

10. The Fifth and Sixth Angel Sound Their Trumpets and Two Woes Pass (Revelation 9)

As chapter 8 chronicled the effects of man's fall on the destiny of man in the physical world, chapter 9 tells of the destructive nature of lust, sin and death upon man in the spiritual world—all of which occurred because of the fall of man.

The Fifth Angel Sounded His Trumpet (Revelation 9:1-11)

9:1 The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.

At the sounding of the fifth trumpet, a star had fallen out of heaven. The past perfect tense *had fallen* shows an event concluded before the time of the past tense *saw*, which is the time of John's vision. Some variously describe the star that had fallen from the sky to earth as Satan, Martin Luther, and Mohammed, or some other. We shall take a different meaning. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss or a better translation in this case is the King James *bottomless pit*. The key allowed this star control over the Abyss. What is this abyss? Isaiah in Isaiah 14:9-15 spoke of, "The grave below is all astir to meet you at your coming; it rouses the spirits of the departed to greet you." Isaiah called this place the depths of the pit in verse 15: "But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit."

In Romans 10:6-7, Paul similarly describes the abyss:

6 But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 "or 'Who will descend into the deep (Abyss in NKJV)?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

The *where* of the abyss and the shaft of the abyss is the darkest world of sin and death contrasted to heaven where there is only righteousness and light. A bottom of the abyss is, therefore, Hades. The *who* of the star or angel is Death. This interpretation agrees with the final words of this sounding trumpet: "They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon." This is not Satan, as some would suppose, but the Destroyer who is Death. Yes, Death, who rode the pale horse with Hades following, received the key to the abyss.

From whom and when did Death receive this key? At the instigation of the devil, sin and Death came. The Hebrew letter states the case in Heb 2:14-15: "14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death." Again, we turn to the advent of all that inflicts fallen man. After Adam and Eve's so gravely sinned, God allowed Death to reign:

17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,'

". . . 19 By the sweat of your brow

you will eat your food

until you return to the ground,

since from it you were taken;

for dust you are

and to dust you will return." Genesis 3:17-19

Paul marked the reign of Death from Adam in Romans 5:14: "14 Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come." Hebrews directly connects Death to the devil: "By his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death." Hebrews 2:14-16.

The *when* of Death having the key to the abyss is when Adam sinned. From then until now, man lives with the certain expectation of death and fear of death. 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 concludes: "22 For as in Adam all die."

The key (*key* and *keys* only appear 10 times in the Bible) to the abyss is significant because death controlled Hades and the gates of Hades. This, in addition to the verb forms previously studied, places the time of this episode before the time of John's writing of the book and before the death of Christ. Working backwards in time, at the time of these visions Christ, the Lamb, held the keys to this very abyss: "20:1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, which is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years." Revelation 20:1-2. During the letters to the churches, the Lamb of God asserted his absolute control over death and Hades in Revelation 3:7: "These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open." This claim is made the more certain by fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah 22:21-23: "22 I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open." The Lamb relates this claim directly to his death and resurrection: "18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades." Revelation 1: 18.

Answering, when did the Christ gain control of the abyss, the scripture tells us when Death held and lost the key. In Matthew 16:18-19, Jesus promised that the gates of Hades would not prevail against the church: "18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven." After the resurrection of the Lord, Peter said in Acts 2:29-33:

29 "Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.

From the sin of Adam until the resurrection of the Christ, Death controlled the abyss. Although Christ snatched the key of the abyss from the hand of Death, Death still reigns in the abyss. But the days of Death are numbered: "24 Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death." 1 Corinthians 15:24-26.

2 When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. 3 And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. 4 They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man. 6 During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

Smoke from the abyss darkened the sun and the sky; and out of the smoke, locusts came down upon the earth. They received power *like* that of the scorpion of the earth. This entire episode is an extended metaphor; and as such, it parallels the locust plague on Egypt in Exodus 10:4-6:

4 If you refuse to let them go, I will bring locusts into your country tomorrow. 5 They will cover the face of the ground so that it cannot be seen. They will devour what little you have left after the hail, including every tree that is growing in your fields. 6 They will fill your houses and those of all your officials and all the Egyptians. . . .

