

# The Book of Revelation

## Chapter 9

### Introductory Notes

- We continue the Trumpet judgments from Chapter 8.
- There is a marked difference in the next two Trumpets from the first four.
- While the first four have could very likely be natural events used by God, the next 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 – The Fifth Trumpet sounds
- vs. 1 - “star” – this “star” is different from what we saw in chapter 8.
  - It is spoken of as if it were a person – note uses of “him”.
  - It acts with volition in taking the key and using it with purpose.
  - I think this is Satan himself (see Isaiah 14:12 and Luke 10:18).
    - This is in part a mockery of Christ’s return described in Revelation 19:11, II Thessalonians 2:8 (star vs. brightness), Zechariah 14:4 (opening pit vs. splitting Mount of Olives)
- 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 Luke 8:31 (“deep” = abyss), 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)
  - Another mockery of Christ’s return: Christ comes with His army from Heaven (Revelation 19:14, Jude 14); but Satan comes with a demon army from below.
  - The smoke of the pit is also a mockery of the incense/prayers of 8:3-4.
- vs. 4 - the targets 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 – There is no escape from this judgment, even through death.
- 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 all the details given, I see no way of making these out to be anything but demonic beings.

- vs. 10 – The sting does not last for 5 months, this is the length of this judgment.
- vs. 11 - “Abaddon”, “Apollyon” - both mean “destroyer”. This is Satan himself.
- vs. 11 - regarding locusts and kings, compare to Proverbs 30:27
- vs. 12 - As alluded to in Revelation 8:13, the final three Trumpets are three “woes”.
- vs. 13 – The Sixth Trumpet sounds
- 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.
  - Perhaps there is connection to atonement? See Exodus 30:10.
- vs. 14 - I think these are fallen angels since they were bound
- vs. 14 - Euphrates – the longest river in Western Asia at 1,700+ miles long, Flows through Turkey, Syria, and Iraq.
  - Was the ancient boundary of Canaan – Genesis 15:18, Joshua 1:4.
- 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.
  - Makes me think of military; as in the Armistice of Compiegne ending WWI, which took effect on "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month".
- vs. 15 - “third part of men” – Do the math:
  - Start with the current population of 8 billion people,
  - In the Fourth Seal of Revelation 6:7-8 we saw 1/4 of the population killed, that is 2 billion killed and 6 billion remaining.
  - Here we have 1/3 of the 6 billion killed, which is another 2 billion.
  - We end with 4 billion people on earth – HALF of the world’s population dead!
- vs. 16 – An army of 200,000,000.
- vs. 17-19 – some think this is a demonic horde similar to the locusts before, but I think it is a description of a human army waging war with modern war machines.
- vs. 20-21 - Even after all these judgments, mankind still refuses to repent and turn toward God.