

THE SEVEN-FOLD VISIONS

(6:1 – 16:21)

FIRST VISION

SCENE 1-5 – Seals 1-5 (6:1-11)

SCENE 6 – Sixth Seal (6:12-17)
(End of this World) (NO Battle Scene)

The Interlude: Comfort and
and Protection of the Church (7:1-17)

SCENE 7 – Seventh Seal (8:1-5)
(Introduces the Second Vision)

SECOND VISION

SCENE 1-5 – Trumpets 1-5 (8:6 – 9:12)
TODAY → Scene 5 (Fifth Trumpet-Angel)

SCENE 6 – Sixth Trumpet (9:13-21)
(The Great Battle)

The Interlude: The Church in Mission and
God's Protection (10:1-11:14)

SCENE 7 – Seventh Trumpet (11:15-19)
(End of this World)

The Interregnum
(Chapters 12-14)

THIRD VISION

SCENE 1-5 – Bowls 1-5 (15:1 – 16:11)

SCENE 6 – Sixth Bowl (16:12-16)
(The Battle of Armageddon)

SCENE 7 – Seventh Bowl (16:17-21)
(End of this World)



REVELATION 9 (OUTLINE)

I. The Fifth Trumpet-Angel

A. The star w/the key to the abyss

B. The demonic forces

1. Description

2. Purpose

REVELATION 9

(CONSIDERATIONS)

- I. The judgments of the fifth and sixth trumpet-angels are called woes;
- II. The third woe applies to the seventh trumpet-angel's blast, which will be discussed in Ch. 11;
- III. The images and symbols that confront John in the scenes of the fifth and sixth trumpet-angels are supernatural. This means that whatever the fifth and sixth scenes involve, what they portray and symbolize is not within normal human understanding and experience.

I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL



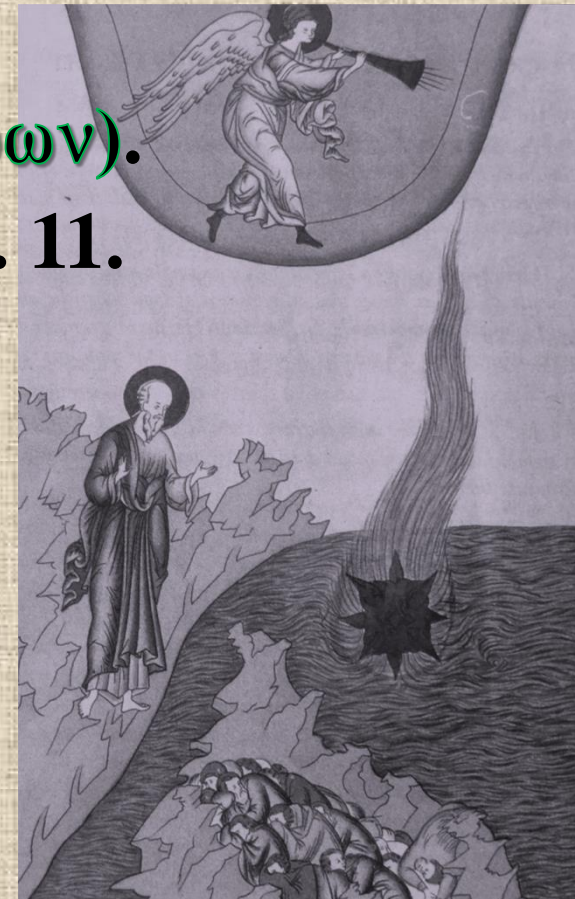
V.1 -- The fifth angel sounds his trumpet and, “...*a star which had fallen out of heaven to the earth.*”

If literal, again, this would make no sense, especially when “he” is given “*the key of the shaft of the abyss...*” It is very clear that we are working with figurative language -- God wants us to know this.

I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL

“The Star” – This is not the same star that had fallen out of heaven in Revelation 8 (*“Woodworm”*). Rather, this star represents a personality. This star has a personal name (Hebrew: Abaddon (אבדון)); (Greek: Apollyon (Ἀπολλύων)). More on the meaning of his name in v. 11.

The identity of this star is obvious, for it is the same personality that is embodied by the dragon in 12:3 and who is identified as the devil and Satan (12:9).



