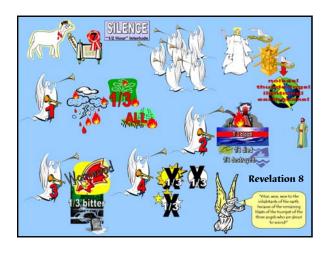
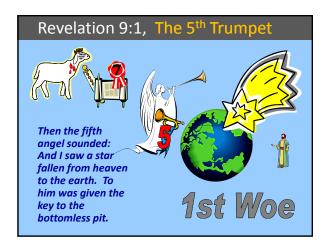
Revelation Chapter 9

The Trumpet Judgments Continue

- First 4 Trumpets poured on nature
- Last 3 on humankind (demonic origin/source)
- A continuation of chapter 8, the Trumpet Judgments (last three), more "woes" and unrepentant mankind.
- Three woes generally thought to be LAST half (3 ½ yrs) of Tribulation, what Jesus referred to as "Great Tribulation."







Revelation 9:1, 5th Trumpet

12"How you are fallen from heaven,
 O Lucifer, son of the morning!
 How you are cut down to the ground,
 You who weakened the nations!
 13 For you have said in your heart:
 I will ascend into heaven,

Keep this
"background"
information in
mind as we look
at the goals of
the final world
ruler later.

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit. (Isaiah 14:12-15)

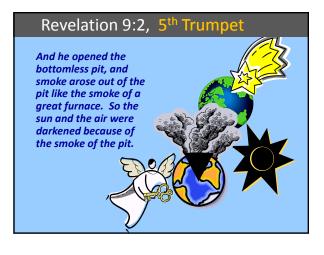
Revelation 9:1, 5th Trumpet

- This "star" is **most likely the Enemy**. Here he has been given the key to the bottomless pit.
- What is this pit? Probably not Sheol, word is *abuosso*, meaning "bottomless pit." Not same word used for Hell, Hades, Sheol.
- Found 9X in NT (7 in Revelation), 30 X in OT. We know angels that have fallen (sinned) are sent here (see Genesis 6:2, 4; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6) Demons beg to avoid this pit (Luke 8:31).
- After "many days" the abuosso will be "visited" (Isaiah 24:21-22) and Satan will be imprisoned there (Revelation 20:10)



Revelation 9:1, 5th Trumpet

- Later this key in hands of "good" angel (ch. 20)
- Fallen angels referred to as "wandering stars" in Jude: "...wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever."
- Together with other fallen angels unleash the first two "woes." (5th and 6th trumpets)
- Other possibilities "good" angel doing God's will, or another fallen angel. Not a meteorite or other inanimate object. Definite personage.
- Don't know exact identity, but need to focus on results, not identity.



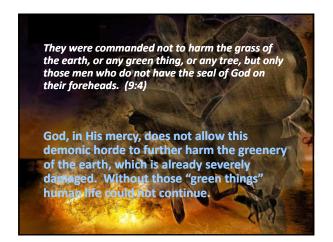
Revelation 9:2, 5th Trumpet

- "Bottomless pit" "abussos" 9X in NT, 7 in Revelation. Place of confinement of evil supernatural beings.
- First time, Jesus and demon possessed man (Luke 8:26-39), demons begged Yeshua not to send them to the abyss (abussos, same word)
- Matthew's account (8:29) "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us <u>before the time</u>?" Aware of future when they are assigned to the abyss ("bottomless pit") – during Millennial Kingdom (along with Enemy)

Revelation 9:2, 5th Trumpet

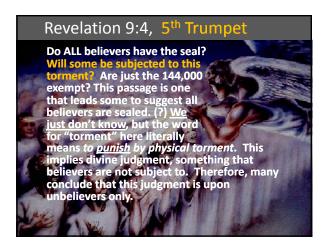
- Revelation 11:7 and 17:8 beast that kills God's two witnesses and persecutes His people also "ascends from the bottomless pit."
- Smoke may be literal and darken the skies, but probably also symbolizes spiritual darkness, and demonic pollution unlike anything we can imagine.
- Must understand exactly what is happening.
 The "shaft" (more precise interpretation) to the abyss, the place that confines evil beings is now open. It has not been open before. Marks major change in what transpires on earth.
- Here comes the first "woe."

Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.



Revelation 9:4, 5th Trumpet

- Obviously we are in the realm of supernatural. No natural locusts on earth like these.
- They are given power (lit. "authority"), but not the power of natural locusts, which eat and strip the earth of all "green things."
- Commanded <u>NOT to harm the "green things"</u> and could only torment humans – those without the seal of God.
- First 4 trumpets focused on "nature." Last 3 focus on humanity.



Revelation 9:5-6, 5th Trumpet

⁵And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. ⁶In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.



TORMENT do NOT KILL

Willes

Revelation 9:5-6, 5th Trumpet

- John uses the word for "locusts" here. Keep in mind, however, that John is describing what he sees, not what he knows. He uses the word "like" a great deal, <u>but not here</u>. These appear to be actual, physical (yet demonic) locusts.
- Natural locusts do amazing damage. 1866 locust plague in Algiers resulted in 200,000 deaths from starvation, resulting famine.
- Imagine what demonic, supernatural locusts can do to ravage a person's body and soul, like they normally ravage vegetation?

