

Revelation_9

Understanding this chapter 9 is very debatable among the students of this book. My perceptions concerning this chapter perhaps differ from the opinions of the rest, more than they differ among themselves. Some commentators impress me in one verse and totally contradict me in the next line. Some commentaries have a very helpful explanation until the point where some meaning in this chapter clashed with a doctrine of their denomination. This is a very typical trap some people quite boldly fall in; and apparently comfortably dwell in it, twisting some Scriptural teaching to make a false confirmation. I sensed a need to give up comparing the opinions of the others and to take time for prayer and personal study of this chapter. I pray for our Lord's guidance, protection, teaching and correction. In the first eight chapters my study has established and confirmed my belief in this book's purpose and significance. Our Heavenly Father is revealing to us, His children, the glory and majesty of His Son and His abundant mercy, grace and eternal love for His redeemed souls, His Bride, He purchased with a great Ransom. As we behold more and more of His grandeur, gradually we grow in faith and knowledge of Christ Jesus. Seeing our Lord in brightness keeps our walk above the threatening waves [Matthew 14: 25-32]. Our Father magnifies His Son. Faith in Him and knowledge of Him is His Bride's beauty. Our Father unites His people in the Spirit of Christ. His true Church includes His faithful of all times: since Abel till His return.

1] The fifth angel sounded. A star, having the key of the bottomless pit, falls from heaven to the earth. We've seen a great fallen star in the chapter 8, verse ten. Can it be the same star falling again, or it must be another one – not as great as the first one? Comparing some other repetitions might add some light. In 6: 14 every mountain and island were moved out of their places. In 16: 20 every island fled away and the mountains were not found. In both places we read about every island and mountain. These are parts of

the same revelation revealing the Enemy defeated and our Lord Jesus victorious, glorified, Son of God. In Job 1: 6 & 2: 1 Satan appears among the sons of God. From these appearances to the end of the book, Satan is hiding among the professing believers in their hypocrisy, false justice, and religious cruelty. In every attack, the devil fails. In the end, he is defeated and condemned. God's grace is multiplied to Job. In Daniel 3 Satan is hiding behind the king. The king is represented by the image, royal orchestra, army and fiery furnace. The Lord is represented by the three faithful witnesses. Our Lord is victorious - His testimony prevails. Fire is harmful only to the king's soldiers. Finally, the king glorified our Almighty God. Satan is fallen, and fallen, and fallen again. His every attack ends in defeat. In this chapter we see him having the key of the bottomless pit. When and how he obtained the key, is not specified here. When our Creator commanded Adam what to do and what not to do, the Lord gave Adam a key of life & death. Adam used the key of life all the time. He lived in fellowship with his Creator and in harmony with God's Word. Adam is able to use the key of death only once. At that moment he lost the key of life. He died. In Matthew 16: 19 our Savior gives the keys of the Heavenly Kingdom to Peter; not to make him sub-Christ. Not to make him an arch-apostle. In Matthew 18: 18 our Lord Jesus is giving the same power to all of His disciples. John 20: 22&23 reveals that the power is not in the man, but in Christ's Spirit. To our Lord we owe eager submission from the heart. The power is in His loving Lordship over us – in our heart and life. Within the significance of the symbols in this Book, we can see the key of the Kingdom in trusting and obeying our Savior and Lord. The key of death is sin. Stubborn rebellion against God is a key of the bottomless pit. Satan is not given a special authority after his fall.

Of his own will he chooses his peril. Removing the seals removes some veils from our eyes and sounds of angelic trumpets give us more of spiritual hearing. In 8: 10, at the third trumpet sound the falling star appears great and the impact of its fall is awful. In 9: 1 the star is not as great, but its fall

and the consequences of it are great & awful. They are great and terrible for Satan and for his slaves. In our Savior and Lord is our refuge and victory.