I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL

“Bottomless pit,” or ***“abyss”*** -- The abode of Satan -- since Christ’s victory he is beaten, and does only so much as he is allowed by God. The Greek word used simply means ***“very deep”*** or ***“bottomless.”***



I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL

V.2 -- Now Satan is released for a task. The place of his abode is pictured here as very horrible indeed. Many commentators state that this is the cause of the darkening of sun, moon, and stars in 8:12.

What this does present to us is that the effect of Satan's release for his work, *in the spiritual realm*, does have physical effects on the creation.

Remember, we are seeing in figurative language the **spiritual** "behind the scenes" events which result in the flesh-and-blood actions of our visible world.

I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL

V.3 -- We clearly have figurative language here. These “things” are described as “*locusts*” with “*power like scorpions*” and then (v.7) they appear as horses, wearing crowns, with faces of men and (v.8) the hair of women and teeth of lions.

Also, the fact that these “locusts” were told not to harm the grass, or the environment of earth, depicts that these are *figurative* locusts.

I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL

“Locusts” -- their spread cannot be headed off or stopped -- see Joel 2:3-9 for the same language.

“As the Scorpions have power” -- some scorpions produce death, others just great torture. These ***“scorpions”*** are limited so as not to produce death (v. 5), only torture.

What’s the torture? **Religious delusion**, which we will discuss momentarily!

I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL

V.4 -- They were not to hurt the grass nor other plants, but only those without the seal of God (cf. 7:3).



Those with the seal of
God cannot be harmed!

I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL

The influences of various sins, false religions, are always drawing from the visible church those who are not truly part of the invisible church. Those who are sealed are not enticed away because God protects them! How does He do this?



The Lord's true children are **sealed** as Christ's own naturally love and depend on the Word of God. It is through the Word (& The Lord's Supper) that they are enlightened and preserved, for their own protection, by the Holy Spirit.

I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL

9:5 – “*should not kill them*” -- Physical death is excluded. These attackers are allowed only to torture their victims, not to kill them. The scorpion’s sting is the most painful of all for its size, and takes a couple of months to heal.

The torture of religious delusion lies in the lack of peace with God through the forgiveness of sins in Christ Jesus.

Luther, as many others under the Roman Catholic system of earned grace, was constantly tortured with the question, “*Have I complete acceptance by God?*” This is true torture in the deepest sense...

No blessed assurance of salvation!

I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL

It must be pointed out that from the information given here; one of the religious torments is “works-righteousness.”

The torment to the soul in such a religion is a continuous nagging, and becomes the center of a person’s life while it lasts. For example, in any law-oriented sect, salvation depends on the keeping of all their laws. Violation of any law brings harsh punishment. There is never any peace, spiritually, and no assurance of salvation!

I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL

“For 5 months” -- This religious torture is limited in its spread and appeal. Since the context tells us that the language of this chapter is figurative; there can be no sudden shifting from the figurative. Five months, therefore, is figurative and is used as a point of comparison:

Five months is the normal length of the locust season -- point of comparison: the torture will run its full course, just as 5 months is the full course of the locust season.

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A GENETIC MARVEL

The desert locust is one of about a dozen species of short-horned grasshoppers. They are unique in the way that they change their behaviour – turning from solitary to “gregarious” or social insects that coalesce into a swarm and forage for food together.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

