

## The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets

### 9:1-21

#### Introductory Notes

- We continue the Trumpet judgments from Chapter 8.
- There is a marked difference in the next two Trumpets from the first four.
  - I think the first four have could likely be natural events used by God.
  - These two Trumpets delve into a more supernatural territory.

#### Outline

- The Fifth Trumpet, First Woe (“Locusts”) - vs. 1-13
- The Sixth Trumpet, Second Woe (Four Angels and War) - vs. 14-21

#### Notes

- vs. 1 - “star” - While I have taken a very literal approach to the word ‘star’ being a star, meteor, or other space object, I think this ‘star’ is different. Note the use of the word “him” and that it possess a key and uses it, therefore this is not an inanimate object. I personally think this is Satan himself (see Isaiah 14:12 and Luke 10:18).
- vs. 1 “bottomless pit” - Literally “abyss”. Specifically, it seems to be a prison for fallen angels who joined Satan in his rebellion against God. (see Matthew 25:41, II Peter 2:4, Revelation 20:2-3)
- vs. 2 - “locusts” - We will see that these are as we continue that these are not locusts as we know them. I believe they are demonic beings. The use of ‘locust’ points, I think, to their size, shape, number, and swarms. Also uses imagery of the 8th plague in Egypt (Exodus 10:1-20)
- vs. 4 - the target for these locusts are the Godless, while the Sealed (Saved) are spared this judgment.
- vs. 5 - the length of this judgment is five months
- vs. 6 - the attacks of these swarms push people to suicide to escape. As a side note, suicide and death are often the results of Satan’s influence.
- vs. 7-10 - I cannot comprehend what these things look like, and I think John is struggling to describe them. One theory out there is that he is here trying to describe modern war machines, such as helicopters. Based on everything else outside of the description I see no way of making these out to be anything but demonic creatures.
- vs. 10 - I don’t think the sting is felt for 5 months, but that is the total length of their judgment.
- vs. 11 - “Abaddon”, “Apollyon” - both mean “destroyer”. I believe this king is Satan himself.
- vs. 11 - regarding locusts and kings, compare to Proverbs 30:27
- vs. 13 - “horns of the golden altar” - same altar we saw in 8:3. ‘Horns’ are projections from the four corners of the altar, such as in Exodus 27:2.
- vs. 14 - I think these are fallen angels (hence they are bound)
- vs. 14 - Euphrates - longest river in Western Asia at 1,700+ miles long. Flows through Turkey, Syria, and Iraq.

- vs. 15 - “an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year” - points to a specific point in time, not a length of time. It reminds me of WWI Armistice of Compiègne, which took affect on "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month".
- vs. 15 - “third part of men” - using the numbers from Lesson 7 on the Fourth Seal, we will assume the Earth’s population is 5.4 billion at this time. 1/3 of that number is 1.8 billions people. This is the same number of people as killed in the Fourth Seal. Between that Seal and this Trumpet, that is 3.6 billion dead, HALF of the 7.2 billion population we began with.
- vs. 16 - do the math and that is 200,000,000
- vs. 17-19 - I think there are two possible explanations for this army:
  - They are a human army waging war with modern war machines
  - They are a demonic horde similar to the locusts before.
- vs. 20-21 - Even after all of these judgments, mankind still refuses to repent and turn toward God.