2] The fallen one opens the bottomless pit. Smoke rises out like from a great furnace. Sun and air are darkened by the smoke from the pit. The fall of Lucifer was not some accidental negligence or mistake. It was a determination of opposing God and engaging as many angels as he was able to misguide into revolt. In the Garden of Eden he is the accuser of God. In the Book of Job he is the accuser of brethren. Satan attacks from every side he can. He is losing every battle against Christ, yet he will not repent. In Exodus 8: 1-15 our Lord brought the plague of frogs against Pharaoh. Satan brought more frogs to compete with God. But the devil is not able to remove the plague, and Pharaoh asked Moses to entreat our Lord for the removal of the plague. Satan uses the key of the pit only to manifest his wicked heart. The devil has no will or power to do any good deed; anything pleasing God. In his restlessness the devil seeks to forget his own wretchedness by causing as much misery as he can for the Lord's people. Our Lord allows us to suffer for a testimony of His Holy Spirit's power and loving Lordship in our heart & life. In all our suffering our Lord is suffering with us. We are members of His Body: He works in and through us. For all we do in Christ's Name, we are rewarded here and in eternity. For all the devil is doing, he is condemned forever; just as he deserves. God is glorified in Christ's salvation and, in sin-condemnation. Our God used Assyrians to judge sinful Israel and Babylon to judge rebellious Judah. Later, our Lord used other forces to judge Assyria and Babylon. In their suffering Babylonian captivity, Daniel and some other Jews were delivered from the sinful ways they lived in - to become mighty witnesses of our God's glory. Our Lord did not use force to prevent Satan from opening the bottomless pit. When God's patience is ended and the devil's wickedness completed, there will be the final judgment; and all the evil spirits are trembling knowing that it is more dreadful than any condemnation they have experienced previously. Satan's intention is to offend the authority of God:

the smoke darkens the sun and the air. The Enemy can only impact some parts of God's creation; and some of God's people will suffer along within the limits our Lord has determined. The real victims of the Evildoer are all that believe satanic deception. The bottomless pit is like a great furnace. God's condemnation of evil is awful. All the heavenly angels know that God's justice is perfect, but the evil spirit blames God for cruelty. The smoke of satanic accusations obscures human vision of God's mercy and grace. The Sun of righteousness remains bright. As the hot smoke flies up, so the wickedness flies in the face of our Lord's justice and authority. All evil is for a time; our God's final judgment is forever. Out of the devil's false accusations against God and His people, come out locusts to afflict the life of the earthlings. Scorpions have their natural limits of living. Naturally, scorpions live in some regions and cannot survive in others. Their lifespan is very limited; but as long as they live and where they live, they are very harmful. The locusts of satanic treachery afflict slaves of sin and rebellion. All that are in Christ our Savior, from sprouts to the mature trees, are safe. Here again we see that the sign of our Lord's protection against Satan's locusts is not on some devices or some weapons. The sign is on their forehead. When our Savior delivered us from the power of darkness, He gave us new mind and heart to discern between right and wrong; to love righteousness and hate evil. In 2.Peter 1: 2-11 words of encouragement are addressed to all that received the precious faith in our Savior. Striving and laboring in the Spirit of our Master indicates His Spirit's Lordship in our heart and life and His seal in our foreheads. He leads us in the light of His Word and makes our life safe and fruitful.

3] Out of the smoke come locusts upon the earth. To them is given power as the scorpions on earth have. Doubting God's Word is first recorded in the Garden of Eden and is continuing still. It is followed by grave consequences on this earth and in eternity. Sinful life is characterized by falsehood and decay. Locusts and scorpions are very different creatures. Seeing them as a combination, points to the fact that we are not looking at

natural, biological beings. The unusual blending of characters indicates to us very many unforeseeable consequences of sin. Scorpions live in their natural habitats; death dwells in sin. Scorpions are shadowy creatures, hiding from sunlight. Who loves sin, hates the light of the truth. Scorpions have huge front clamps to hold their captured victim in order to strike it with the venomous sting in the tail end. Sin develops strong habits to hold sinner under its spell for the final sting - death.