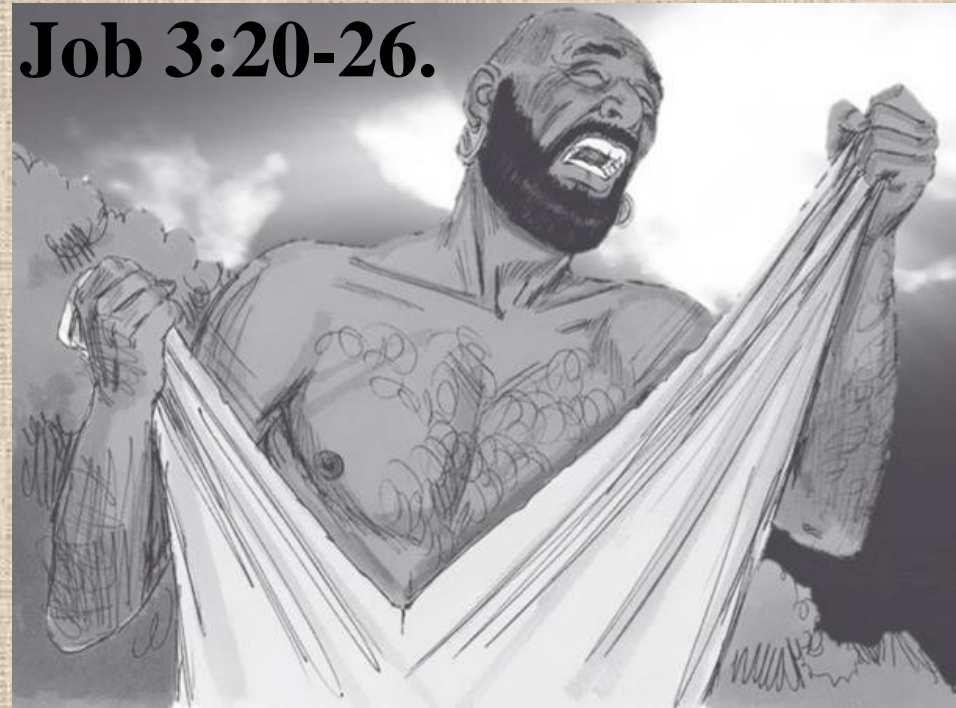
- 40-80 million locusts are estimated in a swarm that spreads over 1 square kilometre
- These many locusts can ravage crops equivalent to the feeding need of 35,000 people in a day
- Their life span is between 3-5 months. They become hoppers after a month and can start laying eggs when they 60-70 days old

I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL

“For 5 months” -- Therefore, at any given time throughout the period covered by Revelation’s message (from our Lord’s Ascension to His Second Advent), those not marked by the seal of God will suffer the anguish of these demonic tormentors.

Listen to this reading from **Job 3:20-26.**

It’s a vivid, graphic expression of the anguished cry of the soul which longs for death due to the torment of Satan and his demons, yet death will not come!



I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL

9:6 – “Men will seek death and not find it.” – Note that Job’s longing for death isn’t a relief from pain, rather a longing to be reconciled to God. However, here in 9:6, the ungodly desire for death is only a delusion; part of the torment. His belief that death would bring relief is clearly a delusion; for without the sealing of God, physical death will bring spiritual “the second” death.

Physical death flees from the ungodly, because God uses this torment to drive them to repentance, where in absolution, they find a blessed relief from the torments of Satan and his demons.

I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL

9:7-9 -- Here we have a further description of the demons. Joel 1 and 2 uses this same description to prophetically present the Judgment of God upon Israel by the Chaldean, Persian, Greek and Roman armies.

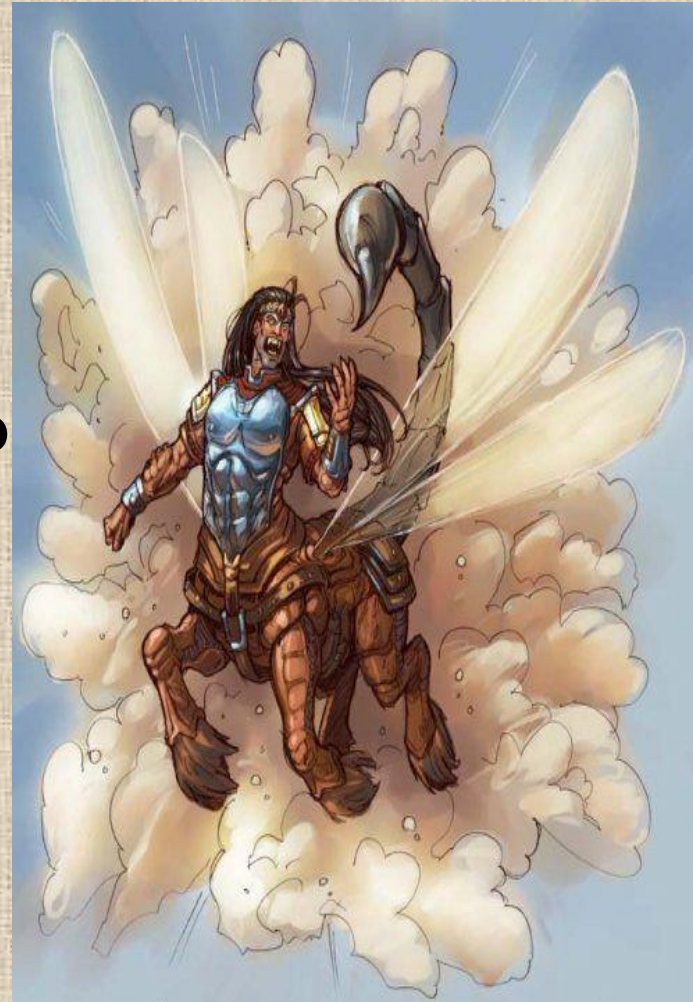
Also Hosea 10:8, *“The high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed. Thorn and thistle shall grow up on their altars, and they shall say to the mountains, “Cover us,” and to the hills, “Fall on us.”*”

Each characteristic of the locusts (demons) is represented in symbolic features...

