"Tormented but Not Destroyed:
The Fifth Trumpet and the Mercy Hidden in Judgment"

Revelation 9:1-6
October 25, 2026

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: [Rev 9:1-6]
"1 Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him. 2 He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit. 3 Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man. 6 And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them. 7 The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. 8 They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like [the teeth] of lions. 9 They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle. 10 They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months. 11 They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon. 12 The first woe is past; behold, two woes are still coming after these things." – [Rev 9:1-12 NASB95]

INTRODUCTION:

1. ***Church saints are kept _____ the hour of testing for those who dwell on the earth.***
   *"10 'Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, **I also will keep you from the hour of testing**, that [hour] which is about to come upon the whole world, to test **those who dwell on the earth**." [Rev 3:10 NASB95]. [3:10;6:10;8:13;11:10 2xs; 13:14 2xs; 17:2;17:8] 9xs exact phrase*
2. ***Tribulation saints go _____ the hour of testing.***
   *"9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar **the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained**; 10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will **You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth**?" 11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until [the number of] their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also." – [Rev 6:9-11 NASB95]*
   Main point: Those who dwell on the earth are given 2,000 years of grace and the Lamb of God has offered the free gift of redemption when the Lion of the Tribe of Judah brings righteous judgment they refuse to repent even as the three final woes of the great tribulation mercifully calls them to repentance.

The _____ __ Trumpet Judgments begin here and end with 7 Bowl judgments of the 3rd Woe.
"13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"" [Rev 8:13 NASB95]

The 5th Trumpet sounds the _____ of the last three trumpets [9:1]
"1 Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him." – [Rev 9:1 NASB95]

1. The Star and the _____.

1. ***The Star is _____ the adversary.***
   *"1 Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a **star** from heaven …" [Rev 9:1]*
   (1) The star _____ is defined in the near context of Revelation.
   *"20 "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: **the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches**, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches." – [Rev 1:20 NASB95]*

(2) Angels are spoken of as _____ in both Testaments.

"7 When the morning stars sang together And all the sons of God shouted for joy?" – [Job 38:7

2. *The Star is the fallen angel _____ [God's adversary] who is cast down to earth.*

*"1 Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a **star** from heaven which had fallen to the earth;" [Rev 9:1]*

(1) Satan weakens the _____.

*"12 "How **you have fallen from heaven**, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, **You** who **have weakened the nations!**" – [Isa 14:12 NASB95]*

(2) Satan is a lying murderer and the Father of liars who purposes to _____ mankind.

"44 "You are of [your] father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own [nature,] for he is a liar and the father of lies." – [Jhn 8:44 NASB95]

3. *The _____ will of God gives Satan the key to the fallen angel's prison.*

"1 Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him." – [Rev 9:1 NASB95]

(1) Satan's desire has always been to rule over the _____.

*13 "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; **I will raise my throne above the stars of God**, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. – [Isa 14:13 NASB95]*

(2) Satan at his fall takes one _____ of the angels in heaven with him.

*"3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads [were] seven diadems. 4 And **his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth**. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth he might devour her child." – [Rev 12:3-4 NASB95]*

4. *Despite Satan's pride he can only act within the _____ of God's permissive will.*

*14 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will make myself like the Most High**.' 15 "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit." – [Isa 14:12-15 NASB95]*

(1) Although Satan is given the keys to the Abyss his _____ is limited.

*"12 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, **all that he [Job}| has is in your power**, only do not put forth your hand on him." So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD." – [Job 1:12 NASB95]*

(2) As with Job, Satan is _____ from execution and relegated to demonic oppression.

*"5 And they were **not permitted to kill anyone**, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man." – [Rev 9:5 NASB95]*

Application: Regardless of how difficult your trials are consider the truth that God does limit the Evil One's access to you and humbly ask Him to show you what He desires to work in your life.

2. The Pit _____ and the Locusts _____ (9:2–3)

"2 He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit." – [Rev 9:2 NASB95]

1. *The smoke from the pit brings the _____ of darkness.*

*"2 He opened the bottomless pit, and **smoke went up out of the pit**, like the smoke of a great furnace; and **the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit**." – [Rev 9:2 NASB95]*

2. *In the cover of darkness of the smoke the demonic locust _____.*

*"3 Then **out of the smoke came locusts** upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power." – [Rev 9:3 NASB95]*

3. Sovereign God _____ their power and they…

1. *…are told not to _____ the grass, nor any green thing nor any tree.*

"4 They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree,." – [Rev 9:4]

2. *…but to hurt only the men who do not have the _____ of God on their foreheads.*

*"4 T… but only **the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads**." – [Rev 9:4]*

