

BOOK OF REVELATION



13. The Seven Trumpets (2)

Revelation 9

Introduction

The Book of Revelation is a series of visions that were given to John while he was on the Island of Patmos. Jesus told John to write down what he had seen – what was now, and what would take place later. The letters to the 7 churches was what was happening at that time, but from chapter 4 onwards he describes events that would take place in the last days. The first of these events are described as the 7 Seals and the 7 Trumpets. We have already studied the 7 Seals, and in our last study we looked at the first 4 Trumpets. Now we will look at the 5th and 6th Trumpets.

Scripture Reading: Revelation 9:1-21

The last 3 Trumpets are also called the 3 Woes. See Revelation 8:13, 9:12 and 11:14.

The 5th Trumpet (1st Woe)



Describe what happens during the fifth Trumpet in 9:1-11.



Who or what was this 'star' that had fallen to the earth and opened the Abyss? 9:1. Compare with 12:7-9, Luke 10:18.

(The word 'star' is used in different ways in scripture and you need to look at the context to understand what it means. Here the star is Satan, as we know Jesus saw Satan fall from Heaven. God's angels never fall, but only descend or come down.)



What is the Abyss that is referred to in v1? Look at Revelation 9:2, 20:1-3 and Luke 8:31.

(The word 'Abyss' means 'very deep' or 'bottomless', and is described as a shaft that goes down into the earth. This is like a prison house where demons have been kept, and where Satan himself will be bound during the Millennium. Although this is not the Lake of Fire, it is a place of fire, as smoke pours out when the shaft is opened.)



When John saw this vision he described hordes of locusts coming out of the Abyss. What do you think these locusts are? Are they insects or demonic spirits? Study the verses carefully and give your reasons.

(It seems they are not physical locusts, but are demonic creatures that had been released. The reason for believing this:

- i. *Locusts do not have a king over them. See Proverbs 30:27. This king is either Satan, or more likely a Prince under him called 'Abaddon', which means 'destroyer.'*
- ii. *They came from the Abyss.*
- iii. *Their description is not like that of ordinary locusts.*
- iv. *They did not eat green things (9:4), whereas locusts usually do!*
- v. *These locusts could sting like scorpions, while ordinary locusts cannot.)*



Why do you think these locusts only attacked those who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads? What can we learn from this? 9:4-6, Luke 10:18-19.

(These locusts were demons but when God's Spirit lives in us, the enemy has no power over us. We have authority over the enemy and we need to learn to walk in that authority.)

The 6th Trumpet (2nd Woe)



Who do you think the 4 angels in v14 are? Compare with 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6.

(They are 4 evil angels, as God's angels are not bound. It would seem that they have been kept in a prison house and will only be released at this time, to fulfill a purpose in the plan of God.)

These 4 angels are in charge of a huge army of 200 million mounted troops. (9:16) In the same way that the locusts are demonic beings, it would seem that these are too, although this does not mean that humans won't be involved in these horrors!



Why do you think that the people left after all these plagues still did not repent? 9:20-21? What does this show us about the human heart? Ephesians 4:17-19, Hebrews 3:12-13, Proverbs 28:14.

(Sin causes a person's heart to harden, so these people give themselves over to sin more and more, until they only long for evil.)



How can we guard our heart from being hardened? Hebrews 3:13, 4:11-12, Jeremiah 4:3-4.

Conclusion

As we read these terrible judgments that come upon the earth, we may think it does not affect us. However God has chosen to tell us about what is going to happen in the near future, so that we will continue to keep our hearts soft toward Him, and share the good news of His Salvation to as many as we can.