

Chapter 9

- It was the earth and nature that received the impact of the first four trumpet judgments. But now, God goes beyond the natural (physical) world and directs His judgment toward man.

I. The Fifth Trumpet Sounds (v.1)

- At the sounding of this trumpet, 'the doors of separation between the earth and the prison of evil spirits are opened, and mysterious and malignant tenants of the underworld are permitted to overrun the globe, and to inflict torture and woe upon its unsanctified inhabitants' (Seiss).
- 'These woes mark the deepest darkness and most painful intensity of the Great Tribulation. This is generally associated with the last part (3 1/2 years), the blackest days in human history' (McGee).

A. 'A star falls from heaven unto the earth'.

- This is not a literal star like those of Rev.6:13 (which fell to the earth like figs falling from a tree that is shaken by the wind). Yet, angels are called 'stars' in Job 38:7.
- This star acts with intelligence, and is given the key of the 'bottomless pit'. **Note:** He does not possess the key. Christ, who holds the keys, had to give it to him. (Just as Satan was given power to do what he would with Job's possessions and health, but not allowed to take Job's life.) Although Satan has been given great power on certain occasions, he is under bonds and limitations, beyond which he cannot go without permission from Almighty God.
- Question is raised: 'Who is this star?' - Some say it's Antichrist. McGee and Seiss believe him to be Satan (Isa.14:12; Lu.10:18). Others say it is likely some eminent bishop of the Christian Church, or Boniface, the third bishop of Rome. Still others say it cannot be Antichrist, Satan, or one of Satan's angels that fell with him - because they could not be trusted with the key.
- Since this 'star' fell (came down) from heaven, and was given the key to the Bottomless Pit, Dake, Larkin, and many others believe it to be the 'Star Angel' of Rev.20:1, who will bind Satan and cast him into the Bottomless Pit after the Battle of Armageddon. (This is my belief, as well.)
- Another question: 'Where is the 'Bottomless Pit located?' I believe it to be in the 'heart of the earth'. The earth is suspended in space, turning upon its axis at the speed of 1000 miles an hour (surface speed). It's like a giant ball (hollow inside), with a diameter of approximately 8000 miles, and a surface crust (thickness) of some 800 miles. That means there is about 6500-6700 miles of nothingness inside. Nothing but fire, with an insufferable heat.

Note: It is 'bottomless' because of the rotation of the earth.

- A smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace' (v.2). This is literal smoke coming out of a literal burning fiery pit. It will black out the sun, and darkness will cover the land.
Note: When Jesus was on the cross, the sun refused to shine. Here, the sun is shining, but smoke of God's wrath blacks it out.

- B. 'And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth' (v.3).
- a) This is a plague of locusts as literal as the plague of locusts in Egypt (Exo.10:14,15); yet, not common earthly locusts, but supernatural, demonic, and infernal. **Note:** Joel prophesied of a coming plague of locusts (Joel 1).
 - a. These locusts eat no vegetation (v.4), have a 'king' over them, possess human intelligence, and afflict only those who have not the seal of God in their foreheads (v.11).
 - b) They have power, even as scorpions of the earth.
 - a. Power to hurt man, but not to kill. 'The pain from a scorpion sting, though not generally fatal, is perhaps the most intense pain that an animal can inflict upon the human body' (Seiss).
 - c) Tormented five months (v.5). (This is the normal stay of locust - May to September, some 150 days, or five months.) **Note:** No modern-day medication can relieve the pain; no science can cure; and no technology of man can protect from this terrible torment.
 - a. Because of the anguish men will suffer, they will pray to die, but their prayers will not be answered. 'Death would be a welcomed relief for those stung by the scorpion-like tails of these creatures' (Montgomery). Yet, the severe pain and punishment does not produce repentance, but a desire to die (v.6).
 - d) Shapes of Locusts - like horses prepared for battle (vs.7-10).
 - On their heads - crowns like gold.
 - Faces - as faces of men.
 - Hair as that of women.
 - Teeth as teeth of lions.
 - Breastplates - as breastplates of iron.
 - Wings with sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. (It would seem that this, alone, would be enough to cause men to cry out to God in repentance - but not so.)
 - Tails like unto scorpions.

Note: They have strength and speed of horses, authority of kings, intelligence of men, seductive quality of women, and fierceness of hungry lions.

- C. Angel of Bottomless Pit is their King (v.11).
- A. Abaddon (Heb.) - destruction.
 - B. Apollyon (Gr.) - destroyer.

Note: Christ is named 'Jesus' because He is the Saviour. This king is named Abaddon and Apollyon because he is a destroyer bringing destruction, the very opposite of Saviour.

