

## The book of Revelation

### Chapter 9

#### *The fifth and sixth trumpet*

##### 1. *The fifth trumpet is sounded (9:1-12)*

-As the fifth trumpet is sounded a star is seen \_\_\_\_\_ from heaven to earth. And this fallen “star” is given a key to the shaft of a bottomless pit. This “fallen star” is a reference to Satan (Lk. 10:18).

“He is ‘the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan,’ whom John will later see cast out of heaven and down to the earth (Rev. 12:7-9). This was the result of Jesus’ messianic \_\_\_\_\_ on the kingdom of the evil one, for as His disciples were casting our demons in His name, Jesu saw ‘Satan fall from heaven like lighting.’” (Johnson, 148)

-Satan then is seen opening the bottomless pit and releasing terrible dark smoke. Out of this dark smoke came \_\_\_\_\_.

“When we read that Satan opens the shaft of the abyss, the meaning is that he incites to evil; he fills the world with demons and with their wicked influences and operations...it is the smoke of \_\_\_\_\_ and delusion, of sin and sorrow, or moral darkness and degradation that is constantly belching out of hell.” (135)

-These locusts are described as being capable of inflicting painful suffering on those who \_\_\_\_\_ have the mark of God upon them. (don’t get to swept away by all the details of the imagery-just see the terror this image is meant to convey)

“Under the symbolism of a locust plague John describes the powers and influences of hell operating in the \_\_\_\_\_ and lives of wicked men. No ordinary locusts are these; they do not destroy vegetation; they do not even harm it. They harm the men who have not been sealed.” (136)

“Though they are presented visually as locusts, the plague they represent is not agricultural but \_\_\_\_\_. The locust army of the fifth trumpet symbolizes demonic torment inflicted on the minds and souls of ‘those who dwell on the earth,’ who lack the seal of God’s name on their thoughts and minds...they harm only those who do not have the seal of God, so the pain of their sting will not touch the servants of God. Therefore, the anguish they inflict is not a physical affliction shared by believers and nonbelievers alike.” (Johnson, 148-149)

“Can you conceive of a more frightful and horrible and true picture of the operation of the powers of darkness in the souls of the wicked during this present age? Here are the demons, \_\_\_\_\_ men of all light, that is, of all true righteousness and holiness, joy and peace, wisdom and understanding. And their king is ‘the angel of the abyss,’ whose name in two languages-Hebrew and Greek-

is Destroyer. The entire symbolic picture emphasizes this one idea: terror and destruction, for that is Satan's work!" (136)

"This vision discloses the tragic double irony of serving Satan. First, as the angel of the abyss, the fallen star releases these demonic hordes not to afflict his enemies, the servants of God (for he cannot touch those shielded by God's seal), but rather to afflict his allies 'who dwell on the earth,' who receive the beasts mark and worship his blasphemous image. The devil rewards his loyal subjects with cruel \_\_\_\_\_." (Johnson, 149)

-Let us keep in mind that this power of Satan is under the sovereign \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord (vs 1-"he was given...", vs 4-"they were told not to harm...", vs 5-"they were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them..."). "Let us bear in mind that this, too, is one of the trumpets. God uses even the work of the devil as a punishment and as a warning for the wicked, a warning in order that they may repent (9:21)." (135)

"The evil swarm that emerges from the abyss can do so only by the purpose and permission of the God enthroned in heaven." (Johnson, 147)

## 2. *The sixth trumpet is sounded (9:13-21)*

-As the sixth trumpet is sounded four angels are released who bring with them war and violence that kill one third of the men on the earth. These angels come from the Euphrates, which is commonly associated with the territories of \_\_\_\_\_ and oppression (think Nineveh and Babylon).

"These four angels are not the same as those mentioned in 7:1. They are evil angels here. They relish the idea of plunging mankind into war...God uses war as a voice of \_\_\_\_\_ for the wicked. Thus, war also is included in God's decree, its very hour and day and month and year having been determined." (137)

-Just as with the last trumpet we must remember that this too is under the sovereignty of the Lord. In reference to these angels of war Hendriksen reminds us "they can do nothing unless God \_\_\_\_\_." (137)

-Two different kind of armies are mentioned in this chapter. The first (locusts) inflict \_\_\_\_\_ torment on the enemies of Christ and His Church. The second (riders on horses) inflict \_\_\_\_\_ torment on the enemies of Christ and His Church. Yet, despite these trumpets of warning the wicked do not repent of their wickedness but continue in rebellion against the Lord.

"Yet, even as demons destroy their own worshippers in despair and violent conflict, the survivors of God's warning blasts of judgment do not repent of their murders, sorceries, immorality, and thefts. These six warning notes, the overture of wrath to come, fall on \_\_\_\_\_." (Johnson, 152)