

“The Fifth Trumpet: Demonic Locusts From the Bottomless Pit”
Revelation 9:1-12

Last Sunday: The Mercies of God in the First Four Trumpets

Today: The Fifth Trumpet: Demonic Locusts from the Bottomless Pit (the First Woe)

Three Introductory Points:

1. Greg Beale, “The first four judgments affect the sources of human life, while the final three directly strike humans themselves.”
2. Symbolism or Reality? Yes. Charles Ryrie, “In this chapter there are more occurrences of the words ‘as’ and ‘like’ than in any other chapter in the Bible, which shows how difficult it was for John to describe the scene which he saw in the vision.”
3. Revelation is supposed to promote fear in unbelievers and blessing in believers (Rv. 1:3).
 - a. 2 Tim. 1:7, “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and self-control.”
 - b. 1 Jn. 4:18, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.”
 - c. Joel Beeke, “The warning of the fifth trumpet is simply this: the only alternative to salvation is destruction ... If you are not sealed by Christ you don’t belong to Him.”

OUTLINE

9:1-6, The Fifth Trumpet (First Woe)

9:7-12, The Fifth Trumpet (the First Woe) Explained

Overview of the Fifth Trumpet from the Four Views:

1. Preterist (**past**): This is Jerusalem’s fall in AD 70
 - a. Fallen star? A false teacher
 - b. Locusts? Jewish Zealots who had become demonized
 - c. Five months? May to September, AD 70 (the five-month siege of Jerusalem)
2. Historicist (**timeline**): This is the Muslim invasions of the West
 - a. Fallen star? Mohammed, founder of Islam. The Koran’s teaching parallels the Bible: “Destroy no palm trees, nor any fields of corn, cut down no fruit trees...”
 - b. Locusts? The Saracens (Muslim Arabs)
 - c. Five months? Prophetic months of thirty years each = 150 years (Arabic Muslim wars began in AD 612 and closed in AD 763 as they moved their capital to Baghdad.)

3. Idealist (***spiritual***): This is a picture of demonic forces unleashed upon the earth
 - a. Fallen star? Satan
 - b. Locusts? The forces of spiritual evil in the world. Lk. 10:19, “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.”
 - c. Five months? A relatively short amount of time
4. Futurist (***future***): This is an unprecedented time of judgment against unrepentant humanity in a seven-year Tribulation.

Uniformitarianism: a term that suggests that the earth's geologic processes acted in the **same** manner and with essentially the **same** intensity in the past as they do in the present and that such uniformity is sufficient to account for **all** geologic change.” (2 Pet. 3 calls this foolishness)

9:1/ Demonology, Five Points about Demons

1. Demons are angels who fell with Satan before the fall of man.
2. Like angels, demons are ‘spirits,’ yet they can take on human likeness.
3. As angels accomplish God’s work; demons **seek** to destroy God’s work.
4. Like angels, the fate of demons is sealed...no redemption for demons.
5. Satan is the leader of the demons. He is the most powerful creature in the universe.

9:4/ “They were told not to hurt 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.” Two views:

1. They will not attack the 144,000 Jewish evangelists
2. They will not attack believers

9:7-10/ “In appearance the locusts were like:

- Horses prepared for battle: an overwhelming attack force (Joel 2:3-5)
- On their heads were what looked like crowns of gold: victory
- Faces were like human faces: intelligence
- Hair like women’s hair: attractive, seductive
- Teeth like lion’s teeth: fierce
- Breastplates like breastplates of iron: invincibility
- The noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle: loud, fast, and flying
- Tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails: not your typical locust or scorpion

Three Questions about Demons:

1. Can a believer be afflicted by demons?
2. Can a believer be demon-possessed?
3. Does the Bible encourage believers to rebuke demons and cast them out?