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3. ***…are not permitted to _____ anyone but only to sting like scorpions.***
   "5 And they were not permitted to kill anyone," – [Rev 9:5 NASB95]
4. ***…but to _____ them for five months.***
   "5 And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man." – [Rev 9:5 NASB95]
5. ***… will seek death but will not _____ it.***
   "6 And in those days men will seek death and will not find it;" – [Rev 9:6 NASB95]
6. ***… will long to die, and death _____ from them.***
   "6 And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them." – [Rev 9:6 NASB95]

CONCLUSION:

The first woe is past; two woes are still coming. The description in verses 7–12 does not remove the limits God has set; it intensifies the horror of a judgment that is already under His sovereign control. The question that remains is the same one this passage forces upon every hearer: if even this restrained torment does not produce repentance, what will?

Title suggestion:
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Polished Sermon Notes – Revelation 9:1–6
(Cleaned for flow, connected to your main point, and prepared to bridge into vv. 7–12 next week)

Introduction
Church-age saints are kept from the hour of testing that is coming upon those who dwell on the earth (Rev 3:10). Tribulation saints, by contrast, will pass through that hour; many of them will be martyred for the word of God and their testimony (Rev 6:9–11).

The main point of this passage is therefore sobering: those who dwell on the earth have already received roughly two thousand years of grace and the free offer of redemption through the Lamb. Yet when the Lion of the tribe of Judah begins to bring righteous judgment, they still refuse to repent. Even the three final woes of the great tribulation—mercifully limited in duration and scope—function as a last, severe call to turn.

The last three trumpet judgments open here and culminate in the seven bowl judgments of the third woe (Rev 8:13). The fifth angel now sounds the first of those final trumpets.

The Star and the Key (9:1)
John sees a star that has fallen from heaven to earth, and the key of the bottomless pit is given to him. In the immediate context of Revelation the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches (Rev 1:20); Scripture elsewhere also speaks of angels as stars (Job 38:7). This star is therefore an angelic being—the fallen angel Satan, the adversary who was cast down to earth and who weakens the nations (Isa 14:12).

*Satan is a murderer from the beginning and the father of lies (John 8:44). His ambition has always been to rule over the angels (Isa 14:13), and at his fall he swept a third of the stars of heaven with him (Rev 12:3–4). Yet even in judgment he acts only within the boundaries of God's permissive will. The key is *given* to him; he does not seize it. As with Job, his power is real but strictly limited (Job 1:12).*

***Application:** However intense the trial, God still sets the limits on the Evil One's access to His people. Humbly ask Him to show you what He intends to accomplish through the difficulty.*

The Pit Opened and the Locusts Released (9:2–3)
Satan opens the abyss. Smoke rises like the smoke of a great furnace and darkens the sun and the air. Out of that smoke come locusts upon the earth, and power is given them as the scorpions of the earth have power. These are not ordinary insects; they are demonic agents released under divine permission.

The Precise Limits of Their Power (9:4–6)
They are commanded not to hurt the grass, any green thing, or any tree—only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They are not permitted to kill anyone, only to torment for

five months. Their torment is like the sting of a scorpion. In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them.

Every clause underscores the same truth: the judgment is severe, yet it is restrained. God withholds the final stroke. The torment is real, prolonged, and unbearable, yet it is not yet death. This is both justice and residual mercy—a last, agonizing summons to repentance for those who have already rejected the free gift of the Lamb.

*****Conclusion / Bridge to Next Week (vv. 7–12)*****
Even under this carefully limited torment the unsealed still refuse to turn. Next week we will see why the terror is so intense: John describes the appearance of these locusts—horses prepared for battle, crowns like gold, faces of men, hair like women, teeth like lions, breastplates of iron, wings like the sound of chariots, and tails with scorpion stings. Over them stands their king, the angel of the abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek Apollyon—Destroyer.

The first woe is past; two woes are still coming. The description in verses 7–12 does not remove the limits God has set; it intensifies the horror of a judgment that is already under His sovereign control. The question that remains is the same one this passage forces upon every hearer: if even this restrained torment does not produce repentance, what will?

*****Closing pastoral note*****
For those who already belong to the Lamb, the scene is a reminder that God both protects and limits. For those who still dwell only on the earth, it is an urgent warning: the day of free grace is not endless. The Destroyer is coming, but the Redeemer is still offering life. Do not wait until death flees from you.