4] These scorpion-like locusts are commanded not to destroy grass and green trees. The plague is upon the minds and hearts under the yoke of sin. They suffer torment in their souls but not always a sudden departure from this life on earth. The green trees and grass depict the saved from sin - living in Christ. Christians in their carnality would be the primary target of the Enemy, but in their full fellowship in Christ's Spirit they are preserved and secured. The sinners boasting of sinful pleasure and pursuits cannot hide the fact of their inward and at times outward suffering, bitterness, anxieties, fear and envy. Locusts are creatures of massive numbers and selective destruction in the nature. These locusts are set for spiritual destruction. The first product of violating God's Word is not immediately noticed in our physical environment; but the deadly sting is instantly experienced in the soul whose lifeline is severed.

5] The invaders are prevented from destroying human physical life causing death to their body, but the torment lasts five months. The anguish is similar to the pain caused by scorpion sting. In Ezekiel 2: 6 our Lord named rebellious nominal believers – scorpions. James in the chapter 3 writes about evil talk... Uncircumcised tongue is inspired by the passions inflamed from this same bottomless pit in the verse 2. In the days of my imprisonment I heard some other prisoners saying that the prisoners are the most difficult part of imprisonment. Rarely, yet at times, I did observe some believers entangled in their evil. I personally observed some men so filled with wickedness that they were displeased and disappointed with most of the events that didn't promise some suffering inflicted to the other

people around them. Influence of the devil's deception and wickedness comes in waves or spells to some people – for a time. Then for some time they seem to be passive – before another spell. When they feel that their life on earth is ending, they panic and try all in their power to live another day or two. If it seems to them that their health improved, they foolishly run after sin again. They are infected by the scorpion venom.

6] Men seek death but cannot find it; desire to die but death is evading them. I do not think they became indestructible physically. The humanity is investing so much effort in entertainment, amusements, dangerous adventures and social activities: anything to make them happy for a moment, to forget death.

While they live, they labor hard to erase from their mind any thought about their destiny, but their guilty conscience keeps reminding them that they are dead. They seek total death – complete oblivion about the fact that this is the time for repentance and deliverance for everyone calling on the Name of Christ. They would prefer a life in total darkness, but the light of the Gospel truth just won't quite miss them. This human dilemma with sin and the first and second death is going on since Adam's fall. Sinners are just hiding from reality and truth, but they cannot eliminate their entire awareness about their misery.

7] The shapes of the locusts look like horses ready for battle; on their heads are imitations of golden crowns and their faces appear like human faces. Some leaders of religious or political groups desire to make strong impression as powerful, irresistible, prevailing, invading force - to encourage their group. At the same time they labor hard to discourage and prevent any opposition. A locust pretending to be a warhorse is revealing both sides: they are puffing up but they are not capable of doing any godly deed. They appear ready for a battle, but their time and perimeter are limited by our Lord - against their will. Godless leaders of human societies wish to appear authoritative, but their crowns are a very

poor imitation of true power and they are no match for our Lord of lords. The arch deceiver uses the worldly teaching and enforcement to persuade us of some high value and virtue in their humanitarian goals. In Isaiah 64: 6 is our Lord's evaluation: human righteousness is like filthy rags – perversion of the Truth. Plainly, human righteousness is not righteous at all. Christ is true righteousness; in Him we must grow. We may not allow the Enemy to deceive us with decorated wrapping of anything lacking Christ's Spirit.

8] These locusts are puffing up with their armor and readiness for war and victory, but their master's craftiness is not complete without his attempt of displaying some charm and beauty to allure us; but let us not be fools. Read Proverbs 7. Under the false charm of deception hide beastly devouring teeth. The false beauty and vanity is attractive to sinners and the devouring teeth are a threat to the souls of Satan's slaves. The Enemy, seeing his failure and inability to deceive Christians, will threaten us showing his teeth. We must keep our heart and mind focused on our victorious Captain; He defeats the devil. To a sinner lusting after sinful enticements the sharp teeth are hidden behind long charming hair. All who walk toward deceitful false beauty are coming closer and closer to the sharp devouring teeth. Even the poorest Christian has more wealth and joy in our Redeemer, than the Devil's wealthiest victim in sin.

