THE FIFTH AND SIXTH TRUMPETS SOUND

REVELATION 9:1-21
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Text:

Revelation 9:1-21,

1. Then the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the abyss.
2. He opened the shaft of the abyss and smoke rose out of it like smoke from a giant furnace. The sun and the air were darkened with smoke from the shaft.
3. Then out of the smoke came locusts onto the earth, and they were given power like that of the scorpions of the earth.
4. They were told not to damage the grass of the earth, or any green plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their forehead.
5. The locusts were not given permission to kill them, but only to torture them for five months, and their torture was like that of a scorpion when it stings a person.
6. In those days people will seek death, but will not be able to find it; they will long to die, but death will flee from them.
7. Now the locusts looked like horses equipped for battle. On their heads were something like crowns similar to gold, and their faces looked like men’s faces.
8. They had hair like women’s hair, and their teeth were like lions’ teeth.
9. They had breastplates like iron breastplates, and the sound of their wings was like the noise of many horse-drawn chariots charging into battle.
10. They have tails and stingers like scorpions, and their ability to injure people for five months is in their tails.
11. They have as king over them the angel of the abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon.
12. The first woe has passed, but two woes are still coming after these things!
13. Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a single voice coming from the horns on the golden altar that is before God,
14. saying to the sixth angel, the one holding the trumpet, “Set free the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates!”
15. Then the four angels who had been prepared for this hour, day, month, and year were set free to kill a third of humanity.
16. The number of soldiers on horseback was two hundred million; I heard their number.
17. Now this is what the horses and their riders looked like in my vision: The riders had breastplates that were fiery red, dark blue, and sulfurous yellow in color. The heads of the horses looked like lions’ heads, and fire, smoke, and sulfur came out of their mouths.
18. A third of humanity was killed by these three plagues, that is, by the fire, the smoke, and the sulfur that came out of their mouths.
19. For the power of the horses resides in their mouths and in their tails, because their tails are like snakes, having heads that inflict injuries.
20. The rest of humanity, who had not been killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so that they did not stop worshiping demons and idols
made of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk about.
21. Furthermore, they did not repent of their murders, of their magic spells, of their sexual immorality, or of their stealing. (NET)

Commentary:

Revelation chapter nine provides an account of the sounding of the fifth and sixth trumpets. These are two of the three angels that were included in Revelation 8:13. "And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabiter of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!” The last three trumpets are often called the "woe" trumpets and they are discussed in Revelation chapters nine through eleven.

The woe of the fifth trumpet is represented under the figure of an immense army of locusts bringing calamity upon the earth. A star fell from heaven and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. When he opened the pit, the swarm of locusts comes forth on the earth. They are commanded to do certain work. They were to torment those that did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. However, they were not to kill them. A very vivid description is given of the destructive horde of locusts.

The sixth angel sounded and four angels which were bound in the great river Euphrates were loosed. The four angels are prepared and are loosed with a great army to destroy one third of the men. The sad thing about God’s judgment coming on the nations is that it does not produce the desired result. The nations are not
turned from idolatry. There is no inclination on the part of the ungodly to repent of the abominations they had long practiced. Wickedness still abounded!

The Fifth Angel Sounds His Trumpet

Revelation 9:1-3, Then the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the abyss. He opened the shaft of the abyss and smoke rose out of it like smoke from a giant furnace. The sun and the air were darkened with smoke from the shaft. Then out of the smoke came locusts onto the earth, and they were given power like that of the scorpions of the earth. (NET)

As the fifth seal was opened, a star was personified. “And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.” (Revelation 9:1) The star that looses the smoke and locusts from the bottomless pit was Satan. “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” (Revelation 12:9) Man’s greatest enemy will always be the Devil himself.

The locusts came forth with smoke from the bottomless pit. The smoke was dark, blinding smoke. It was a smoke that shut out the sun and the air. This is a picture of how the Devil works to shut out the true light and life from God. The false teaching of Satan blinds the minds of people to the truth of God’s word. Satan literally blinds the minds of his victims. “In whom the
god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of god, should shine unto them” (2 Corinthians 4:4)

Satan has the power to deceive and destroy spiritually. He is even able to cause the death of the wicked. The Devil uses his power to incite man to rebel against the Almighty. When people serve Satan rather than Christ they will face certain torment.

