

A Quick Review:

Chapter 6 – The opening of six seals and the four horsemen

- White horse – making war
- Red horse – taking peace – make chaos
- Black horse – oppression and injustice
- Pale horse – death and hades
- Fifth seal – the cry of the martyrs – season of martyrdom
- Sixth seal – cosmic disruptions

Chapter 8 – First four trumpets

- First trumpet = hail and fire – third of the earth burned up
- Second trumpet = blazing mountain into the sea – 1/3 sea died
- Third trumpet = star (Wormwood) falls on rivers – 1/3 water bitter

- Fourth trumpet = sun, moon, and stars darkened

These first four deal with attacks on nature – next we see hell unleashed on earth

I. The Fifth Trumpet (9:1 - 12)

Verse 1

The fifth angel
sounded his trumpet,
and I saw (horao)
a star (aster)

The Star



Stars represent angels – Rev. 1:20

that had [having] fallen from the sky
to the earth.

Having fallen = leads us to think of past (Lk.10:18 – Satan's fall)

The star [he] was given the key (power and authority)
to the shaft (phrear) of the Abyss. (abyssos)

abyssos = a (no) + bysso (depth) – phrear = pit opening
Capital letter = place of the dead (Lk. 8:31; Rom. 10:7)



Verse 2

When he opened the Abyss,

More about the abyss:

- 1) The beast will come up from there! (Rev. 11:7)
 - 2) Satan will be bound there during the Millennium (Rev. 20:3)
- smoke rose from it
like the smoke from a gigantic furnace.

“blazing furnace” used for hell by Jesus (Matt. 13:42,50)

The sun

and the sky

were darkened

by the smoke from the Abyss.

The sun has already been darkened from the fourth trumpet!

Verse 3

And out of the smoke

locusts (akris = oriental locusts swarms)

Numberless swarms of them almost every spring are carried by the wind from Arabia into Palestine, and having devastated that country, migrate to regions farther north, until they perish by falling into the sea.

came down upon the earth

and were given power (exousai = authority)

like that of scorpions of earth.

No often fatal, the poisonous sting is very painful



Verse 4

They were told

not to harm

the grass of the earth or any plant or tree,

Not normal natural locusts!

Like the eight plague in Egypt (Ex. 10)

but only those people

who did not have the seal of God

sphragis = signet ring = ownership

on their foreheads. (metopon = space between eyes)

We saw this back in Rev. 7:3 God sealed the 144,000

Verse 5

They were NOT given power
to kill them,
but only to torture (basanizo) them
for five months.

Are the torments limited to five months?
or is the length of the pain limited to five months?

Note: the normal lifespan of a locust is five months

And the agony they suffered was like
that of the sting of a scorpion
when it strikes a man.



The Stings

Verse 6

During these days
men will seek death,
but will not find it;

they will long (epithymos = to lust after) to die
but death will elude them.

This reminds of the words of the Lord in Jer. 8:3 – “Wherever I banish them, all the survivors of this evil nation will prefer death to life, declares the LORD Almighty.”

Verse 7

The locusts looked like

- 1) horses prepared for battle.
- 2) On their heads

they wore something like a crowns (stephanos)
of gold,

- 3) and their faces resembled human faces.

Verse 8

- 4) Their hair was like women's hair,
- 5) and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

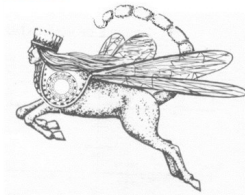
The Suffering

Verse 9

- 6) They had breastplates like breastplate of iron,
- 7) and the sound of their wings
was like the thundering of many horses
and chariots rushing into battle.

Verse 10

- 8) They had tails and stings like scorpions,
- 9) and in their tails they had power
to torment people for five months.



Verse 11

They had a king over them
the angel of the Abyss,

A clear indication that these are not literal locusts because they are following the leadership of a king/ruler.

Whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon,
and in Greek, is Apollyon.

Both Abaddon and Apollyon mean “destruction”

This “angel of the Abyss” seems to be Satan himself.

John 10:10 – “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;
I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

Verse 12

The first woe is past;
two other woes are yet to come.

The worst is yet to come!



II. The Sixth Trumpet (9:13 - 19)

Verse 13

The sixth angel
sounded his trumpet,
and I heard (akouo) a voice
coming from the horns
of the golden altar
that is before God.



On these horns the atoning blood is applied
The altar of incense represents the prayers of the saints.



Verse 14

It is said to the sixth angel
who had the trumpet.
“Release (lyo) the four angels
who are bound (deo)
at the great river Euphrates”



lyo = loose physical restraints – deo = literal or symbolic
Are these good or bad angels?

Verse 15

And the four angels who had been kept ready
for this very hour and day and month and year
were released to kill a third of mankind.

Since a fourth has already been killed (Rev. 6:8) this means that
ONE HALF of the population is dead!

Verse 16

The number of the mounted troops (hippikos = horsemen)
was two hundred million. (only use)

I heard (akouo) their number.

Is this literal troops?

Verse 17

The horses and riders

I saw in my vision looked like this:

- 1) Their breastplates were
 - a) fiery red, (fire)
 - b) dark blue, and (hykinthinos = dark violet)
 - c) yellow (brimstone)
as sulfur.

- 2) The heads of the horses
resembled the heads of lions,
- 3) and out of their mouths
came fire, smoke, and sulfur.

Verse 18

A third of mankind was killed
by three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur
that came out of their mouths.

Verse 19

- 4) the power of the horses
was in their mouths and in their tails;
for their tails were like snakes
having heads with which they inflict injury.

Verse 20

The rest of mankind
that were not killed
by these plagues
Still did not repent of the works of their hands;

- 1) worshiping demons, (divine power)
- 2) and idols of (eidolon = image) – first two commands
 - a) gold,
 - b) silver,
 - c) bronze,
 - d) stone, and
 - e) wood
 - f) idols that cannot see or hear or walk.

Verse 21

- 3) Nor did they repent of their
murders, - sixth commandment
- 4) their magic arts, (pharmakeia = drugs + sorcery)
- 5) their sexual immorality – seventh commandment
- 6) or their thefts. – eight commandment