

16 - THE FIFTH TRUMPET (REVELATION 8:13-9:12)

I. Announcement of the Three Final Trumpets (Revelation 8:13)

A. The Flying Angel

- John sees another angel that is flying through the midst of Heaven.

B. The Announcement

- The angel announced woe upon the remaining inhabitants of earth.
- This is because of the nature of the remaining trumpets.

II. The Fifth Trumpet (Revelation 9:1-11)

A. The Fallen Star (Revelation 9:1)

1. The Identity of the Star (Revelation 9:1a)

- The star is a person or angelic being.
- This person is more than likely Satan.
- Because John did not see this star fall, the text implies that the star “had fallen.”

Scripture: Isaiah 14:12-17 (ESV)

¹² “How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! ¹³ You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ ¹⁵ But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit. ¹⁶ Those who see you will stare at you and ponder over you: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, ¹⁷ who made the world like a desert and overthrew its cities, who did not let his prisoners go home?’

2. The Key (Revelation 9:1b)

- To this fallen star was given authority over the bottomless pit.

Biblical Note: The Bottomless Pit (The Abyss)

The bottomless pit or the Abyss refers to the prison of disobedient or fallen angels. It is full of smoke and fire. The demons have a great dread of being sent to the Abyss.

See: Luke 8:31; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 9:11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1-3.

Scripture: Luke 8:31 (ESV)

And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.

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B. The Bottomless Pit (Revelation 9:2)

1. The Pit is Opened (Revelation 9:2a)

- The fallen star is allowed to open the bottomless pit.

2. The Smoke (Revelation 9:2b)

- Out of the pit comes a smoke that affects even the light of the sun.

C. The Demonic Plague (Revelation 9:3-11)

1. The Locusts (Revelation 9:3a)

- Out of the smoke a great horde of locust-like creatures comes upon earth.

2. Their Purpose (Revelation 9:3b-5)

- They are to torment all humanity who had not been sealed by God.

Scripture: Exodus 8:20-23 (ESV)

²⁰ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord, “Let my people go, that they may serve me. ²¹ Or else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. ²² But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth. ²³ Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.” ’ ”

- They are not to harm the vegetation of the earth.
- They are not to kill anyone, but simply to torment.

3. The Result (Revelation 9:6)

- The torment will be so great that men will want to die, but they cannot.

4. Their Description (Revelation 9:7-10a)

- The picture is one of Satan’s awesome supernatural power.

5. The Duration of Their Terror (Revelation 9:10b)

- They are to afflict humanity for a period of five months.

6. Their Leader (Revelation 9:11)

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- The leader of this demonic horde is Satan himself.

III. The Proclamation (Revelation 9:12)

- The writer proclaims that one woe has past but there are still two more.