

October 19, 2010



Two Terrible Trumpets Revelation 9:1-21

Demonic Attack

¹And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. ²He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft. ³Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. ⁴They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone. ⁶And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.

- 1 "star fallen from heaven to earth"- the angel of the abyss (9:11), the dragon and Satan (12:3, 9), cf Isaiah 14:11-15, 1 Enoch 21:1-6, Luke 10:18
"he was given the key"- Revelation 1:18, who has the key?
"the bottomless pit"- Greek "abyss," the place of demons and the unrighteous
- 2 "smoke rose...sun and air were darkened"- a graphic portrayal of spiritual darkness on earth
- 3 "from the smoke came locusts"- Joel 1:2-4, in the ancient world locusts are a severe plague
"power of scorpions"- painful poison sting, for a spiritual connection see Luke 10:17-20
- 4 "not to harm the grass, etc"- already afflicted from Trumpets 1-4, these demon locusts attack man
"the seal of God on their foreheads"- Rev 7:1-8, what is the "mark of God"?
- 5 "torment for five months"- may reflect the average life of locusts, the demonic affliction will not be continuous
- 6 "death will flee from them"- God allows the torment, but does not allow death, why not?

⁷In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces, ⁸their hair like women's hair, and their teeth like lions' teeth; ⁹they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle. ¹⁰They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails. ¹¹They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.

¹²The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still to come.

- 7 "like horses prepared for battle"- like a demonic cavalry ready for battle
"looked like crowns of gold"- appear to have the victory, only seem to be God's messengers
"faces like human faces"- acting with human intelligence and cunning deception
- 8 "hair like women's hair"- the demon locusts will act with cruel attraction, luring mankind to their death
"teeth like lion's teeth"- Joel 1:6, ferocious and savage
- 9 "breastplates of iron"- armor of a foot soldier- well defended against any counter-attack
"noise of many chariots"- maybe physical/metaphorical = fear is caused by their approach, causing terror
- 10 "tails and stings like scorpions"- not fatal, but torturously painful
- 11 "King over them"- the demon locusts' actions are directed and ordered
"Abaddon/Apollyon"- the destroyer, also personified in Job 26:6, could be passing ref. to Apollon

The Last Battle

¹³Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar 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, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind. ¹⁶The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number. ¹⁷And this is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them: they wore breastplates the color of fire and of sapphire and of sulfur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths. ¹⁸By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths. ¹⁹For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like serpents with heads, and by means of them they wound.

- 13 "four horns of the golden altar"- see diagram
The voice could be the angel (8:3-5) or the souls of God's saints (6:9-11) or both
- 14 "the four angels who are bound at the Euphrates"- beyond the Euphr. Is always enemies, and hostile warriors- Assyrians, Babylonians, Parthians, Medes, Persians.
It is acceptable to understand angels as mediators of God's judgment (Gen 19:1-21, 1 Enoch)
- 15 "prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year"- they are not active from Ascension – Return, but only for a limited, predetermined time, connected to the 6th trumpet indicates it is just before the end of earthly time (the 7th Trumpet 11:15-19)
"to kill a third of mankind"- staggering number of deaths associated with God's judgment on the earth
- 16 "twice ten thousand times ten thousand"- taken numerically: 200 million. An indefinite number of incalculable immensity. These will also appear to be demonic agents of wrath
- 17 "breastplates the color of fire, sapphire, sulfur"- the colors of fire, smoke, and sulfur
"heads were like lion's heads"- they will terrorize and conquer what's before them
"fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths"- anticipates the Lake of Sulfur- Rev 20:10
- 18 "a third of mankind was killed"- another staggering number of casualties from the demonic warriors
- 19 "power in their mouths and their tails"- their power is not confined to the fire/smoke/sulfur
"tails like serpents with heads"- they injure and torment those whom they don't kill with their mouths
- ²⁰The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, ²¹nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts
- 20 "did not repent of the works of their hands"- this shows the purpose of these plagues: repentance
"worshiping demons"- whether knowingly or unknowingly. Psalm 106:36-38, 1 Cor 10:19-20
- 21 "murders, sorceries, sexual immorality or thefts"- specific commandments explicitly broken, when idolatry is accepted and the first table of the Law broken, the second table crimes are not far behind

This is the first of three visions of The Last Battle. We will see complimentary views of it in 16:12-16 and 20:7-10.

Next Week The First Interlude John is Re-commissioned A Small Scroll- it's what's for dinner!