- He is one of the fallen angels, a chief henchman of Satan, and king of demons; and is now bound in the abyss with other demon creatures. We have no record as to when these angelic beings were created, nor what their original responsibilities might have been. 'One thing is certain, all creatures were created sinless, but capable of moral feature' (Seiss).

The Sixth Trumpet Sounds (Rev.9:13-21)

'One woe is past; and behold, there come two woes more hereafter' (9:12). **Note:** The first woe introduces the last half of the tribulation period (Great Tribulation), and it has a duration of five months. Apparently these last two remaining woes cover the remainder of the 7-year tribulation. At the time of the 'trumpet woes', our society will be as it was in the days of Noah and Lot. There will be (1) Demon worship, (2) a Revival of idolatry, and (3) Morals will be at an all-time low (murders among the commonest of crimes, sorceries, adultery, fornication, free-love advocates, dishonesty, etc.). Our generation (2017) is fast becoming just as Christ said it would be at the time of the Great Tribulation. Surely, we are nearing the end of the 'Church Age'.

II. The Sixth Trumpet Sounds (v.13).

- A. 'A voice from the four horns of the golden altar' (from the immediate presence of God); therefore, with the sanction of God). **Note:** In the O.T. tabernacle there were two altars, (1) The 'brazen altar' in the court, upon which the sacrifices were offered for the sins of the people. Christ, the great sacrifice offered for the sins of the world, has been rejected. Therefore, the 'voice' issues forth from the altar, bringing judgment. (2) The 'golden altar' was in the Holy Place, directly before the veil of the Holy of Holies.
- Some believe this is the 'voice' of an angel. I believe this 'voice' (command) to be that of Christ. He is the One in charge of bringing judgment upon sinful man.
- a) 'Loose the four angels which are bound' (v.14). It's believed by some that these are 'good angels', but that can't be so. Good angels are free; never bound. I believe if they had not been bound, they would have rushed forth to slaughter (as they do here) a long time ago. The Apostle Peter tells us (II Pet.2:4) of apostate angels whom God hath 'delivered into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto the judgment of the great day'. 'These angels were bound in mercy to all generations, and here they are let loose in wrath and judgment' (Seiss). 'These angels are being held in bondage at this very hour' (Montgomery).
- b) 'In the great river Euphrates'. **Note:** The Euphrates marks the division between East and West, and the area of this river has played a significant role in the history of mankind.
- The Garden of Eden was there.
 - Sin of mankind (Adam) began there.
 - First murder was committed there.
 - Noah built the Ark there for the saving of his household.
 - Tower of Babel was there.
 - Israelites were taken into captivity there.
 - Zachariah points to Babylon (near the Euphrates) as the last stand of false religion. And the list goes on.
- c) 'Prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year' (v.15). **Note:** Some believe this speaks of an exact duration of time for the plague, or '391 days and one hour' (Seiss and Montgomery). But most writers believe this refers to a 'fixed point in time', known only to God; that it is His 'zero hour'. (I believe this, as well.)
- d) 'To slay the third part of men'. This is literally a 'third part' of the then existing population. **Example:** Today's population is 8 billion (?).
- Under the 'Fourth Seal' (Rev.6:8), one-fourth die, leaving 6 billion.
 - Here, one-third of those remaining perish, leaving 4 billion. These are spared by the mercies of God, and given opportunity to repent. 'Even in wrath, God remembers mercy' (Hab.3:2).
 - This means that one-half of the entire population of the earth will perish through these terrible plagues and judgments.

- B. An Army of Horsemen numbering 200 million (v.16). This is not an army of humans, but an 'Infernal Calvary': Not a mighty Chinese Army, nor sophisticated aircraft, nor nuclear warfare (as some have suggested), but a wholesale invasion by the demon world. They come from the Abyss (Bottomless Pit).
- a) Horses, having heads like lions, and tails like serpents with heads. (Nothing like man has ever seen.)
 - b) Fire, Smoke, and Brimstone issue from their mouths, killing all in their paths. What John saw is a reminder of God's judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen.19:24,28). Notice: The horsemen (riders) do not kill (they have defensive armor only). It's the 'horses' that do the slaying.
 - c) Yet, men do not repent (vs.20,21). They harden themselves against God and continue in demon and idol worship. **Note**: It's much like our day. People often cry out to God during times of trouble; yet, when the 'storm' passes by', they go their ways, forgetting God.

Note: The most prominent sins of the 'last days' will be:

- The worship of (or consorting with) demons, and participating in spiritism, the occult, and witchcraft - all involving the abundant use of 'drugs'.
- Murder and Violence.
- Immorality, sexual lust (fornication), and pornography.
- Thefts and lawlessness.