9] Their breastplates appear like iron. Their wings sound like multitude of horse chariots running to battle. The Enemy power pretends supremacy. The devil tries to impact human mind with fear and anxiety. Our Lord knows the Truth; and He says: Fear them not; their power is limited. [Luke 12: 4&5] In Judges 7: 20, Gideon's army shouted: The sword of the Lord and of Gideon! These locusts noise abroad their master. We need to remember that every enemy, sin and death, Satan and the world, all are defeated. We are here to voice the Name of our Master and King. Let us voice Him by life and death. Let us be His witnesses in words and in deeds according to His Word. Let us be His living testimony in our manners,

intensions, endeavors and accomplishments. He has the grace and power to use us for His will to please our Heavenly Father. Enemies appear mighty, massive, awful, but all are defeated by our Lord.

10] These battle-horse-like locusts have tails with stings resembling scorpions. They hurt men five months. Sin hurts more in the end than in its start: the second death is worse than the guilty conscience. The present suffering is for five months – limited short time for both, delivered, and lost. For the redeemed, the torment of guilty conscience lasts until they experience salvation in Christ and His power to walk in the light of the Gospel Truth. God’s mercy for the impenitent sinners, by their guilty conscience invites them to our Savior until the death of their body; after that they wait for His judgment.

11] The locusts have a king over them. He is the angel of the abyss. His name is Destruction in Hebrew language and Destroyer in Greek language. Isn’t that quite appropriate? If a Hebrew disobeys the God of Israel, he is in destruction. If a Gentile follows the way of his gods, he suffers the power of the destroyer. The treacherous influence of this Enemy, heralds the depth of everlasting doom. He is battling furiously to capture as many souls as are foolish enough to believe him; but he is not going to rule over them in the pit. He is going to suffer more than any victim of his crafty lie. All the condemned have hell in them.

12] One woe is past. Two woes follow. The mighty Lamb removes for us the seventh seal and reveals His seven trumpets. Our horizon in His revelation is enlarged. Our spiritual hearing is sharpened to hear His warning sounds. We are armed to resist the devil and faithfully follow our glorious Savior, King and Lord.

13&14] The sixth angel sounded. From the four corners of the golden altar before God comes one voice saying to the sixth angel to release the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. In the chapter 8, verse 3 is a golden altar before God’s throne where prayers of saints and incense

are offered. Verse 13 is telling us of one voice coming from the four corners of this altar. All the godly prayers are generated by the Spirit of Christ our great High Priest. All these prayers are pleasing our Heavenly Father and the common desire and the ultimate goal of praying is that God's will be done to glorify His Son. All the prayers are in one Spirit although the petitioners are scattered all through the centuries and all over the earth. In this entire world wherever a child of our Father would offer a prayer and praise to our God in the name of Christ, there is no spot out of the sight and hearing scope of our almighty Creator. The same Mediator that generates prayers in the hearts of His redeemed Flock, is the One bringing them to His Father, and He brings us back one voice, one answer from our Father: our Father's will is being done. This voice is revealing to us step by step the entire path appointed for us to follow our Redeemer. Ever since the loss of the Garden of Eden, the mankind is heaping up and storing in the future awful consequences of sin. Our Lord provides a way of repentance, correction, deliverance and postponement of judgment sinners deserve. Our Lord is patient with us that we perish not, but come to repentance [2. Peter 3: 9]. The sound of the sixth trumpet is telling of a major calamity coming because of sins multiplied and never repented of. This massive change is just one of the forerunners before the final judgment. For a long time our Lord is calling, warning, and waiting. Here He allows one third of sinners to reap what they sow. We remember that this is a revelation spreading light over the entire Word of God. There was a spell of blindness in Sodom cast upon the worst violent sinners before their destruction [Genesis 19: 11]. There were lost battles and many warning prophecies in Judah before the final destruction and captivity. In Luke 13: 1-5 our Lord is telling us to repent and obey our Father's Word betimes. In Genesis 15: 18 our God indicated the great river Euphrates as the boundary of the seed promised to our father Abram.