I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL

“Horses prepared for battle” -- The horse is a universal symbol of power and swiftness. They prepare to rush into battle against the ungodly like a cavalry charge. They overwhelm quickly and plunder their victims!

“Heads, crowns like gold” – Upon their heads are crowns that appear to be of gold, indicating that in their battle thrust against their prey they will have what will appear to be victory.



I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL

“Faces like the faces of men” -- Refers to the nature of the torment: a departing from the Word of God by the persuasive power of human reason and intelligence.

“Hair as the hair of women” – By use of deception their attack will seem beautiful and enticing; they will use cruel attraction to trap and torment their victims.

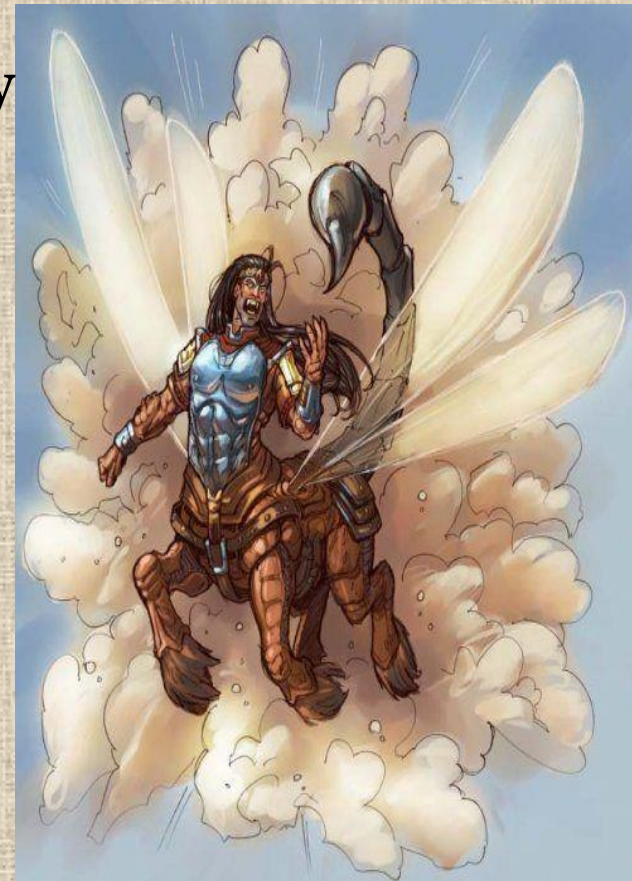
“Teeth as the teeth of lions” -- Strong, sharp and slashing, except in this case, not to kill; however, effective at their task.



I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL

“Breast plates like breast plates of iron” – Their armor is that of a foot soldier. Thus their attack will be protected from counter-attack. Their victims will not be able to penetrate their armor making the attackers impervious to any counter-attack.

“The sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle” -- In ancient times, powerful armies had chariots and were almost always assured of victory. The noise of their attack will be indefensible and frightening.



I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL

9:10 -- Repeats the information contained in verse 5

9:11 -- A description of the leader by name. He is the one who brings destruction and his name (*Hebrew: Abaddon*); (*Greek: Apollyon*). His name means “*The Destroyer*.” This is the devil. This is the only instance in the Bible where “Destroyer” is a personal name given to Satan. Thusly, this name is given him for he will attempt to destroy all that is holy and godly. His most grievous attempt to destroy all that is holy and godly was the Christ Child (Rev 12:3-4; Matt 2:16-18; 4:1-11). Since Satan failed in these attempts; now his anger is directed toward the Church, the Bride of Christ (*Rev 12:13-18*).

I. THE FIFTH TRUMPET-ANGEL

9:12 -- This is the first woe and its dire warning has sounded, but two more are to come. Alas, the time is short, repent and believe the New Good of Christ Jesus and be saved from eternal condemnation!