

Trumpet 5

Revelation: How It All Ends

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Bible Text: Revelation 9:1-12

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9:1

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.

*Revelation 1:16 And [the Son of Man] had in his right hand seven stars...20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. **The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches.***

Lucifer fell from heaven. So are we to assume that somewhere during the tribulation period he falls from heaven again? Well, if this is Satan, I don't think so. I think this is both the rehearsal of what has happened and a forecast of what will happen when he's given to him the key of the bottomless pit. We do, we have a couple of choices: it's either the time during creation week when he fell from heaven in Isaiah 14 which I referenced or it's looking forward to the time in chapter 12 where halfway through the tribulation period he falls from the heavens again. Just know this: we're dealing with a particular angel that falls from heaven. Now, if you have a Bible that says "descends from heaven," I'm afraid it's not the strongest possible translation. It is a passive action that takes place. He has just been thrown out of somewhere.

and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. That supposes that there is a gate to this bottomless pit; it supposes that there's a geographical location, maybe that's redundant, there is a location for this bottomless pit.

9:2

And he opened the bottomless pit. If this is Satan, let's remind ourselves that the only thing he can do is what God allows him to do because Christ who has the key to Hades and Christ gives this "angel" the bottomless pit keys.

and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace. We've seen the day of the Lord before in Revelation 6. It's a day of darkness.

Joel 1:1 The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel. Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?...3. Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation. 4. That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the

*caterpillar [consuming locust; destroying locust] eaten. 6. For a nation is come up upon my land. For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion. 9. The meat offering and the drink offering is cut off from the house of the LORD....15 Alas for the day! for **the day of the LORD** is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come...2:2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a **day of clouds and of thick darkness. 3 A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth. 4 The appearance of them** is as the appearance of **horses**; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots...10 The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.*

*Revelation 6:12 And I beheld when he had opened **the sixth seal**, and, lo, there was a great earthquake...17 For the great day of his **wrath** is come; and who shall be able to stand?*

and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

*Revelation 6:12 I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, lo there was a great earthquake and **the sun became black as sackcloth of hair and the moon became as blood.***

So, complete darkening of the sun and moon, right? However, in chapter 9:2, the sun is still present in some measure. Remember, the seals of Revelation are listed 1-7 because that's the order in which they were shown to John. It's not necessarily the order in which they occur. This is the fifth trumpet and because this trumpet blocks the sun with its smoke and the sixth seal which occurs after the great tribulation includes the darkening of the sun, then we have to assume that the fifth trumpet also is inside the great tribulation prior to the 6th seal and the Day of the Lord (especially when compared to Matthew 24:21-31).

9:3

And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth and unto them was given power - I'm not clear on whether the locusts come out of the smoke or out of the pit. In other words the smoke draws the locusts from another location or if these are demonic locusts of some type that come out of the bottomless pit and out of the smoke. That would determine whether or not these are demonic or if these are just a special breed of locust

as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass. Remember in Joel it was to eat up the grain so they couldn't offer their sacrifices. Here, it is a totally different purpose: Joel 2, hurt the grain; Revelation 9, hurt the people.

9:4

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. From our earlier study of the 144,000, we saw there's a great probability that seals 4 and 6 will occur in and around Jerusalem. What am I saying? There is a possibility that this fifth trumpet occurs specifically around the land of Israel with the Jews around the land of Israel.

If we've only seen that the 144,000 have the seal, then we have an issue: Not only does it mean that everyone else is getting stung but it also means (since the 144,000 really are male Jewish virgins) that no women are being spared of the locusts. No Gentiles are being spared of the locusts. There are no saved people on the earth at all and if there are, they are getting stung by the locusts. That's why I'm willing to say it's probably localized just like the 144,000 are. Why? Because the 144,000 are brought into it as the exception to the plague.

“Does that mean that everyone else in the Jerusalem area is getting stung by these locusts?” Yeah. “Are you saying there are no saved people anywhere in that area?” I'm saying that the saved people have left.

Matthew 24:15-17 Let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

If there were a previous rapture or if this were a world-wide plague, you have no promise that the saints are not also suffering this plague. That's why I'm willing to say that it happens in and around Jerusalem.

9:5

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. The lifespan of most locusts, depending upon their species, is 3-5 months. So, I'm not surprised that these locusts only do their deed for five months. Incidentally, in the book of Joel, it leads right up to the day of the darkness or the day of the Lord. If the darkness, then, accompanies the day of the Lord, then it seems quite safe to assume that this fifth trumpet comprises the remaining five months of Daniel's 70th Week as we learned from Revelation 6 and Matthew 24 that the “day of the Lord” does not occur until after the “great tribulation.”

The day of the Lord was specifically, locally fulfilled for those Jews when Babylon came and took them captive. There was also a telescopic view towards the end of time when the day of the Lord would affect many more people on a grander scale. The day of the Lord is prophetic language from the Old Testament.

9:6

And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it. They'll wish they could die from this torment but they won't be able to die. It's not a fatal blow. **And death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the locusts were like Horses. On their heads were as it were crowns, and their faces were as the faces of men.** This is why I think that we might be dealing with more than just this strange biologically produced, chemically produced locust breed. **and they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.** John's just saying, “Let's talk about Joel for a minute.” Again, most of Revelation is Old Testament material that John is saying, “We're about to see the ultimate fulfillment of most of this.”

9:9

And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots. Joel again. It's almost like God wrote the whole book. They sounded like **chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had**

tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. 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. “Apollyon” means “destroyer.” So, we have destroying locusts over which their leader is known as the Destroyer. I think it's natural to assume that the king over the bottomless pit is the one who had the key but it's an assumption. We have one who is given the key to unlock the pit, he's an angel fallen from the heavens and we have a king over these demonic locusts and his name is Destroyer. So, is this the same angel? I don't know.