

The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets

Revelation 9:1-21

As was seen at the end of the fourth trumpet (chapter 8), the final three trumpet judgments would be far worse than the first four. These judgments follow one right after the other, but they take time. The fifth judgment, for instance, takes five months to unfold (vs. 5). By the time the trumpet judgments are concluded more than half the world population is destroyed by God or allowed to be destroyed by Him – what an awful time to be alive!!

I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET – VS. 1-12



A. How it starts – vs. 1-2

1. Vs. 1 mentions a “star fall from heaven” –
 - a) This “star” is not a literal star, as was seen in the third trumpet judgment, but is seen as possessing human attributes and is referred to as “him” which would point to something other than a real star
 - b) The fact that the star is seen as having fallen (“fall” is in the perfect tense, indicating completed action) to earth would point to none other than Satan himself, pointing to Rev. 12:7-9; Is. 14:12-19
2. This star, or Satan, is given the “key of the bottomless pit” (the pit of the abyss, literally)
 - a) The first time this term is used, and it is only found in the book of Revelation – 7 times total (9:1-2, 11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1, 3)
 - b) Having opened this pit there is seen smoke rising out of the pit that darkened the sun and polluted the air, much like a volcanic eruption does
 - c) Viewing this literally, it should be seen that when the star opens the pit it opens a portal from the surface of the earth to its center – the place where the demonic forces are bound

B. What is its purpose – vs. 3-6

1. The purpose of this trumpet, quite simply, is to torture mankind to the point where

they want to die – but can't

2. The locusts that came out of the pit (we'll look at them in the next point) were given power (by the star, and allowed by God) to only hurt the men on earth that weren't sealed (the 144,000)

a) It doesn't say anything here about any believers, so we can only speculate as to what happened to them – perhaps they were sealed as well, or they were gone from the earth by this time, or they were also afflicted

b) Their power did not include harming plant life, which is what locusts would normally do

3. The torture lasts for five months – vs. 5

4. The torture was "as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man"

a) J. A. Seiss writes:

b) J. A. Seiss writes:

"The pain from the sting of a scorpion, though not generally fatal, is, perhaps, the most intense that any animal can inflict upon the human body. The insect itself is the most... malignant that lives, and its poison is like itself. Of a boy stung in the foot by a scorpion (it was related that)...he rolled on the ground, grinding his teeth, and foaming at the mouth. It was a long time before his complainings moderated, and even then he could make no use of his

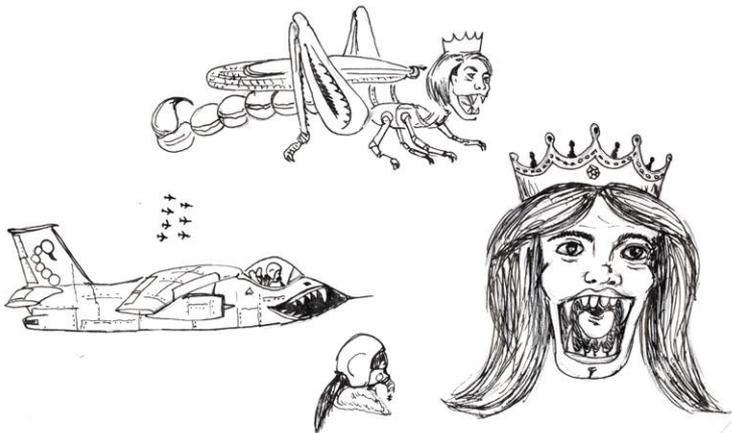
foot, which was greatly inflamed. And such is the nature of the torment which these locusts from the pit inflict. They are also difficult to be guarded against, if they can be warded off at all, because they fly where they please, dart through the air, and dwell in darkness." (*The Apocalypse*, p. 83) — Willmington's Guide to the Bible

c) One thing to note – these are not your normal scorpions – they are a creature that God allows to come out of the bottomless pit to inflict extreme pain on mankind

5. The result is in verse 6 – the pain is so bad men just want to die – but won't be able to, no matter what they try

C. Who (or what) is involved – vs. 7-11

1. Out of the smoke come locusts – in verses 7-10 described as:



a) "Horses prepared unto battle" – although size isn't given, and locusts are only a few

inches long, it might be considered that they were the size of a horse, which would make this even worse

- b) "Crowns like gold" on their head
 - c) "Faces were as the faces of men"
 - d) "Hair as the hair of women"
 - e) "Teeth were as the teeth of lions"
 - f) "Breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron"
 - g) "Sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle"
 - h) "Tails like unto scorpions"
 - i) "Stings in their tails"
2. Along with the "star" mentioned in vs. 1 (Satan) is the "king over" the locust army, called the "angel of the bottomless pit" (vs. 11), his name being "Abaddon" (destroyer), or "Apollyon" – this would be the equivalent to Michael or Gabriel