As an extended metaphor the passage is composed of similes and metaphors. Similes, with the use of *like* and *as*, run through the passage. Metaphors imply without the use of *like* or *as*. With the opening of the abyss, darkness prevailed throughout the creation—a spiritual darkness covering all. From without the darkness came locusts with the power like earthly scorpions—the power to sting. This power of scorpions is made clear in Ezekiel 2:6: “6 And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words. Do not be afraid, though briars and thorns are all around you and you live among scorpions.” The Christ similarly stated, “19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” Luke 10:19-20.

That these were not natural locusts is clear because they could not harm vegetation, which is what natural locusts do. Nor could they harm those with the seal of God (Chapter 7), but harm “only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.” Christians are immune to the sting of the omnipresent locusts. The Christ had said that he gave the authority to trample scorpions and overcome all the power of the enemy (Luke 10:19-20).

The sting itself does not kill, but tortures, and that for a limited period—five months, the summer when natural locusts thrive. The agony is like that of the sickness of a person when stung—agony to the point of wishing for death. In this metaphor, the meaning is clear: The destroyer with the key to abyss is Death. The locusts are all that is of the world, as explained in John 2:16-17: “16 For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world.” The sting is sin:

55 "Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

Once Adam and Eve succumbed to temptation, the lust of the flesh and the eye, the pride in one's own life was unleashed. As the locust, the evil desires are everywhere, their sting is sin, and fullness of sin is death. James 1:13-15 tells us, “13 When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.” From Adam came physical death and worse spiritual death. Woe heaps upon woe.

7 The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. 8 Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. 9 They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. 10 They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months. 11 They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon.

The metaphor continues with the locust looking like horses prepared for battle. Perhaps their crowns of gold are riches that appeal to the lust of the eye, and their faces like human faces and hair like women make them good to look upon, and their lion's teeth and iron helmets showed the pride of power and might. All of these are a reflection of that statement by John in John 2:16: “16 For

everything in the world – the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does – comes not from the Father but from the world.”

The five months of torment receive the five month limit of verse 5, signaling that the locust will pass away as the summer passes.

The destroyer led them. Many believe the destroyer is Satan. Satan, the dragon, the serpent, or the devil, is never identified as the destroyer. The destroyer is central to the death of the first born in Egypt. Yet, it is the Lord who controls that act and permits the destroyer to enter. In Exodus 12:23, Moses wrote, “23 When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.” That the Lord controls the destroyer is repeated twice more: In Exodus 12:12-13, he said, “12 "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn – both men and animals – and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. In Exodus 12:29, Moses wrote: “And it came to pass at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt.”

The Bible does not use the Greek word *Apollyon*, except here. The Hebrew, *Abaddon*, which is transliterated here, appears in several passages all of which identify the destroyer with death. Job put the two together in Job 28:22:

22 Destruction and Death say,
'Only a rumor of it has reached our ears.'

Solomon spoke of the two in such a way to include a dominating Lord in Proverbs 15:11:

11 Death and Destruction lie open
before the LORD –
how much more the hearts of men!

He also used them together in Proverbs 27:20:

20 Death and Destruction are never satisfied,

In summary, the Hebrew text is literally *Sheol* and *Adaddon*, which is equivalent to Death and Hades, as frequently used in Revelation. Therefore, the star is the Destroyer, king of the abyss. He was the destroyer who passed through Egypt, and he is Death. The locust hordes of evil desires, the scorpion like sting of every sin, and the spiritual and physical death of all who have lived and will live testify that the Destroyer King is before us. Only the power of God’s seal on our foreheads can save us. Through Christ Jesus, we are free from sin and death. In Romans 8:1-3, Paul wrote: “8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.” All men die a physical death, but to die from the sting of the scorpion is to die everlastingly.

The Sixth Angel Sounded His Trumpet (Revelation 9:12-11:13)

12 The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.

The first woe is past and we are ready for the second woe. Understanding that the first four trumpet sounds are evil released upon man at his fall taking from man the natural blessings of creation and turning them against him, and that the woes following each of the last three trumpet sounds resulted from changes permitted by God affecting the condition of man. This second woe is worse than the first woe of sin and physical death since it threatens spiritual death for an eternity. We move beyond certain doom of the bottomless pit for those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads to the everlasting doom of eternal hell fire for those who succumb to the mounted troops of the dragon. The second woe is upon us.