The Locust and Their Work

Revelation 9:4-12, They were told not to damage the grass of the earth, or any green plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their forehead. The locusts were not given permission to kill them, but only to torture them for five months, and their torture was like that of a scorpion when it stings a person. In those days people will seek death, but will not be able to find it; they will long to die, but death will flee from them. Now the locusts looked like horses equipped for battle. On their heads were something like crowns similar to gold, and their faces looked like men’s faces. They had hair like women’s hair, and their teeth were like lions’ teeth. They had breastplates like iron breastplates, and the sound of their wings was like the noise of many horse-drawn chariots charging into battle. They have tails and stingers like scorpions, and their ability to injure people for five months is in their tails. They have as king over them the angel of the abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon. The first woe has
passed, but two woes are still coming after these things! (NET)

Locusts are a universal symbol of destruction. The locusts are not literal. We know this because these locusts would not touch the grass, nor any green thing, or tree, as locusts do, only men. (Revelation 9:4, They were told not to damage the grass of the earth, or any green plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their forehead. (NET)) These locusts had a king over them. (Revelation 9:11, They have as king over them the angel of the abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon. (NET)) Literal locusts do not have a king over them. “The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands.” (Proverbs 30:27, locusts have no king, but they all go forward by ranks; (NET)) These locusts do not hurt the land, nor do they hurt the people of God.

The king over these locusts had names in the Hebrew tongue Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue his name is Apollyon.” Both the words Abaddon and Apollyon means “destroyer.” The name is mostly translated simply with the word “destruction” as in Job 26:6. “Hell is naked before him, and destruction hath no covering.”

The locusts came out of the smoke. They did not hurt the vegetation. Neither did they hurt the people of God. As people swallow the lies of the Devil (false doctrine), these locusts sting them. False doctrine does not hurt the faith of God. It did have a destructive effect on the Roman Empire.
The locusts are described in a very vivid way. They: (1) are as horses armed for battle, (2) have victory crowns, (3) have faces of men to picture intelligence and beauty, (4) have beautiful hair to represent strength, (5) have powerful teeth like lions, (6) have breastplates for protection, (7) the wings make a mighty sound like the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle, (8) their tails have destructive power like scorpions.

The Roman Empire bought into the lies of Satan and fell from internal spiritual decay. Here God uses this trumpet both to picture punishment and as a warning and a call to repentance. God can destroy wicked nations with natural calamities or as the result of internal decay. The Roman Empire was rotten on the inside!

The Sixth Angel Sounds His Trumpet

Revelation 9:13-15, Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a single voice coming from the horns on the golden altar that is before God, saying to the sixth angel, the one holding the trumpet, “Set free the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates!” Then the four angels who had been prepared for this hour, day, month, and year were set free to kill a third of humanity. (NET)

The sixth angel sounded and four angels were loosed. The purpose of the four horns of the golden altar was to prevent the coals from falling from the altar. God’s judgment was coming on the wicked Roman Empire. The world that John depicts with wicked men resisting God, no matter how they hurt themselves in the process, is the world believers must always live in.
In the book of Jeremiah, Euphrates was pictured as the land of the enemies of God’s people. There are many enemies to God’s truth. A great army is loosed for the war against evil. God decreed when this would take place to the very hour, and day, and month, and year. There will be victory for the persecuted saints by the decree of God!

**The Army of Horsemen**

Revelation 9:16-21, The number of soldiers on horseback was two hundred million; I heard their number. Now this is what the horses and their riders looked like in my vision: The riders had breastplates that were fiery red, dark blue, and sulfurous yellow in color. The heads of the horses looked like lions’ heads, and fire, smoke, and sulfur came out of their mouths. A third of humanity was killed by these three plagues, that is, by the fire, the smoke, and the sulfur that came out of their mouths. For the power of the horses resides in their mouths and in their tails, because their tails are like snakes, having heads that inflict injuries. The rest of humanity, who had not been killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so that they did not stop worshiping demons and idols made of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk about. Furthermore, they did not repent of their murders, of their magic spells, of their sexual immorality, or of their stealing. (NET)

Sadly man would not listen to God, so he sent forth fire and brimstone. This is reminiscent of Sodom and Gomorrah in
Genesis 19:24-28, Then the Lord rained down sulfur and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah. It was sent down from the sky by the Lord. So he overthrew those cities and all that region, including all the inhabitants of the cities and the vegetation that grew from the ground. But Lot’s wife looked back longingly and was turned into a pillar of salt. Abraham got up early in the morning and went to the place where he had stood before the Lord. He looked out toward Sodom and Gomorrah and all the land of that region. As he did so, he saw the smoke rising up from the land like smoke from a furnace. (NET) Fire and brimstone was a picture of the destruction of wicked nations.

