

"The Trumpet Judgments"

Part 4

Revelation 8:6-9:21

Introduction: In our study of Revelation we have been looking at the Judgments which will come upon the earth during the Tribulation. The world will enter into the Tribulation following the Rapture of the church. The Tribulation will last for 7 years and at the end of the 7 year period Jesus Christ will return to set up His Kingdom here on this earth. The last half of the 7 years of Tribulation will be far worse than anything which this world has ever seen. Jesus spoke of this in the Olivet Discourse.

Matthew 24:21

²¹ For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

So far we have looked at the 6 Seal Judgments in which more than one quarter of the world's population will die. We have also looked at the first 4 Trumpet Judgments which will devastate the world's food supply.

Trumpet #1 - Hail and fire fall from heaven mingled with blood. All green grass will be burned up.

Trumpet #2 - One third of the sea becomes blood, one third of the ships destroyed and one third of the sea creatures killed. This is the result of something like a great mountain plunging from outer space into the ocean.

Trumpet #3 - A great STAR falls to the earth and it turns the fresh water supply bitter which causes many men to die.

Trumpet #4 - When this trumpet sounds one third of the sun, moon and the stars are smitten. The sun will not shine for one third of the day.

Now last week I told you that I believe this to be a prelude to the next Trumpet Judgment. This 4th Trumpet brought PHYSICAL darkness on the earth but the 5th Trumpet will bring SPIRITUAL darkness upon the earth.

As we step into chapter 9 we shall see one of the most frightening events which will unfold during the Tribulation. What we have looked at prior to this is devastating but this Judgment far exceeds those before.

I. Trumpet Judgement #5

Notice Revelation 9:1

As this trumpet sounds John sees a star fall from heaven unto the earth. This star is not an asteroid or a meteor for we are told in this verse that this star is an intelligent being. John refers to this star as HIM and to HIM is given the key to the bottomless pit. This STAR is an angel which is given the key to the abyss.

This verse helps us to understand that the bottomless pit or the abyss is locked up right now and the key is kept by God.

Notice Revelation 9:2

When the pit abyss is opened there is smoke which comes out and it is like the smoke of a great furnace. This smoke is so great and so thick that it darkens the sun and contaminates the air. Now there is much here for us to consider.

a. The fire which is exists in the abyss is a literal fire.

This we know because it darkens the sun and fills the air. It is also important to understand that this abyss exists today somewhere in the depths of the earth today. Let me show you something from Luke which we can connect with Revelation 9.

Luke 16:22-26

²² And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried:

²³ And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

²⁶ And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

He we read of the death of the unsaved rich man. He opened his eyes in hell and there he was tormented in a FLAME. This flame is the source of the smoke in Revelation 9:2. There was a GREAT GULF which separated the saved from the unsaved so we can be sure there are different SECTIONS in hell.

Notice Revelation 9:1-2 again.

There seems to be a shaft that extends from the abyss to the surface of the earth. When the shaft is uncapped the smoke from the fires of hell will come out and will be so great as to darken the sun and contaminate the air.

Application:

There is one point I want to make here and that is THE FIRES OF HELL ARE LITERAL FIRES. If you die in your sins you will be TORMENTED in the literal flames of hell.

b. The key is GIVEN to the angel.

This tells us that what is about to happen is completely under the control of God.

Notice Revelation 9:3

When the abyss is opened there comes out of it LOCUSTS. These are actually demons which pour up and out of this pit.

These demons/fallen angels have been locked up since the flood of Noah's day because of what they did. There are demonic spirits today which have a tremendous amount of influence upon the affairs of this world but the demons which come from the abyss have no freedom today for they are locked up in the abyss. Some demonic spirits are free to roam the earth today but these demons have been under lock and key for thousands of years. Let us notice an event in Luke when Jesus cast the demons out of a man.

Luke 8:29-32

²⁹ (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.)

³⁰ And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him.

³¹ And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.

³² *And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them.*

The word "DEEP" in verse 31 is the same word used in Revelation 9 to describe the bottomless pit. It refers to the abyss. They did not want to be sentenced to the pit.

Let me get you to the fallen angels who were sentenced to the abyss. Peter writes concerning these locked up fallen angels.

2 Peter 2:4

⁴ *For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;*

Jude gives to us some deeper insight.

Jude 1:6-7

⁶ *And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*

⁷ *Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

It is very important to see that verse 7 of Jude is not pointing to the people of Sodom and Gomorrah but is comparing the fallen angels to the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Just as the people of Sodom and Gomorrah went after STRANGE FLESH so did these fallen angels.

Genesis 6:1-2

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

² *That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.*

The fallen angels in Genesis 6 indwelt the men of Noah's day in order to get to the women. They therefore went after STRANGE FLESH. These are the fallen angels who are today locked up in the abyss. These angels will be loosed from the abyss and they will be the army of God used to bring judgment upon those who dwell upon the earth during the Tribulation.

Notice Revelation 9:3 again.

These "locusts" or demons will be given power from God and they the power will be like that of a scorpion.

Notice Revelation 9:4

These locusts will not destroy like the locusts we think of today but instead they will attack those who have not been sealed by God for protection.

Notice Revelation 9:5

These demons will not be permitted to kill men but they will torment men for 5 months with stings like the stings of a scorpion.

Notice Revelation 9:6

The torment from these demon/locusts will be so terrible that people will seek to die but will not be able to. Suicide will not be possible at this time. God will actually keep people alive who attempt to take their own life.

Application:

This time period which we are looking at here is far worse than we can imagine. These demonic creatures will terrorize the unsaved of the earth. Let us notice their appearance.

Notice Revelation 9:7-10

Demons are fallen angels and so they are SPIRITS and spirits are not visible to you and me today. Here in the Tribulation God will give to these demonic spirits bodies which are described here.

Now there are many people who say this is not to be taken literally but it must be taken literally. Let me show you something from the book of Exodus.

Exodus 10:12-15

¹² And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land, even all that the hail hath left.

¹³ And Moses stretched forth his rod over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind upon the land all that day, and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts.

¹⁴ And the locust went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous were they; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such.

¹⁵ For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left: and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt.

Now these were literal locusts where as in Revelation the locusts will be demonic spirits. But the point is that God had Moses record these plagues to help us all to see what God is able to do. These were LITERAL JUDGMENTS in Egypt and they will be LITERAL JUDGMENTS in the Tribulation.

Now I want to show you what Joel recorded concerning the LOCUSTS. Now we must understand that Joel is writing about the 3 events here:

1. A literal plague of locusts.
2. The invasion of the Syrians.
3. The future Tribulation period.

Joel 2:1-11

*Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for **the day of the LORD cometh**, for it is nigh at hand;*

² *A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: **a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.***

³ *A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.*

⁴ *The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run.*

⁵ Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.

⁶ **Before their face the people shall be much pained:** all faces shall gather blackness.

⁷ They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:

⁸ Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.

⁹ They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.

¹⁰ The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

¹¹ And the LORD shall utter his voice before **his army:** for **his camp is very great:** for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and **who can abide it?**

Conclusion:

Notice Revelation 9:11-12

Apollyon means DESTROYER. This army will be led by a Captain who will be known as DESTROYER. God offers to you another Captain today.

Hebrews 2:9-10

⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

¹⁰ For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

The events of this passage are only one of the WOES. There are 2 more to come.