

Revelation 9

I. The 5th – 7th Trumpets and Woes (9:1-21)

A. The 5th trumpet (and the first "woe") (9:1-12)

1. Highlights the consequence of disobedience and unrepentance
 - a. 1st 4 Trumpets - Effects of sin on the universe
 - b. 5th Trumpet - Effect of sin on self
 - c. 6th Trumpet - Effect of sin on others

2. The Star - Who is this Fallen Star?

- a. (Lk 10:18) - Satan fell from Heaven like lightning
- b. (9:11) - He is the "angel of the abyss"
 - 1) He is called "abaddon" - "destruction"
 - 2) In Greek, it is "apollyon" - "destroyer"
- c. The fallen star could be Satan, or a representative of Satan
- d. (1 Pet 5:8) - Satan is a devourer

3. The Key

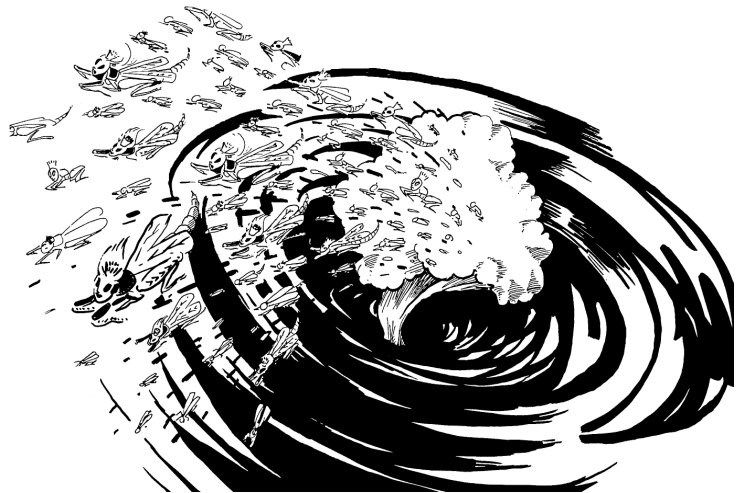
- a. He was "given" the key
- b. This represents authority
- c. He was given authority to release torment

4. The Abyss

- a. This is a bottomless pit
- b. Occurs four other times in Revelation
 - 1) (11:7) - It is where the enemies of the witnesses of God came from
 - 2) (17:8) - The beast came from the abyss
 - 3) (20:1) - An angel of God had the key
 - 4) (20:3) - An angel threw the dragon into the abyss and sealed it
- c. What is the abyss?
 - 1) In Revelation, it is a place of evil
 - 2) (Lk 8:31) - It is the place where evil entities are imprisoned

5. Locusts

- a. Usually signify destruction or judgment
 - 1) Joel 1:4-7, 2:2, 10-14 - Outside invaders are like the locust plague, they devastate everything

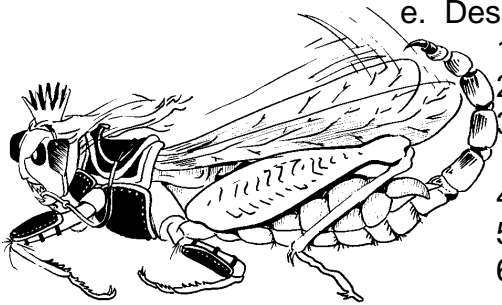


2) Nah 3:15 - God's judgment on Ninevah is like the Locust plague

- b. These locusts in Revelation do not go after crops
 - 1) Were instructed not to harm plant life
 - 2) Were instructed to go after people
- c. These locusts did not harm God's people
 - 1) They were selective
 - 2) Only went after those who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads
- d. These locusts did not kill but tortured for a limited time
 - 1) Five months
 - 2) Was like the sting of a scorpion
 - 3) Suffering so bad, people will long for death

e. Description of the Locusts

- 1) Looked like horses prepared for battle - war?
- 2) Fake gold crowns (wreath, not a diadem)
- 3) Human like faces - Represent human foe, or intelligence
- 4) Human hair with lions teeth - Fierce
- 5) Breastplates like Iron - Can't kill them
- 6) Tails and stingers like a scorpion - Poisons and torments, but does not kill



f. Had a king over them

- 1) Abaddon, Appollyon - "Destroyer"
- 2) Possible play on words for original readers:
 - a) Roman emperor claimed to be the god "Apollo" reincarnated
 - b) Appollyon sounds like Apollo