Our God holds evil forces beyond the borders of His covenant when His children trust and obey His Word. Four angels are bound – prevented from

harming souls before one third has given sufficient proof of their impenitence and stubborn strife in enforcing their filth upon the other two thirds. These are hard core sinners permanently enslaved to the one third of spirits that fell after Satan in the Revelation 12: 4. The Scriptures tell us of both: the angels of our Lord and, the angels of Satan. The angels of our God are faithful and eager to do His good pleasure. The angels of the devil are ready for every evil deed, but they must submit to the limits God has set for them. These four angels are bound outside our Savior's grace. In the beginning of the chapter 7 the four angels are assigned to hold back the wind. No destruction of the earth and the sea is permitted until all the servants of God are sealed on their foreheads. Here, these four angels are bound until God judges that the iniquity of the impenitent has sealed them for judgment. Now the angels are to be released to destroy their faithful followers: one third, the hard core evil doers.

15] The four angels were loosed. They were ready at the appointed moment to destroy this one third. This precision reveals our Lord's patience and justice. Salvation is in Christ. Sin adds death and judgment. Our Lord's angels are faithful and eager to do His bidding. They need not be bound to be kept from harming stubborn rebels. Their release reminds me of Satan seeking God's permission to afflict Job. In Luke 8: 27-32 the devils begged our Lord not to send them into the deep, but into the herd of swine. The one third seems to indicate the sinners destroyed as they deserved; it is also a warning to the other two thirds. In Matthew 11: 21-24 our Savior tells us that among the nominal believers are these - worst -sinners. They device evil against the believers from inside the organized brotherhood; they serve Satan.

16] The number of the destroying 'cavalry' is two hundred thousand thousands. Could it be that million and billion are the words invented after John wrote this book, or, this may mean numerous multitudes as the expression 'as many as the sand of the sea'? Perhaps this means 'greater than any human army'... John's honesty and simplicity seems obvious: he

could not see how many troops this vision contained; the number was told him and he has written it as our Lord guided him. The force description follows.

17] The horse riders have breastplates of fire, jacinth, and brimstone. Horses have heads like lion-heads. Out of these lion jaws issue fire, smoke, and brimstone. Once again we have a vision casting light far into the past and into the future; covering also our generation. When Lucifer rebelled, he started a long chain of evil and decay that he himself cannot and will not turn around. When we follow Satan we face death. Every human violation of God's order gives power to a multitude of evil forces. Nowhere in Heaven and on earth is there anyone able and willing to stop this evil tide and to turn it around: only the mighty Lamb of God has the grace and power to lift up lost sinners from dust to glory; from death to life eternal. The horse riders handle strong offensive, invading power, but can be successfully disabled by a skillful and well armed soldier of Christ. Many political, religious, or military movements use breastplates of fire. They figure out theories and propaganda presenting themselves as almighty and all others as perishing. Remember the testimony of David: You have your sword, spear, and shield; but I come in the Name of the true God [1. Samuel 17: 45]. Remember the vision of Elisha in 2. Kings 6: 15-17: Ours are many more than our enemies. In Christ, we are conquerors when we offer our soul and body to our Father's will.

Knowing, believing, and obeying God's Word is our Lord's testimony to us, and to the world around us, that we are conquerors. Second Corinthians 10: 3-6 encourages us to use all weapons of God's Word and Spirit against the powers of darkness. When we have liberty in our soul, we are ready to follow our Lord. Sulfur and fire make a very deadly, suffocating smoke. It was a sign and act of God's judgment against Sodom [Luke 17: 29]. In the verse 17 fire, smoke and brimstone issued out of the lion-heads' mouth. The only means of their harming power were the mouth and the tail: deception and rebellion to the end. The armies in the verse 17 destroy only

