth.

Locust come up from the bottomless pit carry the idea that the head of these nations and their armies will be aggressively hostile and fiercely ruthless (symbolized by a scorpion's sting) toward God, toward Christ and toward his people, but the end of his rule will ultimately bring widespread destruction, suffering, grief, and death.

---

### LOCUSTS FORBIDDEN TO HURT ANY GREEN THING

---

#### REVELATION 9:4

---

- **Revelation 9:4:** They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

The fact these locusts are commanded not harm green plants; signifies they are not real locusts since this is all that they do eat. These locusts

have power to bring harm on those who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. Whatever this locust plague may be, it is one which cannot harm God's children. Jesus said to the apostles:

- I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup> Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. <sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:18–20).

As we look back in history it, is clear that the faithful are not protected from wars, physical harm, hurt and persecution (consider the apostles for a moment), and Jesus did not promise his disciples' total freedom from all danger, pain, and death, since he also said:

- You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (Matt. 10:22).
- You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (Mark 13:13).
- You will be hated by all for my name's sake. (Luke 21:17).

Pain and death may be encountered, but no real spiritual harm or permanent hurt can come upon the faithful in Christ. Those whose hope and trust is in Christ (i.e., sealed) have a joy which no pain, danger or threat can take away, which is that their names are written in heaven.

- Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." (Luke. 10:20).

For those who are heaven bound, death has no sting and the grave no victory. Those who know God's love and grace in Christ meet famine, peril, and sword and in the face of these are more than conquerors. After Peter told the disciples that they had been born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for them, he then went onto say those in Christ:

- Are by God's power being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:5-7).

These verses make it very clear that when Jesus told his disciples, "Nothing shall hurt you," he did not have in mind worldly afflictions, troubles, and hardships, but salvation, meaning nothing (no plague, persecution, or sorrow etc.), in this world can take away the salvation of those who hold fast to their faith in Christ and endure to the end. The apostle Paul expressed the same truth with the following words:

- Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:35-39).

Since the way of those in Christ is through persecution, tribulation, famine, and war it is most unlikely that they are sealed from a literal plague, and far more likely that this sealing is one that secures them in Christ and in their salvation. No matter how bad things get, those saved

by faith in Christ would be kept by the seal of salvation and by God's all-powerful grace. The faithful will share the common calamity and separations, but will be protected from the errors of apostasy for their salvation is kept safe and secure in Christ.

---

## LOCUST AND PEOPLE SEEK DEATH BUT CANNOT FIND IT

---

### REVELATION 9:6

---

#### **Locust People Seek Death and will Not Find It.**

- **Revelation 9:6:** And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.

People will seek death and not find it and long to die, but death will flee from them, signifies, that during the time of these locust the horror and terror, suffering and grief caused by these locusts will be so bad and painful people will feel that death would be better than living. It does not mean people will try to suicide, but find they cannot die, since this would mean they are immortal, but that their suffering, grief, and pain is so great they would prefer death to survival. Nuclear war, chemical warfare, or some type of plague or even a global financial money collapse would cause such a despairing and hopeless state of mind.

The expression, "people will seek death and will not find it," is applicable to what occurs in all ages and in all lands, for in every generation, there has always been prisoners in cells and dungeons; people languishing on sickbeds of pain, others suffering extreme hunger in times of great famine and poverty and many in mental and emotional times of hopelessness and disappointed affections who are looking forward to death as a relief from their agony, misery, and torment. Death will be regarded as a sweet relief from the tormenting trials of life, people will not only greatly desire death, but also, should it come to them embrace it as a welcome deliverer.

As much as they strongly desire to die, they cannot take their own life, and it is in this sense that death flees from them. Their suffering and pain whatever it maybe is not terminal so they continue in their suffering wishing death would take them. People of old age suffering terminal illness and extreme pain not only see death as a friend, but long for it to deliver them from their suffering. The following verse show that this is exactly how Job felt:

- Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter in soul,<sup>21</sup> who long for death, but it comes not, and dig for it more than for hidden treasures. (Job 3:20–21).

In the context of this chapter the expression, "people will seek death and will not find it," refers to an age of terror, fear and dread that cause such extreme hardship, grief, pain, and sorrow that those suffering such terrors long for death. There have been times in history in which people have longed for death, such times are aptly called, reigns of terror.

---

## LOCUST LIKE HORSES PREPARED FOR BATTLE

---

### REVELATION 9:7

---

- **Revelation 9:7:** In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces (*were as the faces of men* in KJV).