The Release of the Four Angels Who Are Bound at the Great River Euphrates (Revelation 9:13-16)

13 The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God. 14 It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." 15 And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. 16 The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number.

At the sounding of the sixth angel's trumpet, John heard a voice coming from the horns of the altar. The King James' reading *four horns* is not correct, but if it were, it would not seem to change the meaning. Both the altar of the tabernacle and the altar of the temple had four horns. (Exodus 27:2-3; Ezekiel 43:15). Horns are often associated with entities that have the right to govern and the power to command, Zechariah spoke of these in Zechariah 1:18-21:

18 Then I looked up — and there before me were four horns! 19 I asked the angel who was speaking to me, "What are these?"

He answered me, "These are the horns that scattered Judah, Israel and Jerusalem."

20 Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen. 21 I asked, "What are these coming to do?"

He answered, "These are the horns that scattered Judah so that no one could raise his head, but the craftsmen have come to terrify them and throw down these horns of the nations who lifted up their horns against the land of Judah to scatter its people."

Therefore, *horn* and *horns* are figuratively the strength and power of potentates and ruling entities. In this case, the voice from the horns commands the angel with the sixth trumpet who, in turn has the right to command the four angels who were bound at the great river Euphrates. Of the Christ, it was said before his birth by Zechariah, John the Baptist's father, in Luke 1:68-69:

68 "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come and has redeemed his people.

69 He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David

We have already studied the image of the lamb who "had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth." Revelation 5:6. Later horns will represent the strength and power of the dragon, the devil, Revelation 12:3; the beast from the sea, Revelation 13:1; and the false prophet, Revelation 13:11. 1

The four angels bound at the river Euphrates are reserved for a specific time and purpose. God had reserved them for a very hour, day, month, and year. The Euphrates was one of the rivers bordering the Garden of Eden; the river is still with us until this day. The hour, day, month, and year would seem to be that very time when nature turned against man, and death came to him along with evil desires, and sin. The time is set just this side of Eden when with his fall, man took upon himself sins unto death, spiritual death from the face of the Lord, and a casting out into the outer darkness. At that time, released and charging against mankind, were 200 million mounted troops.

The population of the United States at the time of this writing is 295,734,134. The army in this passage was 2/3 the number of this entire country. Think of almost all of America on the march. These troops had the authority to kill a third of mankind.

The Army of Death, Injury, and Plagues

17 The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke

and sulfur. 18 A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. 19 The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.

Before considering the horror of the horses and riders, let us ask what could be such a horrible and multitudinous army – an army more in number and more deadly, perhaps, than the horde of locusts of the fifth angel's trumpet sounding? Ephesians 6:11-13 gives the answer, "11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Therefore, the devil has at his disposal an army of the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. They are rulers, authorities, and powers of this dark world. What they are not here, and elsewhere, are physical human forces. Paul states it plainly, "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood" – not the Romans, not the Muslims, not any earthly government, unless they themselves fall fool to the devil's deceptions.

However, these forces of wickedness infiltrate the religions, the businesses, and the governments of the present world. Clergymen, world leaders, and corporate leaders are victims of the Devil's deceit, just as are we all. Satan's minions go forth across the world. In 2 Corinthians 11:14-15, Paul describes what all humans are up against, " 14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15 It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve."

The deceptive nature and work of Satan displays itself with the coming of the lawless one, the beast, and the false prophet in Revelation and the antichrist in the epistles of John:

9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, 10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing." 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10.

John once again describes his vision in an extended metaphor. The mounted troops, horses with riders, take the color of hell itself – their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The hottest fire burns a blue flame. The fiery red horse of war appeared in chapter 6:4. John adds dark blue and yellow as sulfur. Six references to sulfur in the Old Testament relate to the pouring out of the judgment of God. They are all in the manner of God's destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19:24: "24 Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah – from the LORD out of the heavens." However, in six references in Revelation, three are from this passage and describe this horrible army, and three others describe separately the eternal destruction of the beast and the false prophet (Revelation 19:20), the devil (Revelation 20:10), and Death and Hades (Revelation 21:8).