Revelation 9:5-6, 5th Trumpet

- Locusts used in scripture as tools of destruction and judgment.
- A literal plague in Egypt. Referenced as both literal and symbolic in Joel: "What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten; what the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten; And what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has eaten." (Joel 1:4) Joel is lamenting over a devastating locust plague that was very real. Later he associates locust destruction with punishment, discipline and judgment.

Revelation 9:5-6, 5th Trumpet

- Locusts here in Revelation may be real, but don't resemble anything we've ever seen.
 Also, while in physical form (perhaps) they are demonic, allowed by God to drive mankind closer to a firm decision – they are either with Him or against Him. The description given later show they are NOT normal locusts!
- They were "given power" to do what God intended them to do. Locusts don't normally bite like scorpions. A scorpion bite can be very painful and leave the victim either very ill, in pain, and even dead.

Revelation 9:5-6, 5th Trumpet

- They were also "commanded" they were given limited powers. God has granted, and limited, their power, as He does with everything....and yes, everyone.
- Allowed to cause pain and great suffering, <u>but</u> not death.
- Only allowed to torment for 5 months. No one seems to know significance of this time period. Most likely literal. Significance may be known when it happens. Also acts as a "hope" to those tormented – it is for a limited time only. Revelation will act as a guide book for those who go through this time.

Revelation 9:5-6, 5th Trumpet

- Remember, although a very painful time, God allows in order to drive people to Him.
- The entire time of "Jacob's Trouble" is allowed by God as a period of grace. YES, grace. People will come to Him in larger numbers than we have ever seen in all history. God desires that NONE perish. He will push mankind to the crushing point, where the spirit either submits to Him, willingly, or continues to rebel against Him to their ultimate permanent separation from Him.
- Next we hear the bizarre description of these unnatural locusts...

Revelation 9:7-10, 5th Trumpet

7 The shape of the locusts was <u>like</u> horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something <u>like</u> gold, and their faces were <u>like</u> the faces of men.

8 They had hair <u>like</u> women's hair, and their teeth were <u>like</u> lions' teeth. 9 And they had breastplates <u>like</u> breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was <u>like</u> the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle.

10 They had tails <u>like</u> scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.

Revelation 9:7-10, 5th Trumpet

Now this is a **pretty weird locust!** NOTICE all the "likes" in this passage. John has never seen anything *like* this before.



Nothing comes close, except describing the various parts compared to something else he knows: crowns, faces like men, hair like women (implies long hair), teeth like a lion, breastplates of iron, wings that sound like chariots with many horses, tails like scorpions...imagine John's fright at these creatures! No one has ever seen a locust like this.

Revelation 9:7-10, 5th Trumpet

- Natural locusts actually have heads that look like horses (sort of !) Bodies appear armored.
- German term is heupferd meaning "hay-horse," Italian term cavaletta means "little horse."
- Hebrew, called the "lopper, shearer, swarmer, finisher, annihilator, galloper, and creaker."
- Easy to see how some think these locusts <u>could be military hardware</u> – bombers, helicopters, tanks or other military monstrosities. B29's sting from their tails, too. Face may be a pilot as viewed through cockpit?

Revelation 9:7-10, 5th Trumpet

- Others believe these appear exactly, literally, as John describes. ("Left Behind Series" – LaHaye...)
- 8th plague of Egypt, ate herbs and plants, would not be repeated (at least to this level) again: "And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and rested on all the territory of Egypt. They were very severe; previously there had been no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them.

 15 For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they ate every herb of the land and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left. So there remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt." (Exodus 10:14-15)



Revelation 9:11-12, 5th Trumpet

- Very interesting note in Proverbs 30:27 "The locusts have no king, yet they all advance in ranks..."
 Seems an odd thing in scripture, unless it is to inform us that these are NOT natural locusts (everything is in scripture for a reason!)
- THESE locusts have a king! Even told his name.
- "Abaddon" in Hebrew means a *destroying* angel, or symbolic of Sheol/Hades
- "Apollyon" in Greek means the destroyer.
 Some say this is HaSatan (Heb. "The Accuser") and some say another powerful destroying angel.

Revelation 9:11-12, 5th Trumpet

- Don't know definite identity of this "king" but we can speculate. May also be a powerful archangel in the hierarchy of fallen angels.
- Literally "locusts from hell."
- We don't know the exact duration of the other judgments, except that they are most likely cumulative, but this one lasts for a set period of time – 5 months.
- This is just the FIRST woe. There should be a large harvest of souls in this time as this torment will likely drive people to God. However, there will be many who will just as easily harden their hearts against Him.





Revelation 9:13-15, 6th Trumpet

¹⁵ So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.



