

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

CHAPTER NINE

"The Fifth and Sixth Trumpet Judgments"

I. THE SORROWS OF JUDGMENT (continued)

A. Continue with some terrifying _____ activities when the fifth trumpet sounded (1 - 12).

1. This trumpet sound was followed by a star that fell from heaven having the keys to the abyss (1).

a. Notice the star here refers to a person and not to an object.
Note the references "to him" (1), and "he" (2).

b. A more literal rendering of the word "fall" is "having fallen".
For this reason many conclude this star to be Satan who fell from heaven (Isa. 14:12-17; Luke 10:13; Rev. 12:4).

c. In identifying this star it seems inconsistent however that Christ who has the keys (Rev. 1:18) would give the key of the abyss to Satan. Such a privilege is unreasonable. It therefore seems more plausible that the star referred to is one of God's _____ who is given this key.

2. This trumpet sound was followed next by the opening of the _____(2).

a. This "bottomless pit" or "pit of abyss" is the place where some of the wicked angels or demons are confined (Luke 8:31; Rev. 11:7; 17:8; 20:2,3). It is the same place that Satan himself will be confined for a thousand years (20:1-3).

b. When the angel opened the abyss there arose a smoke that darkened the air and the sun. This smoke symbolizes the _____ powers of darkness and also describes the judgment of the fifth trumpet to be inflicted upon men by _____.

3. This trumpet sound was followed then by an awful kind of judgment by those who came out of the abyss (3-12).

a. Notice those who came out of the smoke of the abyss were like _____ upon the earth (3).

(1) We see here that these hordes of demons loosed from

the abyss will appear as giant locusts.

(2) Locusts plagues in the Bible symbolize God's judgment upon a wicked world (Ex. 10:12-20); Joel 1:4-7).

b. Those who came out of the smoke of the abyss were given power as _____ (3). Instead of hurting the earth as do natural locusts they will inflict pain upon men by stinging as a scorpion.

c. Those who came out of the smoke of the abyss were given a specific purpose (4-6).

(1) These demon-possessed locusts were commanded not to hurt the earth but rather _____ men (4). For this reason the 144,000 Jews as well as all who know the Lord at that time will be protected from these demonic creatures.

(2) The torments of these locusts will last _____ months and will be like the pain suffered when a man is stung by a scorpion (5). The life of a natural locust runs five months when things are green (May - September).

(3) As a result of the pain inflicted by these locusts men will seek physical _____ (6). Apparently the pain will last five months for men to seek death to rid themselves. But in that day men will not have the power to take their own lives to escape God's judgment.

d. Those who came out of the smoke of the abyss are described in detail (7-10).

(1) These locusts were shaped like _____ prepared for battle and had faces like men. On their heads were crowns (7). These symbolize their victory in their warfare that will be waged against unsaved men.

(2) They will have faces like _____ (7) but hair like _____ and teeth like lions (8). Here we see what symbolizes the real character of demons - shame and devouring of their prey (Note I Cor. 11:14; I Pet. 5:8).

(3) These locusts will have breastplates like iron and their wings will give a sound like chariots and horses going to battle (9). This representation speaks of their indestructibility and the impossibility of escaping their attack.

(4) They will have tails like scorpions with stingers in them (10). Note the reference once again of the power of their sting to hurt for five months.

e. Those who came out of the smoke of the abyss were led by a king who was the angel of the abyss (11). His Hebrew name is Abaddon and his name in Greek is Apollyon. Both of these mean the same thing - "_____".

4. This judgment is said to be the first of three woes (12). Note 8:13.

B. Continue with some more demonic activity when the sixth trumpet sounded (13-21).

1. This trumpet sound was followed first by a voice from the golden altar commanding the four _____ in the Euphrates river to be loosed (13-14).

a. This voice coming from the horns apparently speaks of God's sovereignty and power to judge.

b. This voice seems to be an answer to prayer for persecuted saints in that it speaks of more judgment upon the unsaved.

c. Since there is no instance in the Scriptures where holy angels are said to be bound, these bound angels are therefore the instruments of the second _____ judgment.

d. The Euphrates river is the river which is considered to separate the _____ from the _____ (Ezra 4:10-11; Neh. 2:9). It marked the Eastern boundary of the Roman Empire.

2. This trumpet sound was then followed secondly by the loosing of the four angels (15).

a. Note the four angels who are loosed prepare the way for the exact time of judgment in God's plan. Instead of "an" it should read "the hour, the day, the month and the year" in which 1/3 of the unsaved men will be slain. This is indicative of God's appointed time and not the time of duration of the judgment.

b. The loosing of these angels prepares the way for a time of judgment but the judgment will be inflicted by an army of men later. Note Rev. 16:12.

3. This trumpet sound was followed finally by a _____ of this

future judgment when the armies of the East and West will meet(16-21).

a. In the vision John heard the number of the army (16). It was "twice ten thousand times ten thousand" or 200 million. Since the Euphrates separates the east and the west this army is apparently the hordes of the orient such as Red _____. Note they will cross the Euphrates later in a confrontation with the west (16:12).

b. In the vision John saw the destructive _____ of the army (17-19).

(1) Since this judgment will be carried out by an army of men during the tribulation period, what John saw probably represents modern warfare but he could compare it only to things that he knew.

(2) The heads of the horses like lions with fire, with smoke and brimstone coming out may refer to tanks (17).

(3) By the fire, smoke, and brimstone that came out of their mouths 1/3 of men were killed (18).

(4) These instruments of warfare will also be able to fire from the rear (19).

c. In the vision John saw what effect these judgments would have upon the rest of the unsaved (20-21).

(1) Those who survived still worshipped _____ and _____ of various kinds (20).

(2) Those who survived still were _____ of their murders, sorceries, fornication, and thefts (21). The word sorceries is the Greek word for "pharmacists" or drug users. The picture seems to show that men won't change their minds about killing, taking drugs, committing fornication and stealing. Note how these things are associated today with those who use drugs.