7. ***The key opens a place of imprisonment called the abyss or bottomless pit.***
   "30 And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. 31 They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss." – [Luk 8:30-31]

8. ***Demonic inmates introduce the eternal roomates the lost will have in the lake of fire.***

"26 FOR THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND ALL IT CONTAINS." – [1Co 10:26 NASB95]

"1 A Psalm of David. The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it." – [Psa 24:1 NASB95]

"12 The first woe is past; behold, two woes are still coming after these things." [Rev 9:12 NASB95] –

"12 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! 13 "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' 15 "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit." – [Isa 14:12-15 NASB95]

"18 And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning." – [Luk 10:18 NASB95]

June 6, 2022 Cern Dr. Randall Price

9. ***The type of judgment at the birth of the nation signifies the antitype at Israel's confirmation.***
   *"23 Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, and **the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth**. And the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt. ... 25 The hail struck all that was in the field through all the land of Egypt, both man and beast; the hail also struck every plant of the field and shattered every tree of the field." [Exo 9:23, 25 NASB95]*
10. ***God provides the sustenance of vegetation for rebellious mankind.***
    *"29 Moses said to him, "As soon as I go out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the LORD; the thunder will cease and there will be hail no longer, that you may know that **the earth is the LORD'S**." [Exo 9:29 NASB95]*
11. ***God's regular provision will be cut off during this time of judgment.***
    "45 …your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." [Mat 5:45 ESV] –

Observation 1: The tribulation judgments prove the futility of mankind's attempts to be like God because we cannot create eternal life and we cannot sustain physical life.

Observation 2: Be a Christian nationalist because God's disdain for attempts at global unity in rebellion is made clear at both the tower of Babel and in the prophesied Tribulation period.

2. ***The 2nd Trumpet sounds and a third of the salt water sea is wasted. [8:8-9]***
   "8 The second angel sounded, and [something] like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood, 9 and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed." [Rev 8:8-9 NASB95]

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1. ***A great mountain burning may be a volcano but the term "like" could mean something different.***
2. ***A third of the sea will be ruined, sea creatures will be dead, and ships will be destroyed.***

3. ***The 3rd Trumpet sounds and a third of the fresh water is made bitter. [8:10-11]***

"10 The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. 11 The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter." [Rev 8:10-11 NASB95] –

1. ***A third of the rivers and springs become bitter because of wormwood. [Ἄψινθος]***
2. ***A third of men die because subterranian springs like the Edwards Aquifer and rivers are bitter.***
3. ***Any significantly sized asteroid that hits the earth at 130,000 mph could do catastrophic damage.***

4. ***The 4th Trumpet sounds and a third part of the heavenly bodies are darkened. [8:12]***

"12 The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way." [Rev 8:12 NASB95] –

1. ***A third of the sun, moon, and stars cease to shine at full capacity.***
2. ***There will be 8 hours of daylight and 16 hours of darkness.***
3. ***The disruption of light reminds us that God is light and His absence brings darkness.***
4. ***The climate conditions and lessor sunlight will affect vegetation and produce.***

Observation: J B Smith comments in regard to the 1st four trumpet judgments: It is of considerable interest to note the progress — one third of the green trees and grass, one third of marine life and shipping, one third of the waters, and one third of the heavenly bodies. Food is destroyed; distribution is crippled; water supply is limited; production is hampered.

2. ***The four trumpet judgments are warnings of the grief to come with the final three woes.***

"13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"" [Rev 8:13 NASB95] –

1. ***The last three trumpets are three woes that finish unrepentant mankind.***

*"20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent of the works of their hands**, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; 21 and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts." [Rev 9:20-21 NASB95] –*

1. ***Woe is an interjection of grief.***

It is translated oh!:—ah, alas, ho, O, woe in Hebrew [הוֹי אוֹי.] and alas, woe from Greek [οὐαί]

2. ***Isaiah used the word woe 22 times . Woe - interjection alas! Oh! An expression of grief.***

*"20 **Woe** to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!" [Isa 5:20 NASB95] –*

3. ***Jesus pronounced woes on Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum.***

*"20 Then He began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent. 21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, **they would have repented** long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 "Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in [the] day of judgment than for you. 23 "And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, **it would have remained** to this day. 24 "Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in [the] day of judgment, than for you."" [Mat 11:20-24 NASB95] –*

Observation: The word of Jesus power provides the stability that the natural God-given laws provide for our daily lives.