D. How it ends – vs. 12

- 1. The end is pronounced as simply being "past"
- 2. It doesn't end well

II. THE SIXTH TRUMPET – VS. 13-21

A. How it starts – vs. 13-15

1. In verse 13 we find the scene unfolding in heaven at the altar that is mentioned before (6:9-11 – the fifth seal)
 - a) This is the last mention of the altar
 - b) Some consider this trumpet, connected with the what chapter 6 records about the altar, to be in answer to the prayers of the saints
2. From the altar came a voice to the sixth angel – this is most likely the voice of “the Lamb that was slain” that was standing holding the scroll – remember, these trumpet judgments are part of the seventh seal, so the Lamb is still holding the scroll, or the book – chapter 5
3. Vs. 14-15 – the command was given to the sixth angel to “loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates”
 - a) As we have stated often already, the vision John saw is to be taken literally, and there is nothing to indicate this isn’t to be taken literally as well as the rest of the vision
 - b) Sometime in the past – most probably when Lucifer was cast out of heaven, along with the angels that followed him – four “angels” (now would be considered demons) were “bound” (no record in the Bible of a good angel ever being bound) and eventually “locked” in the Euphrates river (the earth, as we know it, didn’t exist at that point)
 - c) These angels (vs. 15) were “prepared” for

that exact moment and they were prepared and held all this time for the express purpose of killing a "third part of men"

(1) *In the fourth seal a fourth of the population was killed*

(2) *"Men" here isn't gender specific – it is referring to mankind: men, women, children worldwide*

(3) *Considering the world population today at 7.6 billion, and factoring in the fact that a fourth are killed in the fourth seal, and that many more millions, if not billions, died from the other seals and trumpet judgments, the number here would be 2-3 billion people*

B. Who (or what) is involved – vs. 16-17

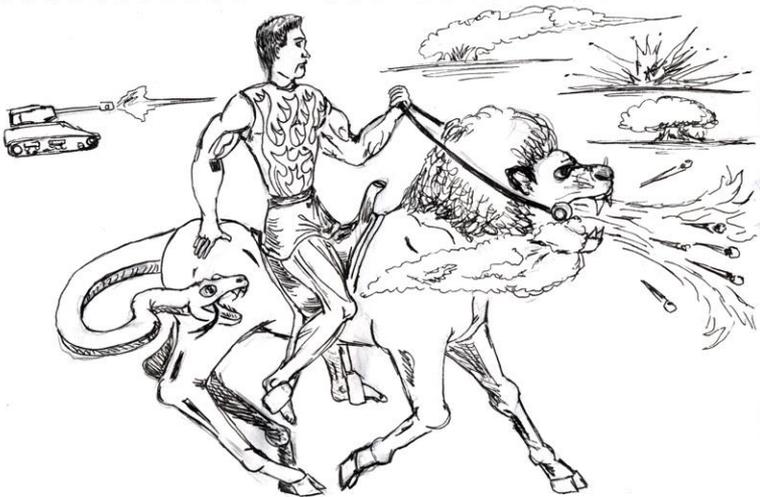


1. As already stated, the four evil angels loosed from the Euphrates – they lead an army described in these verses
2. This army consists of “two hundred thousand thousand” – taken literally, that’s 200 million – “horsemen” – not just soldiers but 200 million horses

“By normal standards, this mighty army would occupy a territory one mile wide and eighty-seven miles long.” —Willmington's Guide to the Bible

That’s a distance from the church to Hoover Rd. wide extending to Amish Country (Berlin, OH).

3. Vs. 17 describes this army – whether it was an army of humans or of demons is unclear



- a) Breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone" - The meaning of the whole...is, that these horsemen appeared to be clad in a special kind of armor - armor that shone like fire, mingled with blue [jacinth] and yellow [brimstone].
- b) "Hheads of the horses were as the heads of lions"
- c) "Out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone"

(1) The horses mouths, that is

(2) The brimstone is what was used with fire to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah by God

(3) Here, it is the horses that use brimstone - hot, molten, sulfuric rock

4. There are many that believe this passage is speaking symbolically of modern weapons and modern warfare. I don't hold to that - I believe this is literal and I believe that there will be no power on earth that can stop them, or even hinder them

C. What is its purpose - vs. 18-19

1. Simply, to kill - vs. 18
2. They do this with their mouths and their tails - the riders don't do the killing, apparently - vs. 19

D. How it ends - vs. 20-21

1. It ends with those that still lived being unrepentant and unchanged in their ways
2. It seems that, no matter how hard a preacher preaches on hell and what is to come, unregenerate people continue on in their sin – and that is speaking of today, not the Tribulation

Conclusion: Again, the question is, "Are you ready for the Lord to come?" If the Lord came back today, and the Tribulation started tomorrow, would you be here or in heaven?