

Chapter Eighteen

The Fifth Trumpet

(Revelation 9:1-12)

I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET: Locusts From The Bottomless Pit. (9:1-12)

Up to this point the four trumpets have only affected the physical world. The first trumpet affected the land, the trees, and the grass. The second trumpet affected the waters of the sea, the fish, and the ships. The third trumpet affected the fountains, wells, and rivers. The fourth trumpet has blocked the sources of light and heat. What is coming next, is the clashing of the spiritual world and the physical world and it's not going to pretty. This demonic outbreak will affect mankind directly. Since the beginning of time the heavens have declared the Glory of God (**Psalm 19:1-2**) but during this time they will declare the wrath of God.

I. The Star Fallen From Heaven. (9:1-2)

Revelation 9:1-2(NKJV) ¹Then the fifth angel sounded: **And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth.** To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. ²And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.



Satan Cast Out of Heaven by Dore

A. When the fifth trumpet is blown John sees a star fallen from heaven to the earth. Scholars are uncertain who this star is. Some scholars believe this is speaking of Satan others say this is Christ. Oliver B. Greene believes this verse speaks of Christ, Charles Larkin believes along the same lines except that he is an angel.

B. On the other side of the fence you have John Walvoord, J.A. Seiss, and John MacArthur who believe this verse is speaking of the devil. Walvoord states that the word “fall” is in the perfect tense which signifies a completed action. Can these verses be pointing to the original fall of Satan? Or can this be pointing to

(Rev. 12:7-9) where it speaks of the great battle of Michael and the angels against Satan and his angels.

C. I personally believe that this fallen star is Satan. Look at what the following verses say:

Isaiah 14:12-17(NKJV) ¹² **“How you are fallen from heaven, O [£]Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!** ¹³ For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ ¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit. ¹⁶ “Those who see you will gaze at you, *And consider you, saying: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms,* ¹⁷ *Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, Who did not open the house of his prisoners?’*

Ezekiel 28:11-19(NKJV) ¹¹ Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ¹²“Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “You *were* the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone *was* your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. ¹⁴ “You *were* the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. ¹⁵ You *were* perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. ¹⁶ “By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. ¹⁷ **“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you.** ¹⁸ “You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. ¹⁹ All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And *shall be* no more forever.””

Luke 10:17-20(NKJV) ¹⁷ Then the [£]seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” ¹⁸ And He said to them, **“I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.** ¹⁹ Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt

you. ²⁰Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but **rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.**"

The keys to the bottomless pit were given to this fallen angel who we said was Satan. Satan has no authority everything has to be given to him. Right now Satan is loose and John sees him opening up the bottomless pit but there will come a time when Satan will be locked up also for a thousand years.

D. What we see happen next, is Satan opening the bottomless pit with the keys he was given by Christ for God's purpose and not Satan's. When he opened the pit smoke billowed out and covered what was left of the sun, moon.

II. The Locusts And Their Power. (9:3-6)

Revelation 9:3-6(NKJV) ³Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵And they were not given *authority* to kill them, but to torment them *for* five months. Their torment *was* like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. ⁶In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

A. When the pit was open by Satan and the smoke billowed out, locusts came forth from the smoke; they crawled out of the pit. Who or what were these creatures? Many writers as well as I believe these were the vilest demons that one can imagine. But where did they come from? I'm glad you asked.

Scripture teaches us that when Satan and his followers rebelled against God, He (**God**) in his sovereign knowledge chose to incarcerate some of them.

2 Peter 2:4(NKJV) ⁴For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

Jude 1:6-7(NKJV) ⁶And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; ⁷as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, **having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.**

John MacArthur states that this passage describes certain fallen angels who left the angelic domain to indulge in sexual sin with humans, just as the men of Sodom and Gomorrah attempted to engage in perverted sex with angels (**Gen. 19:1, 4–5**). The “spirits now in prison” in the abyss are those “who once were disobedient ... in the days of Noah.” They are the demons who cohabited with human women in Satan’s failed attempt to corrupt the human race and make it unredeemable (Gen. 6:1–4). That demons still fear being sent to the abyss is evident from the fact that some pled with Jesus not to send them there (Luke 8:31). That suggests that other demons have been incarcerated there since the events of Genesis 6. The demons released by Satan at the fifth trumpet may not include those who sinned in Noah’s day (cf. Jude 6), since they are said to be in “eternal bonds” (Jude 6) until the final day when they are sent to the eternal lake of fire (20:10; Jude 7). Other demons imprisoned in the abyss may be the ones released. So the pit is the preliminary place of incarceration for demons from which some are to be released under this judgment.¹

B. These vile demons took on the appearance of locusts and they were given power just like the earthly scorpions which have tremendous power for their size. The destructive power of locusts is noted in several Old Testament passages (**Deut. 28:38; 2 Chron. 7:13; Ps. 105:34; Joel 2:25; Nah. 3:15**); locust swarms consume all vegetation in their path.

