



³ And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴ And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

⁷ And the shapes of the locusts *were* like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads *were* as it were crowns like gold, and their faces *were* as the faces of men. ⁸ And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth *were* as the teeth of lions. ⁹ And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings *was* as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. ¹⁰ And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power *was* to hurt men five months.

In this judgment, God sends a plague of tormenting locusts from hell to give men a taste of hell, hoping that some will realize that they don't want to go there.

5-6 The locusts have power to torment men, but they're not allowed to kill men. The pain will cause men to wish for death, but they will not die. The power of life and death belongs to God (Eccl 8:8).

7-11 These creatures from hell are described. They're called "locusts" (vs 3). Locusts from Hell are somewhat different from locusts on earth. 😊 The word "as" is used to indicate when something is not literal. These literal locusts from the pit are "like unto horses," they have faces *similar* to a man's face, hair *like* women, teeth *like* a lion, breastplates that *look like* they're made of iron, and tails *resembling* a scorpion's tail.

Just because you've never seen one doesn't mean it doesn't exist.

INCORRECT INTERPRETATIONS:

1. John tries to describe a helicopter, which he's never seen before, but he does his best.
 - a. The front of the helicopter is the iron breastplate.
 - b. The blades make a noise like horses going to battle.
 - c. Looking through the windshield you'll see the face of a man.
 - d. The machine guns are the scorpion's tail that will sting you and torment you. (to death!)



2. Some have said this describes rock and roll music.
 - a. The musicians have faces like men (beards).
 - b. They have hair like women (long).
 - c. Breastplates of iron are electric guitars.
 - d. Stings in their tails (the electric cord).
 - e. They like to smoke (they came out of smoke).
 - f. The music won't kill you, but it will torment you.



There is no reason to try and make these creatures anything other than what the Bible says they are: locusts from the bottomless pit. The literal interpretation is correct unless the context reveals otherwise.

Vs 4 The protected witnesses (144,000) won't have to worry about the sting of these creatures. They are protected by God. (See **Luke 10:17-19**).

Vs 6 Death shall flee from them.

Jeremiah 8:3 is a prophecy about a day when Israel will choose death.

In **Job 3:11-22** Job is an example of a man who desires to die. His sentiments are will be mirrored by those who endure the torments of the Tribulation. They'll wish they'd never been born.

Ecclesiastes 8:8, NO man has power over the spirit. Jesus is the only exception because He is God. Jesus had power over His Spirit (Luke 23:46). God decides who lives and who dies.

Vs 7 They had something on their head that looked like crowns made of gold. They were not kings, but they had a king over them (vs 11).

Their faces were like men's faces. They must have had hair on their face.

Vs 8 They had hair like women. There is a difference in the length of a woman's hair compared to a man's hair (**1 Cor 11:14**). A man should not appear or act feminine. A woman should not appear or act masculine. God made a difference between a man and a woman. Mary had hair long enough to wipe Jesus feet (**John 12:3**).

Jesus didn't have long hair. He was not a **Nazarite** who took a vow not to put a blade to his hair (Numbers 6:5). He was a **Nazarene**, someone who grew up in Nazareth. As God, He is the One who established that it is shameful for a man to have long hair and for a woman to have short hair.

Their teeth looked like Lion's teeth. This was prophesied in **Joel 1:6-7**.

Vs 10 **"Their power was to hurt men five months."** Without a doubt, the number 5 stands for death in the Bible. The 5th angel sends the 5th judgment which torments men 5 months (verse 5) and makes men wish for death.

- Lucifer was the 5th cherub in the presence of God, the "anointed cherub that covereth" (Ezek 28:14), who has the power of death (Heb 2:14).
- Adam's death is recorded in Genesis 5:5 (five!).
- Ananias is killed by the Holy Spirit in Acts 5:5.
- Benjamin's mother died when he was born (Gen 35:18). Joseph gave him 5 times more than his brothers (Gen 43:34, 45:22) in respect for that death.
- The altar where all the sacrifices were offered was 5 X 5 (Exod 27:1).
- The heart is located behind the fifth rib. That's where you kill a man (2 Sam 2:23, 4:6, 20:10).
- When Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins, He had 5 wounds.

Vs 11 God gives the name of the king of these creatures in Hebrew and Greek to inform you that this judgment will fall upon both Jew and Gentile.