the one third that followed Satan's one third. The breastplates are colored jacinth; one of the pearls in the foundation of the heavenly Jerusalem [Revelation 21: 20]; here, it's only color, no pearls; baseless claim and pretense. In obeying Christ is our safety and victory. False religion activists desire appearance of some holiness [2nd Corinthians 11:13&14]. They boast of baseless claims to God's promises [2nd Peter 2: 17-19]. In the beginning of this book, 1: 13, our Lord is seen in a garment with a golden girdle around His chest. The false teachers intend to imitate our Lord. Their imitation makes a contrast: they are not adorned in His love; their garment is fire and sulfur with jacinth between the two. If the middle part – the jacinth - is removed, fire and brimstone would mingle and produce the deadly smoke. Jacinth here indicates their deceitful claim on the New Jerusalem. In the recorded history is evidence of religious and political, violent, military clashes between nations. Violence, destruction and bloodshed are covered with false justification like justice and godly intensions. Ignorant masses are enticed or compelled to follow evil leaders. The words of their mouth devise death. When the sulfur of their wicked greed is heated with the fire of urgent or threatening situations, their deadly smoke will bring to them and to their subjects death and God's judgment for their rejection of His mercy and grace in Christ, the only Savior. At times they cannot resist illusion of promising opportunities. The results are the same: sinful minds are snared by the god of this world in 2nd Corinthians 4: 4. All who follow Satan are on the path of death and condemnation. One third of humanity joins the one third of angels deceived by Lucifer, the devil. Two thirds of sinners are given more time to repent and obey God.

18] By the fire, smoke, and brimstone, proceeding from the mouth of destructive forces, one third part of men is killed. The destructive power is in evil theology and ideology. Many human actions are misled.

19] This deadly force is in their mouth and in their tails. Their tails are like serpents and head that sting. Believing satanic lies to the end of their

earthly journey, sinners are subject to the final death blow; as the impenitent thief [crucified next to our Lord Jesus]. By the amazing grace of our blessed Redeemer, the other crucified thief resisted the serpent's sting at the last moment, and turned to his Savior. In the church of Laodiceans [3: 14-22] we see the evidence of some believers that, apparently, once walked in the light of the Gospel, but later lived in self-confidence and became indifferent toward their relationship with our Lord so long that they were ignorant of a grave danger they found themselves in.

20&21] The remaining two thirds still refused to repent of their works and give up worship of devils and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood. They repented not of their murders, sorceries, fornication, and thefts. These idols cannot see or hear or walk. They are totally lifeless. Their offerings honor Satan. All that happened to the one third was explained by their leaders and teachers in their godless manners. Perhaps they think there is nothing more to be concerned about, since the plague is over and these survivors can continue their godless pursuits as before or worse. They still adore their man-made gods. Is there any difference between idols made of various materials? Their inability is the same. There is difference only in human imagination. Each worshiper makes his own idol to the best of his ability and then he prays to himself, offers sacrifices to himself, and tries to encourage himself expecting some help. Where idolatry is a long and strong custom, ignorant worshipers imagine some live divinity represented by the figure, image or symbol they honor. In so called secular traditions some formal idols are not in style; but men adore material value and possessions just as much or more; refusing to consider eternity. Murders are committed by parents against unborn children. Murders are in idolatrous upbringing of children. Murders are in unjust laws men elect. Murders are in revolutions. Suicide is a self-murder. Sorceries are practiced among illiterate people and in universities. Sorceries are in all human segments. The poorest and the wealthiest – many - practice sorcery. Some believers get entangled in sorcery when they refuse to trust the Lord and