The wicked Roman Empire had received warnings from God to repent. Sadly, the Bible says, “Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.” (Revelation 9:21) They continued in their ungodliness and false worship. Revelation was written to help Christians of John’s day face the evil world in which they lived; and the same truth that helped them can help the Christians of all ages!

The fact the ungodly will be punished should motivate us to obey God. The precious blood of Jesus cleanses those who obey the gospel. Have you obeyed the Almighty? Obey now because tomorrow might be too late!
Questions

on

Revelation 9:1-21

1. __________ ____________ provides an ____________ of the ____________ of the ____________ and ____________ ____________.

2. The ____________ ____________ ____________ are often called the “___________” ____________ and they are discussed in ____________ ____________ through ____________.

3. The ____________ of the ____________ ____________ is represented under the figure of an ____________ ____________ ____________ of ____________ ____________ bringing ____________ upon the ____________.

4. A ____________ ____________ from ____________ and to him was given the ____________ of the ____________ _____________. When he ____________ the ____________ _____________, the ____________ of ____________ comes forth on the ____________.

5. The ____________ are ____________ to do ____________ ____________. They were to ____________ those that ____________ ____________ have the ____________ of ____________ on their _____________. However, they were ____________ to ____________ them.
6. The ____________ ____________ ____________ and ____________ ____________ which were ____________ in the great ____________ ____________ were ____________.

7. The ____________ ____________ are ____________ and are ____________ with a ____________ ____________ ____________ to ____________ ____________ ____________ of the ____________.

8. The ____________ ____________ about ____________ ____________ coming on the ____________ is that it does ____________ ____________ the ____________ ____________. ____________ still ____________.

9. As the ____________ ____________ was ____________, a ____________ was ____________. The ____________ that ____________ the ____________ ____________ and ____________ from the ____________ ____________ was ____________. ____________ ____________ ____________ will always be the ____________ ____________ himself.

10. The ____________ ____________ came forth with ____________ form the ____________ ____________ ____________. The ____________ was ____________. ____________ and ____________ ____________ and ____________ the ____________ ____________ ____________. ____________ ____________ of ____________ ____________ ____________ the ____________ ____________ of ____________ ____________ ____________ to the ____________ ____________ of ____________ ____________.

11. ____________ has the ____________ to ____________ and ____________ ____________ ____________.

serve ______________ rather than ______________ they will ______________ ______________ ______________.

12. ______________ are a ______________ ______________ of ______________. These ______________ are ______________ ______________. Their description does not agree with that of ______________ ______________.

13. The ______________ have a ______________ over them. Their ______________ is the ______________ of the ______________ whose name is ______________ in ______________ and ______________ in ______________. Their names mean “______________”.

14. The ______________ are described as: (1) ______________ ______________ ______________, (2) having ______________ ______________, (3) having ______________ ______________ of ______________ depicting ______________ and ______________, (4) having ______________ ______________ to ______________ ______________, (5) having ______________ ______________ like ______________, (6) having ______________ ______________ for ______________, (7) having ______________ ______________ which made a ______________ ______________ like the ______________ of ______________ of many ______________ ______________ to ______________, and (8) having ______________ with ______________ ______________ like ______________.

15. the ______________ ______________ bought into the ______________ of ______________ and ______________ from ______________ ______________. Here ______________ uses this ______________ both to ______________
_________ and as a ____________ and a ____________ to ____________.

16. The ____________ ____________ ____________ and ____________ ____________ were ____________.

17. The ____________ of the ____________ ____________ of the ____________ ____________ was to ____________ the ____________ from ____________ from the ____________.

18. ____________ ____________ was ____________ on the ____________ ____________ ____________. It was in that ____________ early ____________ ____________.

19. A ____________ ____________ is ____________ for the ____________ against ____________. There will be ____________ for the ____________ ____________ by the ____________ of ____________!

20. ____________ ____________ would ____________ ____________ to ____________ ____________, so he sent forth ____________ and ____________. ____________ ____________ and ____________ formed a picture of the ____________ of ____________ ____________.

21. The ____________ ____________ ____________ had received ____________ from ____________ to ____________. Sadly they continued in their ____________.

22. ____________ was ____________ to help ____________ of ____________ ____________ the ____________ ____________ ____________ in which they ____________.
23. This same _____________ that _____________ them can _____________ _____________ of all _____________.

24. The ____________ the ____________ will be ____________ should _____________ us to _____________ _____________.

25. Things were so bad in those days that _____________ would _____________ _____________, but will not be able to ____________ it; they will _____________ to _____________, but _____________ will _____________ from them. All mankind’s troubles are caused by sin!