Here we read of locusts like horses prepared for battle, whose heads looked like crowns of gold, and faces like human faces. The words, faces were like human faces (faces of men in KJV), signify the following two things:

1. They are not some form of demonic entity.
2. They are rough shaven, strong, fierce, warlike warriors in contrast to woman having faces smooth, soft, and tender.

---

### LOCUSTS WITH HEADS LIKE CROWNS OF GOLD

---

#### REVELATION 9:7

---

- **Revelation 9:7:** In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces,

The words, "locust like horses prepared for battle," signifies great and numerous warriors and soldiers prepared to go to war. Many authors have observed that the head of a locust resembles that of a horse and that the hard shell or scales of the locust head have the appearance of armour it is for this reason that the Italians call them cavalette, meaning, little horses.

---

### LOCUSTS WITH HAIR LIKE WOMAN

---

#### REVELATION 9:8

---

- **Revelation 9:8:** their hair like women's hair, and their teeth like lions' teeth;

The words, hair like women's hair, may signify, strength, as Samson long hair did, this would be supported by the fact these locusts are said to have teeth like lions' teeth, or it could signify, the king outwardly appeared charming and harmless as women do, and spoke with enticing words when he made his appearance to the masses, but was inwardly full of deception and a lust for power and would destroy anything that stood in his way of obtaining it.

---

### LOCUST WITH BREASTPLATES OF IRON

---

#### REVELATION 9:9

---

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

Locusts have a hard shell or skin, which has been called their armour, the symbolism here is that the army they signify is enormously strong and appears to be almost invincible.

---

### LOCUST WITH POWER TO HURT FOR FIVE MONTHS

---

#### REVELATION 9:10

---

- **Revelation 9:10:** They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails.

Having power like scorpions, signifies they could inflict great suffering, grief, and sorrow. Following are the three most common thoughts concerning the words, hurt people for five months:

1. The rule of the nations in focus, their armies and warfare are limited to a short period of time.
2. These locusts do not refer to armies, because an army would kill, and not merely torment and it could not be said of an army that they had no power to kill. Based on these facts many commentators conclude that the locusts and scorpions signify the Roman Papal Church and their Popes, bishops, and clergy, who did not physically kill, but did introduce many doctrines that instead of bringing life and peace to the mind, brought torment and death. The problem with this idea is that though these corrupt and false doctrines can figuratively be said to sting like a scorpion and bring mental torment and emotional pain as a locust sting does, these doctrines never came to an end, so they do not fit the five-month analogy.
3. The statement "power to hurt for five months," carries the idea that they could not utterly kill and destroy in the sense, they could not utterly wipe out an entire nation, a people or race out of existence so that they were no more. They may kill, harm, and hurt a great portion of a nation an empire or race, but never utterly wipe the nation, empire, or race from the face of the earth.

---

## LOCUST WITH A KING NAMED ABADDON AND APOLLYON

---

### REVELATION 9:11

---

- **Revelation 9:11:** They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.

13

---

Abaddon in Hebrew means a destroying angel and carries the idea of perishing and destruction, while Apollyon in Greek means a destroyer (i.e., Satan) and carries the idea of destroying and to fully perish and die. The king over them is described as the angel of the bottomless pit whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon. The following verses show that in Scripture the name Abaddon embraces destruction, death, and the grave:

- Sheol (Hebrew for grave) is naked before God, and Abaddon has no covering. (Job 26:6).

No covering, means no one in the grave is hidden from the eyes of God.

- Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the eyes of man. (Proverbs 27:20).
- Sheol and Abaddon lie open before the LORD; how much more the hearts of the children of man! (Prov. 15:11).

The idea is that the king or ruler (named Apollyon) not only has absolute control over these symbolical locusts, and inspires and assembles a great movement, but also carries the idea that his rule will end in widespread apostasy and desolation and utter-destruction, ruin.

**The two most prominent examples of this king named Apollyon, which signifies a destroyer is:**

1. **King of the western locusts:** The Pope of Rome, who has great influence over the kings of the earth and by his widespread deception has been the cause of leading millions away from the true path to salvation, which makes him to be the king of the western locusts.

2. **King of the eastern locusts:** Mohammed is believed to be the great prophet of God, and is not only exalted in faith and worship above Moses and all other prophets of the Bible, but also above the Lord Jesus Christ which makes him to be the king of the eastern locusts.

The king named Apollyon brought many kingdoms, countries, cities, and towns to ruin by wars and deceptive and serpent like ways and artful methods that influenced the mind of men and women worldwide to embrace a religion contrary to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Gospel. However, though these are great examples of the one that rises-up out of the bottomless pit the ultimate and true man named Apollyon will arise in the latter days with greater global influence, power and hostility toward Israel and God's people.