- 1) In 1889 a swarm over the Red Sea covered about 2000 sq. miles
- 2) The worst locust plague in modern times struck the Middle East in 1951–52 when in Iran, Iraq, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia every green and growing thing was devoured across hundreds of thousands of square miles. Locusts eat grain, leaf, and stalk, right down to the bare ground. When a swarm arises and flies on its way, the green field is left a desert; barrenness and desolation stretches as far as eye can see. (*John Phillips Exploring Revelation*, 125–26)²

C. These locusts were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, tree or any green thing that grew. These locusts were to turn their destructive power on the human race but once again we see God’s goodness these locusts could not harm those that were sealed by the hand of God. Not only were the 144,000 not to be harmed but every redeemed person during these horrible times.

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Revelation 7:2-4(NKJV) ²Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, ³saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” ⁴**And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:**

Ezekiel 9:1-11(NKJV) ¹Then He called out in my hearing with a loud voice, saying, “Let those who have charge over the city draw near, each *with* a deadly weapon in his hand.” ²And suddenly six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his battle-ax in his hand. One man among them *was* clothed with linen and had a writer’s inkhorn at his side. They went in and stood beside the bronze altar. ³Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub, where it had been, to the threshold of the [£]temple. **And He called to the man clothed with linen, who had the writer’s inkhorn at his side; ⁴and the Lord said to him, “Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.” ⁵To the others He said in my hearing, “Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity. ⁶Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom *is* the mark; and begin at My sanctuary.”** So they began with the elders who *were* before the temple. ⁷Then He said to them, “Defile the temple, and fill the courts with the slain. Go out!” And they went out and killed in the city. ⁸So it was, that while they were killing them, I was left *alone*; and I fell on my face and cried out, and said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Will You destroy all the remnant of Israel in pouring out Your fury on Jerusalem?” ⁹Then He said to me, “The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah *is* exceedingly great, and the land is full of bloodshed, and the city full of perversity; for they say, ‘The Lord has forsaken the land, and the Lord does not see!’ ¹⁰And as for Me also, My eye will neither spare, nor will I have pity, *but* I will recompense their deeds on their own head.” ¹¹Just then, the man clothed with linen, who *had* the inkhorn at his side, reported back and said, “I have done as You commanded me.”

D. They did not have the authority to kill these men but only torment them for five months. Someone has said that 5 months is the life cycle or life span of locusts. These men will want to die but they will not be able to, the bible says that death will flee from them for whatever reason.

III. The Locusts And Their Appearance. (9:7-10)

Revelation 9:7-10(NKJV) ⁷The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces *were* like the faces of men. ⁸They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' *teeth*. ⁹And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings *was* like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. ¹⁰They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power *was* to hurt men five months.

A. John never seen anything like these locusts. He uses the word locusts possibly because of their sheer numbers, their swiftness and the destruction they will cause on mankind.

B. He was using earthly objects to describe these vile demons. He used the terms "like" and appeared to be.

C. Horses prepared for battle- they were war like demons intent on destroying if possible.

D. They had crowns – these are victors crowns they will be unstoppable.

E. Faces of men- they were rational beings intelligent not insects.

F. Hair like woman's hair- They were seductive.

G. They had teeth like lions teeth- They will tear apart their victims.

H. They had breastplates of iron- They will be hard to resist or destroy.

I. The sound of their wings- sounded like an army moving, you will not be able to hind from their destructive force.

J. They had tails with stingers- Their sole purpose was to hurt man for five months.

IV. The Locusts And Their King. (9:11-12)

Revelation 9:11-12(NKJV) ¹¹And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. ¹²One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

A. According to **Proverbs 30:27** real locusts have no king but these demonic locusts have a king.

B. This is not Satan but a high ranking demon that is in charge there. Satan is not associated with the abyss until he is thrown there and locked up.

C. Notice John uses both the Hebrew name and the Greek name to possibly show the impact that this demon will have on both the ungodly Jews and Gentiles.

