

The Blowing of the Fifth and Sixth Trumpets

Study 9. Revelation 9

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A. The Blowing of the Fifth Trumpet 9:1-12¹ _____

1. What fell from heaven to earth when the fifth angel sounded his trumpet? 9:1
_____ ²
2. What happened when this star unlocked the bottomless pit with the key it had been given? 9:2 _____
3. What emerged from the smoke? 9:3 _____
4. What kind of power (lit., authority) did they have? _____
_____ 9:3
5. What limitation was placed upon them? (What were they not permitted to harm?) 9:4a _____
6. To whom were they granted access? 9:4b _____
_____ ³
7. What were they not permitted to do? 9:5a _____
8. How long would this plague last? 9:5b _____
9. To what was their torment compared? 9:5c _____
10. For what would men seek? 9:6a _____
11. Would they succeed? 9:6b _____
12. The description of the locusts. 9:7-11

¹ 9:1:1-12. The Fifth Trumpet is the First Woe. (See Rev. 8:13 and 9:12.)

² 9:1 - star: Because this star was given a key and was able to unlock the bottomless pit, it probably symbolizes an angel. Views differ as to whether it was a good angel or evil. My guess is that it represents an evil angel. (Note the similarity to Rev. 12:7-9.)

³ 9:4 - seal of God: We know that the 144,000 Israelis were sealed with the seal of God (Rev. 7:3-4). I am guessing that *all* who place their faith in Christ during the Tribulation are also given the seal of God, but no text anywhere explicitly states this to be true. We do know that the World Ruler will require all men to be marked with an identifying mark on their forehead or their right hand ("The Mark of the Beast") in order to engage in commerce (Rev. 13:16-18).

- a. What did they look like? 9:7a _____
 - b. What was on their heads? 9:7b _____
 - c. What did their faces look like? 9:7c _____
 - d. What did their hair look like? 9:8a _____
 - e. What were their teeth like? 9:8b _____
 - f. What were their breastplates like? 9:9a _____
 - g. What was the sound of their wings in flight like? 9:9b
 - 1) Like _____
 - 2) Like _____
 - h. Of what did their tails remind John? 9:10b _____
 - i. These locusts have the power (lit. authority) to do what? 9:10b _____
 - j. What do these locusts have as their king? 9:11a _____
 - k. What is the name ⁴ of their king? 9:11b
 - 1) In Hebrew _____
 - 2) In Greek _____
13. How did John describe this Fifth Trumpet Plague, which will last for five months? 9:12a _____
14. How many “woes” remained? 9:12b _____

B. The Blowing of the Sixth Trumpet. 9:13-19. _____

- 1. When the sixth angel blew his trumpet, John heard a voice. Where did this voice come from? 9:13 _____

⁴ 9:11b - name of the king: The names in both language mean “Destroyer.”

2. What instruction did the voice give to the sixth trumpeter? 9:14 _____
_____ ⁵
3. These four demonic angels had been prepared for a very specific time. How was this time identified? 9:15a _____

4. How would their release affect the people of the world? 9:15b _____
_____ ⁶
5. With no explanation, no sooner had the four demonic angels been released than an enormous cavalry appears. How many soldiers were riding horses? 9:16 _____
6. The riders ⁷ wore breastplates. What colors were the breastplates? 9:17a _____; _____; _____.
7. What did the heads of the horses look like? 9:17b _____ ⁸

⁵ 9:14 - four angels bound: Since these angels are bound on the earth, they are probably fallen angels (demons) who are given authority at the proper time during the Tribulation.

9:14 - Euphrates River: An important river flowing from modern day Turkey through modern Syria and through modern Iraq. It eventually merges (in Iraq) with the Tigris River, and thereafter flows into the Persian Gulf (which Arabs much prefer to call the "Arabian Gulf." From ancient times the Euphrates River marked the northeastern boundary of Israel (Genesis 15:18).

⁶ 9:15 - kill a third of mankind: Already the breaking of the 4th Seal has resulted in the deaths of a staggering one fourth of the earth's population (Rev. 6:8). Disregarding any other deaths from all the other judgments, the 6th Trumpet will result in the deaths of a third of the remaining three fourths. So now, fully one-half of the world's population will have been decimated. If these two plagues were to take place today, with a population of 7 billion, the 4th Seal would result in the deaths of 1.75 billion humans, leaving 5.25 billion. A third of 5.25 billion would be another 1.75 billion, meaning a cumulative death toll of 3 billion, 500 million people in a space of less than 3.5 years. An equal number, of course, would survive. The carnage will be beyond the scope of human comprehension!

⁷ 9:17 - riders: NASB and NKJV translate so only the riders wear breastplates. NIV and ESV translate so both riders and horses wear breastplates, which is probably to be preferred. KJV seems indeterminate.

⁸ 9:17 - horses' heads and mouths: These are not ordinary horses. With heads that look like lions' heads, with deadly fire, smoke, and brimstone (sulfur) issuing from their mouths, and with tails that look like serpents with heads that can harm people (Rev. 9:19), these must be demonic horses and riders. The language is too specific to apply easily to modern-day warfare. If, for example, John had meant to describe modern day tanks with rear-firing machine guns as well as forward-firing cannons, he would never have called them horses ridden by soldiers. He would have at least attempted to describe the vehicles having wheels around which the tank tracks travel (see Ezekiel's description of swiveling wheels, for example [Ezek. 1:15-21]).

8. What came out of the horses' mouths? 9:17c _____;
_____;
9. The three plagues that issued from the horses' mouths were responsible for the deaths of how many humans? 9:18 _____
10. The power (literally, authority) of these demonic horses proceeded not only from their mouths, but also from their _____. 9:19a
11. What were their tails like? 9:19b _____

12. The reaction of surviving mankind to the three plagues from the horses: 9:20-21
 - a. What did they not repent of? 9:20a _____
 - b. What did they continue to worship? 9:20b _____ and

 - c. The idols they made were composed of what materials? 9:20d
_____; _____; _____;
_____; and _____.
 - d. What were the idols unable to do? 9:20e _____

 - e. Of what specific sins did the rest of mankind fail to repent? 9:21
_____; _____; _____; _____
13. According to Revelation 3:10, what is God's purpose in sending the Tribulation to "those who dwell on the earth?" _____

14. What does God find out, through their reaction to the Sixth Trumpet Judgment, about the vast majority of people on the earth? _____

15. What is your personal response to God?

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