2. ***What we will notice about the three prophesied woes is mankind's lack of repentance.***

[God] "4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." [1Ti 2:4]

They did not repent…

1. ***…of their idolatry .***

*"20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent of the works of their hands**, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood,which can neither see nor hear nor walk; Rev 9:20 NASB95] –*

2. ***…of their murders, drugs, immorality, nor their thefts.***

*21 and **they did not repent of** their **murders** nor of their **sorceries** nor of their **immorality** nor of their **thefts**." [Rev 9:21 NASB95] –*

3. ***…of their works.***

*"11 and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and **they did not repent of their deeds**." [Rev 16:11 NASB95] –*

4. ***…to give God His glory.***

*"9 Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and **they did not repent** so as **to give Him glory**." [Rev 16:9 NASB95] –*

Observation 1: God's goal in judgment is perfectly balanced with the attribute that "God is love" as is evidenced by His desire that none should perish and that the goal of His long withheld justice is that men would repent.

Observation 2: The beauty of repentance is that if we turn from the evil God will withhold the distressful misery of the consequences of our sins.

"7 "At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy [it;] 8 if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it." [Jer 18:7-8 NASB95] –

Main point: Mankind's global rebellion cannot create anything outside of our Creator's material world nor can they uphold the material world if our Lord Jesus Christ in judgment decides not to uphold it by the word of His power.

3. ***All of mankind's prideful attempts to ascend into heaven are futile.***

1. ***The attempt at the Tower of Babel.***

*"4 They said, "Come, **let us build** for ourselves **a city, and a tower whose top [will reach] into heaven**, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."" [Gen 11:4 NASB95] –*

2. ***Every attempt made by kings of nations by means of conquest.***

***30** The king reflected and said, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?' **31** While the word was in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you, **32** and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place will be with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.'*

3. ***The attempt that will be made by the Antichrist.***

***3** Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, **4** who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.*

4. ***Every attempt in the angelic realm that are made by Satan will be futile as well***

*"12 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! 13 "But you said in your heart, **'I will***

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> ***ascend to heaven**; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will make myself like the Most High**.'" [Isa 14:12-14 NASB95] –*

***Transhumanism —** was popularized by evolutionary biologist Julian Huxley in 1957, who described it as the idea that **humanity can transcend itself** by realizing new possibilities of its nature. The contemporary movement developed mainly from the 1980s–1990s onward*

***Cryonic preservation —** Alcor Life Extension Foundation is a nonprofit cryonics organization based in Scottsdale, Arizona. It preserves legally dead members at very low temperature in the hope that future medicine might someday repair the damage and restore them. It does not claim it can revive anyone now.*

***World Community —** We deplore the division of humankind on nationalistic grounds. We have reached a turning point in human history where the best option is to transcend the limits of national sovereignty and to move toward the building of a world community in which all sectors of the human family can participate. Thus we look to the development of a system of world law and a world order based upon transnational federal government.*

CONCLUSION:

"13 "No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. 14 "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; 15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life." [Jhn 3:13-15 NASB95]

Opening Prayer - October 4, 2026

Father show us the glory of Your Son our Savior. May we see Jesus Christ the Son of God and Son of Man in the radiance of Your glory. Open our ears to hear; It is through Your Son that You made the world. Open our eyes to see; it is Jesus that sustains or holds the universe together. The One who though He was in the form of God did not count that equality with God a thing to be grasped and He humbled Himself to become the Lamb of God. He became the indescribable gift of love and took away our sin. He paid the full penalty of death for us and gave to us life. May we see the power of humility and fully taste the glory of His selfless lovingkindness. Glory to You our God!

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father

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CHURCH SAINTS	TRIBULATION SAINTS
ELDERS - Are on thrones for rule Rev 3:21	*TRIB SAINTS - serve in the temple*
They wear crowns suggesting rule	*No mention of head dress*
Clothed in white garments [ἱματίοις] - outer cloak or coat Rev 3:5	*Clothed in white robes [στολὴ] kings, persons of rank, or priests clothing*
Given authority over the nations - Rev 2:26	
God has not destined us for wrath 1 Thes 5:9	

The island itself vanished

Before the main blast, Hunga Tonga and Hunga Ha‘apai were two small, vegetated islands joined by a volcanic cone that had grown since 2014–15. After 15 January

most of that land was gone; only remnants of the caldera rim remained above water. Maxar and Planet Labs before-and-after pairs document the collapse.

Ash across Tonga
Within hours a thick gray layer covered Tongatapu and the Haʻapai islands. Satellite comparisons of Nukuʻalofa and nearby villages turn bright green landscapes into uniform gray-brown.

A more recent event occurred in May–June 2026: a submarine eruption at Titan Ridge in Papua New Guinea's Bismarck Sea generated massive pumice rafts that washed onto the Admiralty Islands (Lou, Baluan, Manus and others). The floating rock piled up meters thick along shores, blocked boats, damaged fishing grounds, and raised food-security concerns for coastal communities. NASA satellite images captured the rafts and the discolored water around the vent.