

Revelation chapter 9 in the Complete Jewish Bible(CJB) style expounds the terrifying sounding of the fifth and sixth *shofarot* (trumpets) as an unfolding of *Adonai's* divine wrath, echoing the plagues of Egypt (*Mitzrayim*) and apocalyptic visions of the *Tanakh* (Old Testament). Written by the emissary Yochanan (John) from a deeply Hebraic mindset, this chapter chronicles the release of demonic forces and massive armies onto the earth, culminating in the tragic reality of unrepentant humanity.

Here is a contextual exposition of Hitgalut (Revelation) 9 using CJB terminology and a Messianic Jewish theological framework.



The Fifth Shofar: The Abyss and the Demonic Locusts (Rev 9:1-12)

"The fifth angel sounded his shofar; and I saw a star that had fallen out of heaven onto the earth, and he was given the key to the shaft leading down to the Abyss." (v. 1)

- **The Fallen Star:** In Jewish apocalyptic literature and the *Tanakh*, stars frequently symbolize **angelic beings**. This "star" is an angelic entity that has already fallen—often understood as the *Adversary (Satan)* or one of his chief fallen messengers. Notice that he is *given* the key; he operates strictly under the sovereign permission of *Adonai*.
- **The Smoke and the Locusts:** When the Abyss (*Tehom*) is unlocked, smoke darkens the sky like a huge furnace, giving rise to "locusts". This directly mirrors the plague of locusts in Egypt (Exodus 10) and the devastating prophetic army described in **Joel 2**.
- **The Target of Torment:** Unlike natural locusts, they are forbidden from eating

green vegetation. They target only people who do not have the **seal of God on their foreheads**. This connects back to Hitgalut 7, where the 144,000 from the tribes of Israel were sealed, reminiscent of Ezekiel 9 where the faithful in Jerusalem were marked for protection before judgment fell.

- **Five Months of Agony:** The period of five months corresponds to the typical natural lifespan of a locust (from spring to late summer), symbolizing a complete, yet strictly limited, period of intense, agonizing discipline.
- **Abaddon / Apollyon:**

"They have as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek, Apollyon [Destroyer]." (v. 11)

While natural locusts have no king (Proverbs 30:27), these entities do. Yochanan

emphasizes the Hebrew name ***Abaddon*** (**destruction/place of ruin**). In Jewish thought, this signifies that destruction itself has been *anthropomorphized or assigned a ruling demonic monarch to execute judgment.

From a Messianic Hebraic perspective, these are absolutely *not* literal biological insects!

You have spotted another massive clue in the text that exposes the folly of reading scripture through a modern, literalist Western lens.

If they were real bugs, the description would make no sense biologically. Yochanan (John) explicitly uses the Hebrew prophetic technique of ***Remez* (hints/symbols)** to describe **a massive swarm of supernatural, demonic entities** released directly from the spiritual prison of the ***Abyss (Tehom)***. [1, 2]

Here is the breakdown of why they are not insects, decoded through the *Complete Jewish Bible* (CJB) style and the *Tanakh*.

Why They Cannot Be Real Insects

Yochanan drops several clues that completely disqualify these creatures from being ordinary grasshoppers or arachnids:

1. **Their Source:** They do not hatch from eggs in the dirt; they emerge directly out of the supernatural smoke of the **Abyss**—the prison of fallen spiritual entities.
2. **Their Diet:** Natural locusts are vegetarian machines. They strip fields bare, eating every blade of grass, leaf, and crop. Yet these creatures are explicitly commanded:

"not to harm the grass on the earth, any green plant or any tree"
(Hitgalut 9:4).

3. **Their Targets:** They bypass nature entirely and exclusively hunt down **human beings**—specifically those who do not have the *seal of God on their foreheads*.
4. **Their Anatomy:** Yochanan goes on to describe them as having *human faces, women's hair, lion's teeth, iron breastplates*, and tails like scorpions (Hitgalut 9:7-10). No entomologist has ever found a bug like that!



What the "Scorpion Power" Actually Means

Yochanan writes that they were given "**power like the power scorpions have on earth**" (v. 3). The text contrasts these creatures with earthly scorpions (*akrabim*).

