

# The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets

Revelation 9  
November 6, 2022

## I. Introduction

- A. The fifth and sixth trumpets are the first and second woes of 8:13.
- B. The angel of 8:13 is saying, “If you think the first 4 trumpets were bad, wait til you see the last 3.
- C. The phrase “*those that dwell on the earth*” (3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 12:12; 13:8, 12; 14:6; 17:28) refers to the unsaved people who live for the earth and things of the earth.
- D. The first four trumpets were directed at the earth’s ecology, but the last three at man himself.
- E. God’s holiness demands that He judge mankind, but His desire is that they repent.

## II. The Fifth Trumpet: The Army from the Pit – vs. 1-12

- A. The one that releases the locust – v. 1
  - 1. First identified as a “star” that fell from heaven; later called “he” in verse 2; “king” in verse 11
  - 2. This is probably Satan.
    - a. See 12:3, 4, 7-9
  - 3. Some say this is a good angel – v. 20:1
- B. The area from which the locust come – v. 2
  - 1. Here it is called the “bottomless pit”, or the “abyss”
  - 2. This term is used in Luke 8:31; Romans 10:7; Revelation 9:1, 2, 11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1, 3
  - 3. It is a temporary detention center for fallen angels
  - 4. Is the “abyss” the same as “tartaroo” (II Peter 2:4) and “eternal bonds” (Jude 6)?
  - 5. Smoke from this pit darkened the sky and the air
- C. The destruction the locust cause – vs. 3-6
  - 1. They have poisoning power like scorpions
  - 2. Their target was not the earth’s vegetation, but unsaved mankind
    - a. “The Lord knows those who are His” – II Timothy 2:19
  - 3. Their torture lasted five months – the normal life span of a locust
  - 4. They were not given the authority to kill

## D. The description of the locust – vs. 7-12

- 1. “like” and “as” are used in this chapter more than any chapter in the Bible
- 2. They were:
  - a. Like horses prepared for battle
  - b. Crowns like gold on their heads
  - c. Faces like men
  - d. Hair like women
  - e. Teeth like lions
  - f. Breast plates like iron
  - g. Wings like the sound of chariots
  - h. Tails like scorpions (nerve gas?)
- 3. Their king is called “the destroyer”. This would be the demonic counterpart to Michael the Archangel; both Abaddon and Apollyon mean “destruction”.
- 4. In Judges 6:5 and 7:12, human armies are referred to as “locust”
- 5. Is this a fulfillment of Joel 1, 2; 2:1-5?

## III. The Sixth Trumpet: The Army from The East – vs. 13-21

- A. The Command to release the four angels – vs. 13-15
  - 1. The command comes from the golden altar – v. 8:3
  - 2. Four angels are bound at the Euphrates River
    - a. These must be evil angels because good angels would not be bound
    - b. Euphrates is the recognized dividing line between the East and West; 1,700 mi. long
  - 3. Is this the same event as described in Dan. 11:40-45 and Rev. 16:12-16?
  - 4. Their job is to kill one third of mankind (6:8 –  $\frac{1}{4}$  plus  $\frac{1}{3}$  of  $\frac{3}{4}$  = 50%)
- B. The Number of the Army – v. 16
  - 1. “...I heard the number of them...” – 200 million
  - 2. As far back as 1965, Red China claimed an army of this size.
  - 3. There appears to be only a brief period between the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet and the 6<sup>th</sup> bowl.
- C. Their nature – v. 17

1. The riders had breastplates the color of fire, hyacinth (dark blue) and brimstone (yellow).
  2. The horse heads are like lions and out of their mouths proceed fire, smoke & brimstone.
- D. Their Destruction – vs. 18-21
1. One third of mankind was killed
  2. The power of the horses is in their mouths and tails
  3. Those who did not die continued in their sins
    - a. Murders
    - b. Sorceries “pharmakei’a”
    - c. Immorality “pornei’a”
    - d. Thefts
  4. Men will seek for peace, pleasure and purpose in these things and not find them.
  5. See Acts 2:37; 5:33; 7:54 on how men respond to God’s conviction