The three plagues of fire, smoke, and sulfur are the plagues of eternal hell fire coming out of the mouths of the horses, killing a third of mankind. The power of this demoniac army is in their mouths and tails. *Out of their mouths came fire* speaks to the point of attack by trial and tribulation as in Revelation 7:14-15: "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. This fire will burn up the works of the gospel: "It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. 15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames." 1 Corinthians 3:13-15

The power of the locust, revealed with the blowing of the fifth trumpet, was the sting of a scorpion – extremely dangerous but not always deadly. Now the power to inflict injury is in the tail with a head like snakes. Christ forecast this danger and spoke of the safety of those having their names written in heaven. Whether scorpion stings or snakebites, believers are safe. In Luke 10:18-20, he said, "18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing

will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

The death inflicted here is not the death of the earthly body. This death is the second death, eternal hell fire. Christ said in Matthew 10:28, "28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell." This theme of the second death with all its horror, woven through the Revelation is the result of losing our great struggle against the forces of evil. Early on in the book, the Lord promised the followers of the Lamb, "He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death." Revelation 2:11. In Revelation 20:6, our victory is one over the second death: "6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years." The opposite is also true. Those whose names are not in the book of life receive the second death in Revelation 20:14-15: "The lake of fire is the second death. 15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

Nothing wrecks havoc on mankind like the lives of those caught up in sins that lead to the second death. God warns often of the disastrous results of such overwhelming sin that destroys individuals, families, and nations:

- 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come." Matthew 12:32.
- 4 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, 6 if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. Hebrews 6:4-6.
- 26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Hebrews 10:26-27
- 20 If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. 21 It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. 22 Of them the proverbs are true: 'A dog returns to its vomit,' and, 'A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.'" 2 Peter 2:19-22
- 16 If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. 1 John 5:16

From refusing the Holy Spirit to turning our back on the Christ, these devastating situations lead to misery in this life and death in the life to come. Thus, it is so, as Paul said in Romans 6:23, "23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Failure to Repent (Revelation 9:20-21)

20 The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood – idols that cannot see or hear or walk. 21 Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

As eyewitnesses to the pain and suffering—the plagues of sin—in this life, mankind ought to turn away in horror and to the Lord. The phrase, *still did not repent*, shows that the rest of mankind is still in danger. God demands repentance from the evil works of their hands.

Repenting and repentance is central to the gospel message and to the meaning of Revelation. John the Baptist came preaching repentance: “1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea 2 and saying, ‘Repent , for the kingdom of heaven is near.’” Matthew 3:1-2. Jesus also preached, “3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Luke 13:3. Paul preached that even ignorance is no excuse for repentance: “30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.” Acts 17:30. In this situation where there is dire need to repent, Peter writes, “9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:8-9.

The clarion call of the angel with the sixth trumpet is that all mankind must repent to escape this second death.

The sins themselves are the most odious, yet off repeated. *Worshiping demons and idols of gold go hand in hand.* Paul was clear on this issue in 1 Corinthians 10:20-21: “20 No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.”

Idolatry also led to the most horrendous acts:

21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator — who is forever praised. Amen.

26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. Romans 1:21-32.

Christ set the standard judging murders and murderers. In Matthew 5:21-22, during his sermon on the mount, Christ extended murder to anger: “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.” According to Christ, the father of sinners, the devil, is a murderer from the beginning: “You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the

truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." John 8:44.

The purpose of magic arts is to deceive people making them think the sorcerer is someone divine. Satan sent the lawless one to deceive with counterfeit miracles, signs, and wonders: "The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, 10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing." 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10. Simon the sorcerer allowed himself to be thought great as only God is great: "'This man is the divine power known as the Great Power.' 11 They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic." Acts 8:10-11. True converts refused to participate in sorcery or magic: "Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas." Acts 19:18-19.

Sexual immorality, including such acts as fornication, adultery, and homosexuality, are sins against the mind, body, and soul. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 6:15-16: "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! 16 Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, 'The two will become one flesh.'"

Thefts are expressly forbidden. Paul wrote, "He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands. Ephesians 4:28

Paul taught emphatically against these great and awful sins:

9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

Near the end of Revelation, John sees the fate of those who sin in this despicable manner: "But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death." Revelation 21:8.