

BOOK OF REVELATION

Part 16 – Fifth and Sixth Trumpets: Chapter 9

I. INTRODUCTION

We saw the first six of seven Seals on the Seven Seal Scroll opened in Chapter 6. The opening of each one brought a terrible judgment on the earth. Specifically, the judgment was what God allowed to happen as a natural result of man rejecting God and in seal six, we saw what happened when God simply withdrew his continuous grace from the Earth. In Chapter 7 we saw, what was the first parenthetical passage in the Book of Revelation. There was a pause in the progression of the judgments to seal the 144,000 Jewish male witness so that they could not be harmed or killed. We also saw God's mercy being exemplified once again in the fact that he halted the progress of the judgments. It was not necessary in order to seal these witnesses. God is giving mankind time to reflect on the judgments and a short season to repent. Now we will see the opening of the Seventh Seal in Chapter 8, which leads into another set of judgments.

II. EXEGESIS – FIFTH AND SIXTH TRUMPETS OPENED.

A. VERSES 1-12: FIFTH TRUMPET SOUNDS

*VERSE 1 “ And the fifth angel sounded,
and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth:
and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.”*

The star here is a clear reference to one of God's angels. The context tells you that this is not a star in the universe, a celestial body. The star is referred to as “him”. Angels in scripture always appear in masculine form. You never see in scripture angels in feminine form, even though many greetings cards and even “religious” publications embrace this notion.

Notice that you see this angel is on a special mission. This is the first mention of the phrase “bottomless pit” in scripture. All seven references are in the book of the Revelation. We will see later that this is where Satan is bound during the Millennial Kingdom.

You will see the key used to open and close the bottomless pit later in Revelation Chapter 20.

VERSE 2-3 *“(2) And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. (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. ”*

The bottomless pit could be spherical in shape and thus would not have a bottom. It is the prison that God confined many of the fallen angels who rebelled with Satan, when he attempted to overthrow God's throne shortly after the creation of the world. The Bible indicates that one third of the angels chose to rebel with Satan against God. When Satan was cast out of heaven, these fallen angels were cast out with him. Many of them were imprisoned in this bottomless pit

Revelation 12:3-4 *“(3) And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. (4) And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth:*

2 Peter 2:4 *For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;*

Jude 1:5-6 *“(5) I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. (6) And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*

We now see that this angel opens the bottomless pit for a period of time and unleashes these fallen angels who after being bound in chains for many centuries since their fall from service in Heaven. They are no doubt furious and wish to inflict as much harm on God's servants and his creation as they can. They assume the form of a mutant locusts that we will see described in the following verses.

VERSE 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.”*

This verse explains to you further that these are not biological locusts that we know upon earth. Notice that these locusts do not eat and destroy any grass, plants, trees, or crops. This is another indication that these locusts are no ordinary locusts. They are permitted to harm only those who have not God's seal in their foreheads. This would be the 144,000 Jewish male evangelists described in Revelation Chapter 7.

Revelation 7:2-4 *“(2) And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, (3) Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. (4) And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.*

Scripture does not indicate to us that the Gentile Tribulation Saint, has the seal of God in their forehead. Some Bible scholars speculate this but scripture does not directly support this opinion. Sadly many tribulation saints will suffer along with the lost who have and still reject Christ as Saviour. The tribulations saint is secure in his eternity with God but will pay for the consequences for not accepting Christ before the Tribulation.

*VERSE 5-6: “(5) And to them it was given that they should not kill them,
but that they should be tormented five months:
and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.
(6) And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it;
and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.”*

Now we see the details of the judgment itself. This judgment, different from the trumpet judgment before it, is not a supernatural space phenomena. This time God allows demon's, angels who fell with Satan, to carry out judgment on his behalf. These demonic locusts, will torment mankind for five months. However in this judgment no one dies, but is in torment from the pain inflicted by their stinging tails. Their stinging tails will be described in the next few verses. The pain is compared to a scorpion sting in intensity but it does not abate like a regular scorpion sting.

Men will want to die, because the pain is so intense. But death will for this time leave the face of the earth and they will not even be able to get relief from death. But in reality, the lost would not have gotten relief if they died. They would have entered eternity without Christ and continue to be tormented in Hell.

