

THE BOOK OF REVELATION 11

TRUMPETS FIVE AND SIX

INTRODUCTION:

The seventh seal contained seven trumpets. These trumpets represent the judgments God will use to try to call Rome, His people and his people's enemy, to repentance. Chapter 8 reveals the fact that God uses natural calamities to achieve His purpose.

Trumpet One: Land Disaster

Trumpet Two: Maritime Disaster

Trumpet Three: Land-Water Disaster

Trumpet Four: Cosmic Disaster

What we have seen in chapter eight is judgment falling on an ungodly world which should draw them to repentance. Their whole world is being hit. Their home is no longer a home. It is a palace of horrors! God is bringing to the mind of the saints His authority and control.

The plagues are being recalled.

Now in chapter 9 we are going to see two of the instruments of punishment used by the Lord. Internal corruption and external invasion.

Our Lesson text: Revelation 9:1-19

Our Lesson aim this week will be: To gain understanding that judgment is not meant simply to punish but to urge the ungodly to repentance and the godly to stand.

Our Lesson Preview: We will . . .

1. See a fifth trumpet which contains hellish locusts and represents internal decay as a result of false doctrine.
2. Learn of a sixth trumpet which turns loose the hellish army (external enemies). However, this army, as are all armies, is under the ultimate control of our Lord.
3. Learn that there is an incorrigible rest who will not (or cannot) repent no matter what influence God brings upon them. T

HE HELLISH LOCUSTS – FIFTH TRUMPET – INTERNAL DECAY (9:1- 12)

The fifth trumpet represents internal decay because of false doctrine.

A. The Horde of Locusts (vs. 1-10)

1. The star (vs. 1-2). Satan:
 - a. Fallen, not falling from the sky – Read Luke 10:18
 - b. Given key to the shaft of the abyss – Read Luke 8:30-31; Revelation 11:7; 17:8; 20:1, 3. Contrast Revelation 1:18.

2. Darkened the sun and the sky – Read Joel 2:2, 10. Contrast Revelation 1:18; 22:16.

a. The Locusts (vs. 3-10). Read Exodus 10:1-20; Book of Joel.

b. Their source (v. 3). From the smoke from the abyss. From Hell comes the deception of Satan, from deception comes the weakening influence of internal corruption.

c. Their limitation (vs. 4-5).

1) Not to hurt earth only the ungodly.

2) Torture for five months as scorpions do.

d. Their effect (v. 6). Cause men to seek death but not find it.

e. Their description (vs. 7-9).

1) Horses prepared for battle – Armed.

2) Crowns of gold – Victory.

3) Human-like faces – Intelligence and/or beauty.

4) Woman-like hair – Strength and glory.

5) Teeth of lions – Power.

6) Breastplate of iron – Protection.

7) Sound of wings – Great number.

8) Tails like scorpions – Tormenting power.

B. Their Head (v. 11)

1. Authority – The abyss.

2. Character – destroyer. Read Job 26:6; 28:2; 31:12; Psalm 88:11. We will see more on this later in chapters 12, 19, 20.

NOTE: Let's analyze the picture:

a. The star (angel-king) is Satan.

b. He loosens smoke from the abyss – False doctrine that holds man in darkness (2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:1-4; Colossians 1:12-13).

c. Locusts come out of the smoke – when man swallows the lies of false doctrine, hurting or weakening those who do not have the protecting seal.

d. Rome fell for the Devil's lies and thus fell into internal decay.

e. Remember, this is one of God's trumpets. God uses even the work of Satan to punish and warn the wicked.

f. God has shown us two instruments He uses to cut down our enemies: Natural Calamities and Internal decay. The third instrument follows in the next vision. Most

nations weaken internally, but it is external forces that bring about their final destruction. Thus, the Sixth Trumpet.

THE HELLISH ARMY – SIXTH TRUMPET – EXTERNAL ENEMIES (9:13- 19)

The sixth trumpet represents external enemies – God’s judgment because of idolatry (v. 20) and religious and social corruption (v. 21).

NOTE: Moral and spiritual blindness tear a nation down and wars exhaust her altogether. It is said by some that war made Rome. But, the Romans, in general, had no love for war. When Augustus closed the temple of Janus in 29 B.C., signaling the return of peace after three severe civil wars – the populace was ecstatic with joy. War torments all sensitive souls.

A. The Voice from the Altar (vs. 13-14)

1. The altar (v. 13).

a. That’s where the prayers went up from and the martyrs that were under it. We are reminded that these judgments are in response to the cries and prayers of the saints – dead and living.

b. The horns of anything are the strong parts of it.

2. The charge (v. 14). **“Loose the angels.”** Read 7:1-3 again.

a. These stand for the armies who are appointed to attack Rome—those whom God calls to do His bidding.

b. The “Euphrates” stands for the threat of military might—Read Isaiah 8:7-8.

B. The Amazing Host (vs. 15-19)

1. Their appointment (v. 15a). The saints are assured that these armies are totally under the control of God. The angels stand for the armies. They move only when God says move. They have their place in the divine program. The saints need to know this! We today need to know this! The Lord is Lord!

2. Their assignment (v. 15b). To kill the third part of men.

3. Their number (v. 16). 200 million horsemen – Why such a large number?

a. To scare the life out of the enemy!

b. To make the saints rejoice that their Father has such an army at His disposal.

c. To stress the staggering control possessed by God.

4. Their description (vs. 17-19).

a. Armored – red, blue, yellow breastplates.

b. Devouring – head like lions.

c. Totally destructive – fire, smoke, sulfur (brimstone – Genesis 19:24- 28; Psalm 11:6; Job 18:15).

d. Effective – killed 1/3 of mankind.

e. Powerful – mouth to destroy – tails that kill.

THE INCORRIGIBLE REST (9:20-21)

A. This Is Really Scary—they Did Not (rather could not) Repent Such hardness of heart is awe-inspiring. We should be forewarned that our opponents are bent upon evil.

B. Their List of Sins Is Impressive

1. The work of their hands – oppression of the righteous.
2. The worship of demons and idols.
3. Murders.
4. Magic acts.
5. Sexual immorality.
6. Thefts.

CONCLUSION:

What have we seen in chapter nine? We have seen two of the instruments of punishment used by the Lord. Internal corruption and external invasion. These have been used against the oppressor – those who are not sealed on their foreheads. They did not incite the enemy to repent. How are they stopped? That's the question in the midst of awe-stricken saints.

No! More! Warning!