D. John alerts his readers that this was only the first woe and that two more are coming, which are the 6th and 7th trumpet.

II. THE SIXTH TRUMPET: Two Hundred Million Army. (9:13-21)

I. The Four Angels Bound At The Euphrates. (9:13-15)

Revelation 9:13-15(NKJV) ¹³Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, ¹⁴saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” ¹⁵So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

A. With the sounding of the sixth trumpet.... (9:13-14)

1) John heard a voice from among the four horns of the golden altar. This is probably the voice of Jesus Christ our lord.

2) John heard the voice speak to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, telling him to release the four angels who were bound at the river Euphrates. Because these angels were bound we can come to the conclusion that this indicates they are demons. (Rev. 20:1; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6)

B. The Four Angels Released.... (9:15)

1) They have been prepared for this time in history for his purpose and under his control and sovereignty.

2) They were released to kill 1/3 of mankind.

II. The Army Of Two Hundred Million Horseman. (9:16-19)

A. John heard how many there were. **(9:16)**

B. John saw in his vision... **(9:17)**

- 1) Horses that had breastplates of fiery red, lyacinth, blue, sulfer yellow.
- 2) Horses that had heads like lions.
- 3) Out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.

C. The Power of This Great Army. (9:18-19)

- 1) Because of the fire, smoke, and brimstone 1/3 of mankind was killed.
- 2) The power to harm was in their mouths and in their tails, which were like snakes, having heads which would inflict injury.

III. The Failure Of Repentance. (9:20-21)

A. Those that survived did not repent of their idolatry, from serving and worshipping demons, idols of Gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood.

Isaiah 44:6-23(NKJV) ⁶ “Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘**I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.**’
⁷ And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. ⁸ Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared *it*? You *are* My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed *there is* no other Rock; I know not *one*.”⁹ Those who make an image, all of them *are* useless, And their precious things shall not profit; They *are* their own witnesses; They neither see nor know, that they may be ashamed. ¹⁰ Who would form a god or mold an image *That* profits him nothing? ¹¹ Surely all his companions would be ashamed; And the workmen, they *are* mere men. Let them all be gathered together, Let them stand up; Yet they shall fear, They shall be ashamed together. ¹² The blacksmith with the tongs works one in the coals, Fashions it with hammers, And works it with the strength of his arms. Even so, he is hungry, and his strength fails; He drinks no water and is faint. ¹³ The craftsman stretches out *his* rule, He marks one out with chalk; He fashions it with a plane, He marks it out with the compass, And makes it like the figure of a man, According to the beauty of a man, that it may remain in the house. ¹⁴ He cuts down cedars for himself, And takes the cypress and the oak; He secures *it* for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a pine, and the rain nourishes *it*. ¹⁵ Then it shall be for a man to burn, For he will take some of it and warm himself; Yes, he kindles *it* and bakes bread; Indeed he makes a god and worships *it*; He makes it a carved image, and falls down to it. ¹⁶ He burns half of it in the fire; With this half he eats meat; He roasts a roast, and is satisfied. He even warms *himself* and says, “Ah! I am warm, I have seen the fire.”¹⁷ And the rest of it he

makes into a god, His carved image. He falls down before it and worships *it*, Prays to it and says, “Deliver me, for you *are* my god!”¹⁸ They do not know nor understand; For He has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, *And* their hearts, so that they cannot understand.¹⁹ And no one considers in his heart, Nor *is there* knowledge nor understanding to say, “I have burned half of it in the fire, Yes, I have also baked bread on its coals; I have roasted meat and eaten *it*; And shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?”²⁰ He feeds on ashes; A deceived heart has turned him aside; And he cannot deliver his soul, Nor say, “*Is there* not a lie in my right hand?”²¹ “Remember these, O Jacob, And Israel, for you *are* My servant; I have formed you, you *are* My servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me!”²² I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, And like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.”²³ Sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done *it!* Shout, you lower parts of the earth; Break forth into singing, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the Lord has redeemed Jacob, And glorified Himself in Israel.

Jeremiah 2:9-11(NKJV)⁹ “Therefore I will yet bring charges against you,” says the Lord, “And against your children’s children I will bring charges.¹⁰ For pass beyond the coasts of [£]Cyprus and see, Send to [£]Kedar and consider diligently, **And see if there has been such a thing.¹¹ Has a nation changed its gods, Which are not gods? But My people have changed their Glory For *what* does not profit.**

B. They also didn’t repent of their murders, magic arts (sorceries), sexual immorality and thefts.