

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 24TH-25TH, 2018 // BOOK OF REVELATION

FIFTH TRUMPET (REV 9:1-6)

THE WARNING WAS TRUE

In chapter 8 an angel warns humanity that they must repent for their sins because the 3 remaining trumpets will be severe. The 5th and 6th trumpets are supernatural invasions during the Great Tribulation.

- The first 4 trumpets indirectly affected humanity, but the 5th and 6th will be direct curses (woes) on mankind.

"...A STAR THAT HAD FALLEN FROM HEAVEN"

The star that comes down from heaven is an angel who is given the key to unlock the Abyss to unleash demonic forces. We will see this angel again in ch. 20 when Satan is locked up in the same Abyss.

- The angel is given direction from God to unleash "smoke" like from "a great furnace so that the sun and air were darkened."

LITERAL AND FIGURATIVE

The smoke from the Abyss below can be both literal (the chaos taking place) and figurative (a cloud of demonic forces coming from Hell).

- Also, Heaven and Hell are not literally above and below us. The position of these places are spiritual not literal. This is called theological geography of the universe.

"THEN LOCUSTS CAME OUT OF THE SMOKE"

Locusts move in giant columns and rapidly destroy all green vegetation as they swarm through crops, but they do not harm people.

- These locusts are **demons. They are not to harm the crops, but are to directly hurt people, like a scorpion that stings but doesn't kill. This is demonic oppression and spiritual torture.**

THIS ONLY AFFECTS THE UNSAVED

The only people that this special class of demon (Jude 1:6) can harm are those who "do not have God's seal on their foreheads."

- **Demons cannot hurt people that are full of the Holy Spirit without God's permission (Job), but people who are demonically possessed can hurt others and themselves.**
- **Matt. 8:28 (CSB)**

FIVE MONTHS OF PURE HELL

Maybe John uses the analogy of locusts because just like real locusts, the torture span of these demons is 5 months. During this time, people will be in such agony that they will beg to die, but death will elude them.

- Is it possible God will make suicide impossible in hoping the agony will cause some to repent?

UNFORTUNATELY IT LOOKS BLEAK

Later we'll see people won't repent and death eludes them because they're too afraid to take their lives.

- The opening of ch. 9 is similar to the plagues inflicted on Egypt when Pharaoh would not repent.

FIFTH TRUMPET CONT. (REV 9:7-12)

WHAT DO DEMONS LOOK LIKE?

Again, we see John pan in to give us detail about what is taking place.

- V7-12 is the most descriptive account of demons. Though the description is figurative, **we can get an idea of how terrifying the forces of hell can be if we're not sealed with God's Spirit.**

PAINTING A PICTURE OF EVIL

- **"like horses prepared for battle"** show strength and endurance
- **"crowns of gold"** indicates victory
- **"faces like humans"** shows deception and intelligence
- **"hair like women's hair"** is reminiscent of the Parthians (Iran) and fierceness
- **"teeth like lion's teeth"** shows aggression
- **"chests like iron"** indicates it is almost impossible to penetrate them
- **"wings like the sound of many chariots"** gives us an image of war
- **"stingers like scorpions"** shows that they will torture but will not kill

RANKS OF ANGELS AND DEMONS (PR. 30:27)

We have seen different ranks of angels, now as John looks towards the leader of these demons, we also see their ranks.

- The leader is a demon named Abaddon in Hebrew and Apollyon in Greek. This name simply means destruction. **The only way to avoid destruction is salvation through Christ.**

6TH TRUMPET (REV 9:13-19)

THE GOLDEN ALTAR BEFORE GOD

The same altar from ch. 6 and 8 is now personified and John hears it speak for God from its 4 horns, "Release the 4 angels bound at the great river Euphrates."

- The 4 angels of the Euphrates are high ranking demons that will lead a large group of lower ranking demons across the Euphrates.

THE EUPHRATES IS AN IMPORTANT RIVER

The Euphrates was the place of the Garden of Eden, Babylon and a strategic landmark for Roman and Persian Empires. It was also the river that stopped military advancement from hostile forces from the East towards Israel.

THE 4 ANGELS (DEMONS) UNLEASH AN ARMY

The infamous 200,000,000 person army has been a huge source of debate. John says these "mounted troops" will kill **1/3 of the "human race."** Is this army literal or metaphorical?

- More than likely this is a literal army that is demonically possessed and led by evil to kill many people. One may reference events like the Holocaust.

IS THIS POSSIBLE?

This could be demons unleashed to not only torture, but kill people. Or, this could be a Godless nation that does the will of Satan. But, is such a large army possible?

- As of now, the largest active military on earth is China's (2.1 million), but we will see many countries will unite in the future.
- The only one that could come close is not a geographical nation, but a religious nation, Islam.
- The United States estimates that around 8-10% of Islam are radical jihadists. Currently there are over 1.8 billion Muslims (fastest growing). 10% would be 180,000,000 radicals.

AGAIN, JOHN ZOOMS IN

John describes these demons that he saw in a vision. His description is metaphorical and symbolic.

- **"breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow"** is not talking about a nation, but the literal colors of fire, smoke, and sulfur.
- **"heads of the horses were like heads of lions"** shows strength and brutality.
- **"from their mouths came fire, smoke, and sulfur"** could refer to modern weaponry or some kind of supernatural plague (Job 41).
- **"tails which resemble snakes"** shows that they don't just hurt, they kill.

THE MAIN POINT SO FAR

The demonic "locusts" have power to oppress and torture, but not kill. The 2nd group of demons will possibly possess an army of 200 million that will cross from east of the Euphrates and kill 1/3 of humanity.

- This attack will be against **nominal Christian** nations and Jews. Possibly Believers as well.

TRUST ISSUES (REV 9:20-21)

WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

Though 1/3 of humanity had been killed by the end of the 6th trumpet, the "people who were not killed by these plagues did not repent."

- **Many times people have become so hardened by sin or they have fallen so in love with the darkness that they refuse to repent and turn to God.**

THE SINS OF MAN FALL INTO TWO CATEGORIES

The first 4 of the 10 Commandments focus on our relationship to God. The last 6 of the 10 focus on our relationship with other people.

- V20-21 basically hit all ten. The people unwilling to repent have worshiped other gods (commands 1-4) and have practiced evils that hurt others (commands 5-10).

WITCHCRAFT AND DRUG USE

V20-21 hit the 10 Cs, but John also throws in sorceries as well. This comes from the Greek pharmakeus, where we get the word pharmacy.

- John is alluding to a time when drug use will be an epidemic that society refuses to repent of. McKesson's legal issues and our infatuation with marijuana are fascinating in light of v21.

THE INSANITY OF SIN

- When we are distant from God, the choices we make are **irrational.**
- The very things we worship are actually destroying us! **The "freedom" we think we have has enslaved us!**
- Are we gravitating towards things that may kill our ability to hear the truth and repent?
What do we place our trust in?
- **Romans 1:28 (CSB)**