---

## OVERVIEW OF REVELATION CHAPTER NINE

---

**Locust having power like scorpions:** signifying they could inflict great suffering, grief, and sorrow.

**Locust not to harm green plants:** signifies they are not real locusts since grass is all they do eat.

**Locust forbidden to harm those with the seal of God:** signify that no matter how bad things got, those saved by faith in Christ would be kept for eternal salvation.

**Locust's torment five months:** (v5) signifies their time is limited, and may carry the idea, they kill, and bring enormous ruin and destruction to great nations and empires, but never utterly wipe the nation or empire itself from the face of the earth.

---

14

**Locus and people seeking death and not finding it:** (v6) signifies the horror and terror, suffering, pain, and grief during the time of these locusts is so great they would prefer death to survival. Nuclear war, chemical warfare, or some type of plague or even a global financial money collapse would cause such a despairing and hopeless state of mind.

**Locust like horses prepared for battle:** (v7) signifies great and numerous warriors and soldiers prepared to go to war.

**Locust with heads like crowns of gold:** (v7) signifies rulers of nations leading armies.

**Locus with faces like human faces:** (v7) signifies they are not demonic beings, but humans.

**Locust with hair like women's hair:** (v8) signifies they spoke with enticing words and appeared harmless, but led many to ruin.

**Locust with teeth like lions' teeth:** (v8) Daniel in his prophecy pictures Rome as a nation with iron teeth, and it conquered most of the known world, so iron teeth symbolize fierce strength and the power to devour anything that stands in the path of whatever army, empire, or nation the locust with the iron teeth symbolize.

**Locust with breastplates of iron:** (v8) signifies they were enormously strong and almost invincible.

**Locust with wings was like the noise of many chariots:** (v9) with horses rushing into battle, signifies their weapons of war were powerful and in today's world, most likely embraces weapons of mass destruction.



**Locust with tails and stings like scorpions:** (v10) tails speak of all the nations aligned to the head nation, it could figuratively be said that the tail nations are the legs of the beasts' head and body. The sting is in their tails means that the power of the head nation is in the nations that are in league with it.

**Locust with power to hurt for five months:** (v10) signifies they their time is limited, and may carry the idea, they kill, and bring enormous ruin and destruction to great nations and empires, but never utterly wipe the nation or empire itself from the face of the earth.

**Locust with a king over them named Abaddon, and Apollyon:** (v11) Abaddon carries the idea of utter destruction, and Apollyon means destroyer, and carries the idea of utter destruction, fully perish, and die, and signifies the following two things, the head of these nations and their armies:

1. Are hostile toward God, toward Christ and toward his people.
2. Will ultimately bring widespread destruction and death.

---

## JOHN THE BAPTIST ATE LOCUSTS

---

### MATTHEW 3:4 AND MARK 1:6

---

- John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. (Matt. 3:4) (Mark 1:6).

John the Baptist main source of food was locusts soaked in honey.

15

---

---

## SNAPSHOT OF LOCUSTS IN SCRIPTURE

---

The following conclusion is taken from every Scripture that uses the word locust and locusts in the Bible.

- When real locusts are pictured in Scripture eating crops and every green plant and the fruit of trees of the land it is, because God is bringing judgment upon that land.
- When locusts are used symbolically, they are always presented as a judgment for disobedience and signify numerous, fearful, and mighty armies that God is using to bring judgment upon a nation, a people, and a land. It can be upon Israel because of their great disobedience or upon a nation that has brought harm to Israel.
- Locust plagues coming upon the land of Israel was one of the Old Testament covenant curses that would fall upon Israel if they disobeyed the covenant (Deut. 28:42).
- Locusts often symbolize the rumbling of chariots and war horses running to battle. Joel 2:4-5
- Locust travel as a mass and in infinite numbers. (Psalm 105:34-35).
- Natural locusts do not have a king arranging their swarms. (Prov. 30:27).
- Gathering spoil is likened to locusts leaping upon it. (Isaiah 33:4).

- When locusts are spoke of coming from the East it means they come from the Eastern countries which is Arabia being eastward of Egypt (Exod. 10:13) (Judges 7:12).
- Great swarms of locusts darken the land. (Exod. 10:15).
- The LORD controls the Locusts. (Exod. 10:19) (2 Chron. 7:13).

**CONCLUSION:** locusts always refer to God's judgment either by famine, armies, or war.

---

*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

---

Bible House of Grace