His word for their present needs and their future. Immorality is rampant in our world and is creeping into careless fellowships. Often the leaders are the most immoral. Some politicians and ministers shout against perversions, but they also live in a third marriage; after 2nd divorce. Others boast of their perversions as of their lawful liberty to choose their own style. Corrupted teachers tell sinners that they are born with their lusts and there is nothing wrong to be what they are. Men professing godliness openly reject immorality, but in their marriage there is no mutual love and godly respect. Their children are fed stone instead of bread. Others are united in omitting domestic altar of prayers and praises to our Lord. Issues are not considered and discussed in the light of God's Word. Instead of true repentance they adopt comfort in comparing themselves with others and thinking: We are not as bad as they. What is included in thefts? Usually the worldly laws protect public and private properties. All plans, intentions, and actions, not guided by the Holy Spirit and the Word, include thefts. Our life and strength, soul and body, mind and heart, belong to our Lord and Savior. Doing His will from the heart, our souls can rejoice in His marvelous salvation. We live in Christ expecting ultimate triumph. Some questions require answers. Are the first nine chapters revealing the past or predicting the future? Are the changes spiritual or material? Is the text related to some parts of some national history, or to all kingdoms and empires? I think that I have mentioned before: some prophetic messages are understood when the future becomes the past. Then we see our Father cares for us and our fears are baseless. Our Lord will not fail or make any mistakes: He knows His own Flock. This Revelation reveals the past, present, and future glory of our blessed Savior, the eternal glory, love, and grace of God's beloved Son. Yes, He will appear as the Lord of lords and the King of kings; but **He is the Lord and the King since ever**. The more we absorb this revelation, the more we see His glory, might, majesty, love and grace, the more we are filled with His beauty and abundance; the more we become a part of it all, members of His Body. When we are in Him, He rules in our hearts and our daily walk. He makes us His own - now and forever.

The prevailing characteristic of this entire book is presenting in splendor the glory, majesty, holiness, beauty, almighty power and most tender care, perfect justice and measureless grace, uncompromising judgment and matchless mercy of **the Lamb of God, in whom the Heavenly Father has perfect pleasure**. I perceive that some of predicted future became the past since this message was revealed to John; but the same predictions are still predicting our future. What happened to the compromising believers long ago - still is happening today and, will be happening in the future. Warnings to the nominal-ism remain.

The slaves of sin and Satan today treat the faithful disciples in basically similar manner as they were treated in the first decades of the apostolic testimonies. The Holy Spirit manifests His mighty power today as in the past – in suffering and in deliverances; in life and in death. There is one body and Spirit. There is one Lord, one Father of all, one baptism, one faith [Ephesians 4: 4-6]. The early martyrs are members of the same Body as the faithful disciples today and that will not change until our Lord's return in glory. Some revelations of the past times are a testimony to us today and a message for our future. Events and changes in this book can be spiritual or corporal – material; some texts include both sides. In my experience and according to my observation of others, many spiritual events influence our body and material side of life. Changes in our life or in our body have an impact on our spirit, mind and intensions. What happened to the idolatrous kingdom of Israel is a message of warning or admonishment to all kingdoms and to all churches: the wages of sin is death; the gift of life is in Christ Jesus. The doom of Sodom is a red signal to all godless societies. In our times we witnessed mighty empires - crumbling. We all have one Creator and Savior. We all have one adversary. Every lightning flash and rolling thunder, all floods, every drought, all earthquakes and volcanoes, all are reminders, warnings, & admonishments; all that have ears to hear, let them hear. Every segment of human history is a part of the entire history. Some passages may be more related to some kingdoms, nations, or some parts of

the history; yet every nation is a part of the entire humanity. We need not worry about our uncertainty in predicting future precisely. Our Father takes care for our future and for the whole world. He is not aging or weakening. Reading and studying this book prayerfully is our great benefit and abundant blessings. Here is an open door for us to observe our Savior's grace, power, righteousness, and justice; closer than ever before. This is our excellent opportunity of admiration and humble adoration of our Creator, Savior and Sustainer. Fresh awareness of our Lord's constant victories keeps faithful believers confident in our Masters loving care and trusting in His power to take us through difficult and turbulent times safe and victorious in Him. Beholding our Savior's wonderful work protects us from falling asleep in the days of progress and peace. This book is a treasure of revelations that brighten all the Holy Scriptures to a diligent and prayerful Bible student. Shallow and light-minded religious people take this book as an excuse for baseless predictions, political interpretations, and even false doctrines. To them this book is whatever they want it to be. My prayer to our Lord is that this entire book be for us as it has been presented from its beginning: Our Father's message given to His Son, signified by an angel to be recorded and preserved for us today that we understand, trust and obey it. In the brightness of this book all the Holy Scriptures become God's Revelation to the children of His covenant; the covenant based on the offering of God's own Lamb.