

The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets: the 1st and 2nd Woes

Revelation 9

Introduction

- In chapter 8, Jesus opened the 7th seal which contained the 7 trumpets.
- We saw the judgments of the first four trumpets.
- In chapter 9, the fifth and 6th trumpet judgments are revealed.
- Remember, the aim of God in each judgment is that people should repent of their sin and rebellion before it is too late.

1

2

Revelation 9: the 5th and 6th trumpets

Trumpet #5 – the 1st Woe (9:1-12)

• The Opening of the Bottomless Pit (9:1-2)

Revelation 9:1 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.

² And he opened the bottomless pit, 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.

3

Revelation 9: the 5th and 6th trumpets

• An army of demonic “locusts” comes from the abyss to torment mankind. (9:3-6)

³ Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

⁴ They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

4

Revelation 9: the 5th and 6th trumpets

⁵ And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them *for* five months. Their torment *was* like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.

⁶ In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

- **God gives them power.**
- **Their assignment: to torment mankind for 5 months.**
- **The tormented are not allowed to die`.**

5

Revelation 9: the 5th and 6th trumpets

• A description of the demonic “locusts” (9:7-10)

⁷ The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces *were* like the faces of men.

⁸ They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' *teeth*.

⁹ And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings *was* like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle.

6

Revelation 9: the 5th and 6th trumpets

¹⁰ They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power *was to hurt men five months.*

¹¹ And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew *is* Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

- These “locusts” have a king – a fallen angel named Abaddon / Apollyon = “Destroyer”
- Real locusts do not have a king (Prov. 30:27) – “the locusts have no king.”

7

Revelation 9: the 5th and 6th trumpets

- Real locusts eat vegetation and do not have tails like scorpions.
- These “locusts” are demonic creatures doing what they delight to do (John 10:10) – “steal, kill, and destroy.”
- They had faces like men, hair like women, teeth like lions, breastplates like iron, tails like scorpions with stingers.
- Their demonic assignment is to torment, not to kill.

8

Revelation 9: the 5th and 6th trumpets

- Length of torment is for 5 months.
 - God’s purpose in this judgment is to bring the ungodly to repentance.
- ¹² One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

9

Revelation 9: the 5th and 6th trumpets

Trumpet #6 – the 2nd Woe (9:13-21)

• The Release of Four Demonic Angels (9:13-15)

¹³ Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

¹⁴ saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”

10

Revelation 9: the 5th and 6th trumpets

¹⁵ So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

- Each of the four angels released are wicked angels, for no holy angel is ever described as “bound.”
- Each of the four demonic angels is in charge of a part of a 200 million member army that follows at their release.
- The assignment of this demonic army: to kill 1/3 of the humans on earth.

11

Revelation 9: the 5th and 6th trumpets

• A description of the 200 million member army (9:16-19)

¹⁶ Now the number of the army of the horsemen *was* two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

¹⁷ And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses *were* like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.

12

Revelation 9: the 5th and 6th trumpets

¹⁸ By these three *plagues* a third of mankind was killed - by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.

¹⁹ For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails *are* like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

- **The four demonic angels appear to be in charge of the massive horde of demonic horsemen who ride across the world spreading terror and death.**

13

Revelation 9: the 5th and 6th trumpets

- **When the 4th seal was opened, 1/4 of the human race was killed (Rev. 6:8).**
- **With the opening of the 7th seal, and the with the blowing of the 6th trump, 1/3 of the remaining humans are to be killed by this demonic cavalry.**
- **It is difficult to know if the breastplates of the riders were of 3 colors each or if some were red, some blue, some yellow.**
- **The “horses” have heads like lions and breathe out fire, smoke, and brimstone.”**

14

Revelation 9: the 5th and 6th trumpets

- **The “tails” of the horses are like serpents which also have heads.**
- **Ungodly and defiant mankind is unwilling to repent inspite of God’s warning judgments.**

²⁰ But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

15

Revelation 9: the 5th and 6th trumpets

²¹ And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

- **They refuse to see the purpose of the judgments (God’s attempt to awaken them).**
- **They refuse to stop their sinful behavior: demonic worship (idolatry), murder, theft, sexual immorality, and “sorceries” (pharmakia) – the use of drugs.**

16



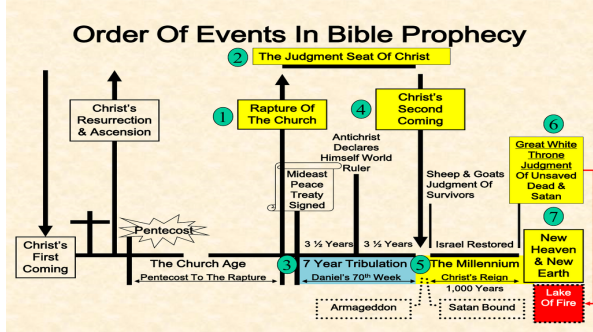
17

Outline of Trumpet Judgments

- 1st Trumpet:** 1/3 of earth and trees burned + all grass
 - 2nd Trumpet:** 1/3 of sea and sea creatures destroyed
 - 3rd Trumpet:** 1/3 of fresh water destroyed
 - 4th Trumpet:** 1/3 of sun, moon, stars are struck
 - 5th Trumpet:** demons released = torture of unbelievers
 - 6th Trumpet:** demon army = kills 1/3 of unbelievers
 - 7th Trumpet:** = Last 7 bowls!
- The first four trumpets affect man’s habitat.
 - The last three affect man “directly.”

2

18



19

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20