

“The Fifth Trumpet: Demons from the Abyss”

Revelation 9:1-12

An Unparalleled Proliferation of Demonic Activity

Revelation #19

Review:

1. The Significance of the Trumpets

- The Trumpets warn of impending final judgment, and thus call men to repentance.
- The first four Trumpet judgments do not affect the whole world (1/3).
- The Trumpets warn, while the bowls (which follow) are poured out.

2. The Nature of the Trumpets

- (1) The Trumpet Judgments increase in severity:
 - The final three Trumpets are more terrible than the first four cf. v. 13b
 - The Trumpets increase in spiritual impact/severity, not merely affecting men’s physical state
- (2) The Trumpet Judgments extend from the time of Jesus’ enthronement through the whole of the church age.

1. The King of the Abyss: Satan

vv. 1-2

(1) His former glory indicated

*Then the fifth angel sounded:
And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth.
To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.
And he opened the bottomless pit...”*

(2) His ancient fall indicated cf. Luke 10:17-20

(3) His granted authority

2. The “Army” of the Abyss: A Multitude of Demons

vv. 3-11

(1) The OT Background and Figure: A Plague of Locusts

*“And smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace.
So the sun and the air were darkened
because of the smoke of the pit.
Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth.”*

- Patterned in part after the 8th plague upon Egypt Ex. 10:14-15

- Mirroring the locust army foreseen by the Prophet Joel Joel 2:3-5, 10

(2) The Authority Given the Demons

-1- Power to afflict only the unbelieving

- No power to harm the believing!
 - Those having been sealed 7:3
 - cf. 1 Jn. 5:18

- Harm could only come *indirectly* upon believers

*“And to them was given power,
as the scorpions of the earth have power.
They were commanded only (to harm)
men who do not have the seal of God
on their foreheads.”*

-2- Power to inflict great pain upon men “And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months.

- Not given power to kill, but to torment *Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion
when it strikes a man.”*
- Intense, unremitting pain
- Not physical, but mental and psychological pain
- Inescapable pain!

-3- Power of limited duration?

“authority...to torment them for five months”

(2) Their Appearance/Presentation 7-10

- 1- Powerful and Aggressive
- 2- Regimented, organized
- 3- Personal beings
- 4- Frightening – inducing fear
- 5- Formidable – not easily defeated
- 6- Multitudinous
- 7- Capable of inflicting great pain

(3) Their King’s Identity and Character 11

- “The angel of the bottomless pit”
- “Destroyer” Heb: Abbadon Gk: Apollyon