

## REVELATION Chapter 9

*Teacher: John M. Brown, Olive Hill Church of Christ, Sunday Bible Class, August 2014*

***Chapter 6 was the opening of the first six seals of the sealed book. Chapter 7 was an interlude to encourage. Chapter 8 was the opening of the seventh seal, which contained four trumpet warnings. In chapter 9 we shall see the fifth and sixth angels sound.***

### **I. FIFTH TRUMPET WARNING: The First Woe, 9:1-12**

#### **A. The **FIFTH ANGEL** sounded.**

1. A star fell from heaven unto earth: he had the key to the bottomless pit.
2. The bottomless pit is opened (smoke arises out of it).
3. Locusts come forth
  - a. With power like scorpions, they were not to hurt grass, any green thing, or any tree.
  - b. What they would hurt: *those people who were not sealed of God* (7:3-4).

#### **B. Let us SEE the overall picture:**

1. This first woe is sorrow, warning, pity: something bad!
2. The “star” is personified: “him” (v. 1).
3. The land is not hurt (unlike the first four trumpets).
4. This woe doesn’t affect the people of God, v. 4
5. The sting of the locusts was hard, but not fatal, v. 5
6. “Five months” – the length of time of a locust plague.
7. Description of the locust:
  - a. They are like HORSES prepared for war, armed for battle.
  - b. They have CROWNS like gold – victory.
  - c. Their FACES were as the faces of men – intelligence, beauty.
  - d. Their HAIR was as the hair of women – beauty.
  - e. Their TEETH were as the teeth of lions – power (Joel 1:6).
  - f. Their BREASTPLATES were of iron – defense.
  - g. The SOUND OF THEIR WINGS like many chariots – many in number.
  - h. Their TAILS were like scorpions – death, destruction, power to harm.
  - i. They had STINGS in their tails- they could hurt men five months.
  - j. Their king was ABADDON (Hebrew) or APOLLYON (Greek), meaning **DESTROYER** (Job 26:6; 28:22; 32:12; Psalm 88:11; Proverbs 15:11; 27:20)

#### **C. Let us ANALYZE the picture:**

1. The **STAR** which falls from heaven is **SATAN** (see Isaiah 14:12-15; Luke 8:26-29; 10:18; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9).
2. The **SMOKE** which blinds the eyes is the true light of God being hidden, or shut out – Satan uses **FALSE DOCTRINE** to blind men’s eyes from truth (see 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:1-4; Colossians 1:12-13).
3. **LOCUSTS** are symbols of **DESTRUCTION & DIVINE JUDGMENT** (see Exodus 10:4-15; Deuteronomy 28:38-42; 1 Kings 8:37; Isaiah 33:4; Joel 1:2-7; 2:9-11).
  - a. These locusts come out of smoke (the smoke representing false doctrine).
  - b. When men “swallow” false doctrine they’re “stung” by the locusts!

**SUMMARY:** *Remember the theme of the Book of Revelation: it is God's judgment against the persecuting, pagan Roman Empire. Satan's influence in this Empire is quite evident. In this fifth trumpet sound, because of the influence of Satan, internal destruction, chaos, and ruin will befall the Empire. Rome has fallen for the lies of the Satan, and thus she will herself fall from internal rottenness and decay!*

Two instruments that God can use to cut down the oppressors of His people:

**NATURAL CALAMITY & INTERNAL DESTRUCTION**

We shall now see a third:

**II. SIXTH TRUMPET WARNING: The Second Woe, 9:13-21**

A. John heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar (6:6; 7:1), vv. 13-17:

1. The sixth angel is told to loose the four angels bound in the river Euphrates:
  - a. "*Euphrates*" often represented the evil land of the enemies, wielding great military power (Psalm 137:1-3; Isaiah 7:20; 8:5-8; Jeremiah 1:13; 46:10; Habakkuk 1:6-11).
  - b. This military power here is going to become a tool of judgment!
2. The four angels had been prepared for the time of God's judgment:
  - a. Hour, day, month, year: *partial judgment(s)*.
  - b. A third part of men would be slain.
  - c. The horsemen's army numbers 200,000.
3. These tools of God are connected with the plagues that began in chapter 8:
  - a. The armor is described, using judgment terms: the breastplates are of *fire, jacinth, and brimstone*.
  - b. The heads of the horses: like the heads of lions (power, fierceness)
  - c. Their mouths spew out fire, smoke, and brimstone (see Job 18:15; Psalm 11:6)

B. The activities of the horsemen, vv. 18-19:

1. A third part of men are killed from the *fire, smoke, & brimstone* (see Genesis 19:24-28; Job 18:15; Psalm 11:6; Isaiah 36:9; 66:24; Ezekiel 38:22).
2. Their power is in their mouths and tails: like *heads of serpents* which cause hurt.

C. This partial judgment does not bring about repentance, vv. 20-21

1. They did not repent of their devil worship, idolatry: **RELIGIOUS EVIL.**
2. They did not repent of their murders, sorceries, fornication, thefts: **SOCIAL EVIL.**

**SUMMARY:** we see here a picture of **EXTERNAL DESTRUCTION** – *they come, they kill.*

***God's judgment comes in the form of NATURAL CALAMITY (1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> Trumpet), INTERNAL DECAY (5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet), and EXTERNAL DESTRUCTION (6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet).***