

# Trumpet Judgments

Revelation 9

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4/12/2020



## Fifth Trumpet: The Locusts from the Bottomless Pit

### Revelation 9:1-12

*Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. <sup>2</sup> And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. <sup>3</sup> Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. <sup>4</sup> They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. <sup>6</sup> In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. <sup>7</sup> The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. <sup>8</sup> They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. <sup>9</sup> And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. <sup>10</sup> They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months. <sup>11</sup> And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. <sup>12</sup> One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.*

### What is the bottomless pit, aka the Abyss?

The Abyss is a place that is best described as a place of detention for the wicked angels of the demon world.

- The demons in the demon-possessed man begged Jesus to not order them to the "Abyss" - they went into a herd of swine (Luke 8:31)
- Jesus confirmed the existence of this place by saying he had the "key" to the "Abyss" (Rev 1:18; 20:3)
- Satan will spend 1,000 years in the Abyss during the millennial kingdom (Rev 20:3)

### What is the star fallen from heaven to earth?

The "star" is probably Satan

### What is the significance of the key given him?

- Satan is given the key to the Bottomless Pit (Abyss)
- Since Christ provides this "key", it is His will for the action!

### Since preterists believe all prophecy has been by 70AD, how do they interpret this star and the locusts?

- The star may have been some angel, or some minister of religion like the High priest, or some body of religious teachers that spread unbelief, heresies, false principles that wrecked men's morals and the safety of society....
- This flood of locusts that came out of the bottomless pit were moral and spiritual errors

### Liberal Bible interpreters spiritualize Scripture applying some spiritual interpretation rather than taking it for what it says... how might they interpret the locusts and smoke?

- The locusts represent demonic force unleashed upon the earth
- The dense smoke that emerged from the opened abyss represents a clouding of men's minds and darkens their understanding
- The demons rob men of all light, that is, of all true righteous and holiness, joy and peace, wisdom and understanding.

### What do these verses tell us about the beings in the Abyss?

2 Peter 2:4 - *God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment*

Jude 6 - *And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day*

These are demons, fallen angels, who have been "locked-up" because of their absolute destructive nature to mankind

### **Is there a distinction between demons and fallen angels, or are they the same?**

- Some think that demons are the spirits of the Nephilim, hybrid human-angels of Genesis 6. There is no support for this idea in Scripture, proponents of this distinction cite extrabiblical sources.
- Either way, demons and/or fallen angels have no physical bodies but they possess physical creatures
  - So, these demons from the abyss are given "Locusts" to possess and they have the ability to inflict pain on mankind!

### **What happened when Satan opened the bottomless pit?**

John sees smoke pouring from the Abyss, darkening the sky (v2)

### **What clue does this give us as to the location of the Abyss?**

To darken the "sky" infers the Abyss is located within the earth!

### **What are the demons from the Abyss permitted to do?**

To afflict all people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads... unbelievers.

### **What are the abyss demons restricted from doing?**

- Harming believers or any vegetation (grass, green things, trees)
- These are not your common locusts!
- Inflict pain but not death
- Also limited to 5 months of torment

### **What kind of torment did the demon-possessed locusts inflict?**

Pain like what scorpions inflict

### **V 5-6 How bad was the pain?**

- Bad enough that people would rather die than suffer the pain
- Bad enough that many apparently try to commit suicide but are unable to die

### **V7-10 - What does the description of the locusts tell us about them?**

- Like horses prepared for battle - Speed, Organized
- Crown on head - Authority
- Face resembled humans - Intelligence
- Hair of a woman - Beauty
- Teeth like lions teeth - Strength/Vicious

- Breastplates of iron - Armor/Invincible
- Sounds in their wings - Calamity/strikes terror
- Tails like Scorpions with stingers - Inflict Pain

### **V11 - What do we learn about the leader of the demon-possessed locusts?**

His name is ABADDON (Hebrew)...

APOLLYON (Greek),

DESTROYER (English)

These are other names for Satan, the angel of the bottomless pit who was given the key to open it.

### **V12 - What is the affliction of the demon-possessed locusts called?**

Besides the Fifth Trumpet it is also the first woe

### **Sixth Trumpet: The Angels from the Euphrates**

#### **Revelation 9:13-21**

<sup>13</sup> Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, <sup>14</sup> saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." <sup>15</sup> So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. <sup>16</sup> Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. <sup>17</sup> And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. <sup>18</sup> By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. <sup>19</sup> For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm. <sup>20</sup> But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. <sup>21</sup> And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

### **What does the sixth trumpet bring?**

The release of the four fallen angels sets off a chain of events that will culminate in the killing of a third of the world's population

- The pouring of the "Sixth Bowl" judgment (Rev 16:12) will complete the task that this Sixth Trumpet starts
- This along with the Fourth Seal (Rev 6:8) that kills a fourth of the world's population will leave the world's population at fifty percent

**V16 - What tool does the four demons that were bound at the Euphrates River use to kill so many people?**

A 2M-man army of horsemen

**V17 - How, are the horsemen described?**

Armored with red, blue, and yellow colors Fire, smoke, and brimstone come out of mouths.

**What could the description of the horsemen represent?**

Modern weapons...

red: Field Artillery; blue: Infantry; yellow: Armor... the three ground-taking combat branches of the U.S. Army (are these colors a coincidence or clues' that help us interpret this passage)

**V18 – What do the plagues of the Sixth Trumpet result in?**

A third of the population of earth dying.

**What will be the three plagues that kill so many people?**

Fire, smoke, & brimstone from the 200M-man army

**What is brimstone?**

Burning sulfur... FYI, black powder is the earliest known chemical explosive. It consists of a mixture of sulfur, charcoal, and potassium nitrate (saltpeter)

**Where is the Euphrates river?**

This is the Eastern border of the Holy Land; the Euphrates River is 1,700 miles long; it begins in the Armenian mountains of southern Turkey and empties into the Persian Gulf.

- These four angels (demons) are chained here for a specific reason - they have a "future" job to do!
- They dry up the Euphrates River, permitting the passage of the armies from the East to the Middle East - Israel!
- Their advancement into Israel will be after the Armageddon war has started

**V19 - What is the significance of the tails of - the horsemen?**

- The tails also do harm
- Just when you think the horsemen is past you, the tail lashes out like a venomous snake  
...even the aftermath of the passing army will kill, destruction is left in their wake

**V20 - How did those who were not killed by the tribulation plagues respond to God's wrath?**

With fully half of the world's population dead of the plagues, and with the disruption of the ecosystem, the economy, and the weather patterns, one would expect that survivors who witness these calamities would come running to God for mercy and salvation

- This will not be the case! The people did not repent
- Instead, they worshiped demons and idols.

**What does it mean they will worship demons?**

They will accept the lies of Satan and follow his ways rather than God.

**What are some lies of Satan that people will likely embrace?**

Alternative explanations for origins like extraterrestrials "seeded" life on earth.

**How is it they will they worship idols?**

They will take created things as their authority over them following them instead of God.

- They see their salvation in the fallen angels who lie to them telling them what they want to hear.
- And they also see their salvation in mankind's capacity to do great things collectively.

**V21 - What specific sins are mentioned?**

Murder, sorcery, sexual immorality, theft Pharmakia... drugs

**What applications do we see in the destruction of the trumpet judgments?**

You really don't want to be on earth during that time so repent and follow Christ while you can.