

The Revelation – Hell Unleashed

In this week's lesson we will look at the revelations revealed by the blowing of the fifth and sixth trumpets. We find this in the 9th chapter of Revelation, which says:

- (1) 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.
- (2) And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.
- (3) And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.
- (4) And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.
- (5) And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment *was* as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.
- (6) And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.
- (7) And the shapes of the locusts *were* like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads *were* as it were crowns like gold, and their faces *were* as the faces of men.
- (8) And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as *the teeth* of lions.
- (9) And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings *was* as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.
- (10) And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power *was* to hurt men five months.
- (11) And they had a king over them, *which is* the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue *is* Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath *his* name Apollyon.
- (12) One woe is past; *and*, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.
- (13) And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,
- (14) Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.
- (15) And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.
- (16) And the number of the army of the horsemen *were* two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.
- (17) And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses *were* as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.
- (18) By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

- (19) For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails *were* like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.
- (20) And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:
- (21) Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

At the blowing of the fifth trumpet we are introduced to a star which fell from heaven to earth. Now it is clear in this passage that this is not a literal star. After all, a star could not be given the key to the bottomless pit. There have been several interpretations of who or what this represents. Some have claimed that it represents the rise of a military leader. I think, though, that this does not rightly fit since this star fell from heaven, meaning it was in heaven to start with. Perhaps it could be referring to a popular astronaut, but I think that this is not the best interpretation. I think that this more likely refers to an angelic being.

There are those who go to the extreme of saying that Jesus Christ is referred to here. I think, though, that this is also a poor interpretation. Jesus already has the keys (Revelation 1:18), so there is no need for the keys to be given to him.

Another possible interpretation is that this refers to Satan. After all, Satan fell from heaven (Luke 10:18). This interpretation has some merit due to the fact that the creatures which are unleashed are demonic in nature. Speaking of these demonic creatures, this is one of those places where the literal and the figurative clash. That these creatures are demonic is clear from the fact that they come out of the bottomless pit. That they are literal is evident in the fact that they have the power to physically hurt men, and they have such an exact description.

Notice that the men do not begin to cry out to God in repentance. They just want to die. They have espoused the humanist doctrine being set forth by Satan. They believe that death is better than life, but they do not know that the pain of Hell will be much greater than the pain inflicted by these creatures.

With the blowing of the sixth trumpet we see 200 million horsemen unleashed from the north, the south, the east, and the west. These horsemen will kill one third of all of the people on the earth with fire, smoke, and brimstone. While it is not specifically stated here I believe that indications are that the believers are once again protected from this plague. After all, they have been sealed with the seal of God.

The people still did not repent of their sins, even after facing down these horsemen. This is, once again, preparing for the climax of the times, when Satan's forces will face the forces of God. Next week we'll continue looking at the things which happen in preparation for the sounding of the last trumpet.

Yours in Christ,

Bro. John Rich