6. Historical perspective

- a. Rome had become a lavish, decadent, wicked place
- b. Sin and decadence made Rome sick, and here is a result

7. Lessons from the 5th Trumpet

- a. Torment of sin can be devastating
- b. Often punished not so much because of our sins, but often by our sins
 - 1) Eccl 1:13, 18; 2:1-2, 11 - Suffering came as a result of indulgence in Ecclesiastes
 - 2) Prov 13:15 - Way of the treacherous is hard
 - 3) Prov 6:12-15 - The wicked will be ruined
 - 4) There are not just supernatural consequences of sin, but also natural consequences of sin
- c. When faithful Christian's suffer, it is not due to God's judgment
 - 1) The vision showed those with the seal were spared
 - 2) (James 1:2-4) - Christians are actually strengthened as the result of trial

B. The 6th Trumpet (and the second "woe") (9:13-21)

1. Appears to be talking more about warfare
2. Significance of the Euphrates
 - a. To Jews - Source of danger
 - 1) Their enemies came from there
 - 2) (Is 8:5-8; Jer 46:10)
 - b. To Rome - Parthians came from the other side of the river
 - 1) Most feared Calvary in the world
 - 2) Rome never could defeat the Parthians
 - 3) Rome defeated by the Parthians in 55 & 62 A.D.
3. The angels become 200 million mounted troops
 - a. 10,000 times 10,000
 - b. This would make a column a mile wide and 85 miles long
4. Description of the troops
 - a. Out of mouth came fire, smoke, and sulfur - judgment
 - b. Lion's head - strength
 - c. 1/3 of mankind was killed by the plagues that came from their mouths (sin comes from the mouths?)
 - d. Power in their mouths and tails
 - One of the tactics of the Parthians were that they attacked from in front and behind. Would shoot one volley as they charged, then another behind as they withdrew from the range of the enemy's weapons
5. God's purpose - Repentance
 - a. v. 15 - The angels at the Euphrates were released
 - 1) It was at a specific time and place
 - 2) Shows that God is in control
 - b. Those not killed still did not repent
 - 1) Destruction was not a total destruction
 - 2) (2 Pet 3:9-10) - God desires all to repent



C. Historical perspective:

1. 3 Factors in the overthrow of Rome -
 - a. Natural Calamity - There were a series of earthquakes, volcanic activity, etc.
 - b. Internal Rottenness - Progressive moral decay
 - c. External Invasion - The moral decay weakened Rome, allowing invaders to more easily attack Rome
2. These are not "natural" events, according to Revelation, but

ultimately come from God

- a. Partly for the purpose of judgment
- b. Partly for the purpose of attempting to get people to repent



First 6 Trumpets - Warnings and Lessons:

Trumpets 1-4 Calamities on land, sea, land waters, and sea waters	Effect of Sin on the Universe Universe is out of order due to sin	A Warning to through natural disasters	World is Not our Home
Trumpet 5 Locusts who torment but do not kill	Effect of Sin on the Individual Spiritual and Moral Deterioration	A warning through physical torment	Way of the sinner is hard
Trumpet 6 Angels/Army that destroys	Effect of Sin on Others Destruction externally	A warning through external invasion	Effects of sin are terrible and far reaching

II. Lessons: (See also: 2 Pet 3:9-10)

- A. The Lord delays his coming to give time
- B. The Lord gives warnings to get your attention
- C. Some day His patience will run out