In Hebraic thought, the comparison to a scorpion strike serves a specific spiritual purpose:

THE ANATOMY OF DEMONIC TORMENT	
NATURAL SCORPION STING	THE ABYSSAL LOCUST STING
• Neurotoxic venom causes agonizing physical pain. • Can occasionally be fatal.	• Inflicts acute, inescapable mental and spiritual torment for 5 months. • Strictly forbidden from killing; victims long for death but cannot.
THE FUNCTION: Supernatural torment that strips away all human peace.	

The pain they inflict is so severe that *"people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them"* (v. 6). This is a supernatural, psychological terror. It acts as the ultimate spiritual mirror to the internal torment of living entirely cut off from the *Ruach HaKodesh* (Holy Spirit) and the protection of Yeshua.



The Tanakh Anchor: Joel's Demonic Army

Yochanan isn't inventing a new sci-fi movie creature. He is drawing directly from the book of **Joel**, where a terrifying apocalyptic army is described in identical terms:

- **Joel 2:4:** *"Their appearance is like the appearance of horses..."*
- **Joel 2:5:** *"Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains they leap..."*
- **Joel 1:6:** *"Its teeth are the teeth of a lion..."*

In the ancient Near East, a locust swarm was the ultimate picture of an overwhelming, unstoppable judgment that darkens the sun and sky. Yochanan uses "locusts" as a metaphor because it was the only concept large enough to capture the sheer scale of millions of demonic entities swarming the globe.

The Ultimate Irony

Once again, the spiritual blindness of the unrepentant world is exposed. They spent their lives rejecting *Adonai's* Torah and running after pagan spiritualism and the occult (*keshafim*) [9:21]. So, in the fifth shofar, *Adonai* simply opens the door to the Abyss and says, *"You wanted the demonic realm? Here it is in its true, unmasked form."* The very entities humanity flirted with become their relentless tormentors, proving that the enemy never offers a true blessing, only a sting.

* **Anthropomorphized** means giving human traits, emotions, or behaviors to non-human things like animals, gods, or objects



The Sixth Shofar: The Army from the Euphrates (Rev 9:13-19)

"The sixth angel sounded his shofar; and I heard a voice from the four horns of the gold altar before God saying... 'Release the four angels pinned down at the great river Euphrates.'" (v. 13-14)

answer to the prayers of the *kedoshim* (holy people/saints) who suffered martyrdom.

- **The Euphrates River:** This location is profoundly significant in Jewish history. The **Euphrates (*Perat*)** was the northern border of the land promised to Abraham's descendants and the traditional path from which Israel's ancient enemies—Assyria and Babylon—launched their devastating invasions.
- **The 200 Million Horsemen:** The number ("*two myriads of myriads*") represents an unfathomable, overwhelming lethal force. Whether viewed literally as modern global armies or metaphorically as demonic hordes, their description—breathing fire, smoke, and sulfur (*gofrit*)—carries the terrifying weight of supernatural

executioners. They succeed in killing **one-third of humanity**.

💔 The Tragedy of the Unrepentant (Rev 9:20-21)

The climax of the chapter highlights the core tragedy of human rebellion. Despite witnessing and surviving these cosmic plagues, the rest of mankind refuses to do ***teshuvah* (repentance)**.

Verse	The CJB Text	Messianic/Hebraic Commentary
v. 20	<i>"They did not turn from the work of their hands, they did not stop worshipping demons and idols..."</i>	Refusal to abandon idolatry , violating the foundational <i>Shema</i> and the first two words of the Ten Commandments.
v. 21	<i>"Nor did they turn from their murdering, their involvement with the occult and with drugs..."</i>	The word for "drugs/occult" is the Greek <i>pharmakeia</i> , translated in a Jewish framework as witchcraft or illicit spiritual mixtures (<i>keshafim</i>).
v. 21	<i>"...their sexual immorality or their stealing."</i>	Total breakdown of moral covenantal laws (<i>Adonai's</i> ethical standards for humanity).

From a Messianic perspective, **Hitgalut 9** serves as a stark reminder that judgment

alone does not change a human heart. True transformation only comes when a person yields to the refining work of the Spirit through faith in **Yeshua the Messiah**, whose seal protects His people even amid the sounding of the final *shofarot*.