

Revelation 9

The Fifth Trumpet: Shaft of the Abyss

Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key to the shaft of the abyss was given to him. ² He opened the shaft of the abyss, and smoke ascended out of the shaft like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened from the smoke of the shaft.

³ Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴ They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵ And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a person. ⁶ And in those days people will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death will flee from them!

⁷ The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like human faces. ⁸ They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like the teeth of lions. ⁹ They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle.

¹⁰ They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt people for five months. ¹¹ They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon. ¹² The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still coming after these things.

-

The Sixth Trumpet: Army from the East

¹³ Then 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 who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." ¹⁵ And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind.

¹⁶ The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. ¹⁷ And this is how I saw in my vision the horses and those who sat on them: the riders had breastplates the colour of fire, of hyacinth, and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire and smoke and brimstone.

¹⁸ A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire, the smoke, and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. ¹⁹ For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm.

²⁰ The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands so as not to worship demons and the idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; ²¹ and they did not repent of their murders, nor of their witchcraft, nor of their sexual immorality, nor of their thefts.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Pauls Observations and insights

1. Having had the great three 'woe' warnings, it is for the reason of protection for all who are left on the earth.
2. Not that they can do anything about what is coming, but getting a warning is an act of mercy, just like a bomber making a call before he explodes.
3. The blast of the trumpet from the last angel, John says, 'he saw a star that had fallen onto the earth'.
4. My dream I had of a fallen star in the garden as a child.
5. The angel receives a key to open up the bottomless pit.
6. What was kept in this bottomless pit?
7. Having opened the pit smoke went up like that of a furnace. What does this mean?
8. The air and the sun were cloaked in darkness by this smoke. Is that normal?
9. Up from the pit came locusts, a certain amount of power was given to them. John describes them 'not unlike scorpions'.
10. These locusts were given a mission to harm men without the mark of God on them, but not vegetation.
11. The locusts were given five months to torment the unmarked men of the earth.
12. They were not allowed to kill, only torment.
13. The sting was like that of a scorpion sting, the pain caused men to cry out to die, but no death could be found for them – how bad would that be!
14. The description of these locusts that come out of the pit, that John gives, are his interpretation, they don't mean they were these but that they were like these.

15. Like a horse ready for battle, bearing crowns of gold, with the face of a man, the hair of a woman, the teeth of a lion.
16. What do these descriptions convey to you?
17. They had breastplates like iron. What is the significance of iron?
18. The flapping of their wings was like horses into battle. What is the significance of the sound of the wings?
19. It is in the tail where their sting comes from to hurt men for this five months.
20. What is the significance of five months?
21. Their king is the angel of the abyss.
22. John describes his name as Apollyon and Abaddon.
23. This disaster brings to the earth the first woe.
24. The sixth angel blows his trumpet and John heard a voice from the four horns at the altar of God.
25. 'Tell the sixth angel to release the four angels that have been bound at the river Euphrates'. What does this mean?
26. The four angels of the river Euphrates were released to kill a third of mankind.
27. They had been prepared for this very mission at this very hour, day, month and year.
28. John hears the number of the army of two hundred million.
29. John saw in a vision and he describes it to us with his best understanding.
30. The rider's breastplates are as of fire, the horse's heads like lions, with fire, smoke and brimstone that came from their mouths.
31. One third of all mankind were killed by these three plagues - fire, smoke and brimstone.
32. The power of the horse is in their mouth, but in their tail there is a serpent like head that can do some harm.
33. Even though two thirds of mankind experienced the devastation of these plagues, and even though one third of mankind died, the rest of mankind did not repent. Why do you think that was?
34. The rest of mankind continued to worship demons, they worshipped idols of gold and silver, brass, stone and wood.
35. Dead things that can neither, see, hear nor walk. Why do people give themselves to the slavery of such things.
36. John reiterates the men left on the earth did not repent of murder, sorcery, immorality or theft.