*VERSES 7-10: “ (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.*

What a hideous looking creature. It is an amalgamation of different aspects of different creatures:

- They have a body like a horse prepared for combat – but not a horse's body.
- They have a breastplate like iron – strong and not an organic feature.
- They have a man's face but with long hair – not short hair.
- They have teeth that look like lion's teeth – sharp and not looking like human teeth.
- They have wings that are extremely noisy like many chariots on the move.
- They have a tail that looks similar to a scorpion tail and had the ability to sting like a scorpion.
- They will be impossible for mankind to kill because they are not organic locusts but fallen angelic beings who have assumed this hideous form.

*VERSE 11: “And they had a king over them,
which is the angel of the bottomless pit,
whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon,
but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.*

This king is also called “angel of the bottomless pit” indicating that this one was the ruler of the inhabitants of the bottomless pit. Remember that when The Hebrew word “Abaddon” means “destroying angel” and Apollyon carries the meaning of “destroyer” with specific reference to Satan. No doubt this “king” of the locusts is none other than Satan himself. Satan rebelled against God, and led 1/3 of the angelic force, to rebel against God with him.

*VERSE 15 “And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour
, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.”*

Notice here that they were prepared for their function. To be ready to kill one third of the remaining life on earth that has not been destroyed already by the previous seal and trumpet judgments. The details of how they will slay one third of life on earth is unveiled in the next few verses

*VERSE 16 “And the number of the army of the horsemen
were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.*

This number equals 200 million. Two hundred million horses with riders upon them. These horses also are most likely fallen angels or demons that have assumed the form of a horse but not an ordinary horse as the next few verses will explain.

*VERSE 17 “And thus I saw the horses in the vision,
and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone:
and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions;
and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.”*

They are also hideous looking creatures, just like the locusts before them. They could very well be the demons that were loosed from the bottomless pit and appeared as locusts them. Let us examine the characteristics of the horses:

- **Breastplate - “of fire, jacinth, and brimstone.”**
 - **Fire:** The word in the original language carries the meaning of fiery in appearance.
 - **Jacinth:** A gemstone that is deep blue in color.
 - **Brimstone:** The word used in scripture The word here in the original language for “brimstone” is a different word than the word used in the rest of this passage for brimstone. The word used here carries the meaning of “sulphur like”. It has the appearance of sulfur.
- **Their head of these horses were like the head of a lion.**
- **These horses killed men by breathing fire and brimstone. Smoke is a byproduct of the burning brimstone that is toxic in inhaled.**

*VERSE 18-19 “(18) By these three was the third part of men killed,
by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone,
which issued out of their mouths.
(19) For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails:
for their tails were like unto serpents,
and had heads, and with them they do hurt”*

One third of the remaining population of the earth was killed by the following:

- **Smoke:** death comes by smoke inhalation.
- **Fire:** death comes by direct incineration or even injuries for partial burning.
- **Brimstone (Sulfur):** sulfur when burned produced fumes that are also toxic in nature.

Also note that their tail would hurt similar to a bite by the snake. The bite would not kill but simply cause injury just like in trumpet judgment five. Apparently old habits die hard in this case. These demons say the pain they caused and carried it into trumpet judgment six.

Remember these demons can only torment and kill man because God permitted it to be so. Now during the Church Age, the majority of these beings are chained in the bottomless pit. They do not realize that even in their rebellion, they are instruments of God's punishment upon mankind who refuses to repent. We see their unrepentant nature in the next verses.

C. VERSE 20 and 21 – UNWILLINGNESS TO REPENT

*VERSE 20-21 “(20) And the rest of the men which were not killed
by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands,
that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold,
and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood:
which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:
(21) Neither repented they of their murders,
nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.*

We see here how much mankind is moved to repentance by these judgments: **NONE**. The passage clearly shows us the unwillingness to repent on the part of the lost majority of mankind. Even through all these judgments they would not repent of their sins which were quite deep. Notice the lead sin here is idolatry. From idolatry stems all the other sins mentioned here.

III. APPLICATIONS

- **Take comfort. The Church age saint will not go through the Tribulation or the judgments described here.**
- **There will be many who will accept Christ during this time (after the Rapture) and they will be Tribulation Saints.**
- **However, the Tribulation Saints, unlike the 144,000 Jewish male witnesses, and the Two Witness to yet be described until Chapter 11, will have to endure the judgment of God. They missed their chance to escape.**
- **The believer, once he has accepted Christ as Saviour, is forgiven of his sin forever.**
- **However the Tribulation saint must still pay for the consequences of his accepting Christ after the Rapture.**
- **Now is the time to accept Christ. Do not delay.**