Revelation 9:13-15, 6th Trumpet

- This is the sixth Trumpet Judgment, and the second woe. (The 7th Trumpet, which contains all the Bowl Judgments, is the 3rd and final woe.)
- In scripture, the number 4 is associated with the creation: 4 elements (earth, air, fire, water), 4 ordinal directions (North, East, West, South) [4 corners of the earth] 4 seasons (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter), 4 divisions of the day (Morning, Noon, Evening, Midnight); 4 living creatures in this book.
- These are apparently **wicked angels**, since they are bound and must be loosed.

Revelation 9:13-15, 6th Trumpet

- Speculation about these angels. Those who corrupted "gene pool" in Genesis 6?
- "And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day." (Jude 6) Those who "did not keep their proper domain" may be those "sons of God" (always angels!) in Genesis 6.
- However, they may be "reserved" for their <u>own</u> judgment, not used to judge others. We don't know.

Revelation 9:13-15, 6th Trumpet

- Jesus said, "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." (Matthew 24:37). Is this about these angels (Nephilim)? The sudden judgment? Life as normal until judgment? There are a lot of things that can be implied about this statement.
- The "golden altar" is the altar of incense (ch. 8) immediately before the curtain (now gone) that separated Holy Place from Holy of Holies. Always symbolic for prayers of the saints.
- "Horns" of the altar both the altar of burnt offering (courtyard) and the golden altar, or altar of incense, had horns at each corner.

Revelation 9:13-15, 6th Trumpet

- These horns had significance.
- Horns in scripture symbolize power. The altar of incense also symbolizes <u>prayer</u>. Righteous prayers before God are very powerful. (James 5:16)
- Souls under the altar in chapter 6 (5th seal) crying "how long?" for God's ultimate vengeance.



Revelation 9:13-15, 6th Trumpet

HORNS OF THE ALTAR

Fugitives seeking asylum might cling to the horns of the brazen altar (Adonijah, 1 Kings 1:50) to be safe from someone seeking revenge for injury or death of someone else. This was true if the person who committed the act of violence did so unwittingly, or without prior meditation (an accident, priests would intervene on their behalf). On other occasions (such as consecration of Aaron and sons, Exodus 29:12, and sin offering for one of the people of the land, Leviticus 4:30), the horns were touched with sacrificial blood.

Revelation 9:13-15, 6th Trumpet

HORNS OF THE ALTAR

The altar of incense also had 4 horns. These were touched with blood in the case of a sin offering for a high priest, or for the whole congregation, if they had sinned unwittingly (Leviticus 4:7,18).

There were also cases where God would not protect one who tried to seek asylum at the horns of the altar. This was in the case of outright murder, or wrong intentions regarding the incident. God did not spare those who spilled the blood of others intentionally.

Revelation 9:13-15, 6th Trumpet

- There is a term in the Old Testament for someone seeking revenge for such an act of violence— the Avenger of Blood (used 11 times in OT). The avenger of a person's blood was considered justified in killing someone who had killed another.
- Perhaps the voice from the 4 horns of the altar indicates that all those martyrs from chapter 6 (seen also in chapter 7) will finally be avenged. <u>God is justified in</u> <u>destroying the wicked</u>.

Revelation 9:13-15, 6th Trumpet

- River Euphrates significant. Divides east from west. Site of first murder, first war, Tower of Babel.
- Greatest river boundary in scripture, often symbolic of Israel's enemies from the north.
- Northern boundary of Israel.
- Mentioned several times in OT, but only here (in Revelation) in NT.
- 6th Bowl Judgment, River will be "dried up" to make way for "kings of the east" and ultimate Battle of Armageddon (16:12)



Revelation 9:13-15, 6th Trumpet

- "...who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year ..." A reminder of the incredible, eternal and unchanging precision of the Plan of God. The entire plan is perfect, down to the last hour, day, month and year.
- These angels will kill 1/3 mankind. Have already seen ¼ of mankind killed in previous judgments, perhaps more not mentioned. Now have less than half the original world population. God is purging the earth of unregenerate mankind.

Revelation 9:13-15, 6th Trumpet

- People (believers) remaining alive through the period of the Tribulation will eventually enter the Millennial Kingdom (only believers, rest killed at final battle).
 Unbelievers will NOT be left alive to populate this Kingdom.
- Perhaps in this 6th Trumpet judgment God is "housecleaning" after the 5th Trumpet (demonic locusts).
- Perhaps these are unbelievers who still would not turn to God even after the torment of the locusts. ALL SPECULATION!

Revelation 9:16-17, 6th Trumpet

Now a weird, supernatural army!

¹⁶ Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. ¹⁷ And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.



Revelation 9:16-17, 6th Trumpet

- John hears the number of this supernatural army = **200 million.**
- Many have speculated that <u>China can now</u> <u>field an army this size</u>, therefore they speculate this army may refer to China.
- Some believe this is the army of the "kings of the East" referenced in chapter 16.
- This is a LOCUST army, not men!



Revelation 9:16-17, 6th Trumpet

 Description of these "horsemen" seems to put them in the supernatural, perhaps demonic, realm. Although we need to consider that it may merely be John's description of military hardware (or something else) he's never seen before. And, perhaps like nothing we've never seen before either.

Revelation 9:16-17, 6th Trumpet

- Horses (not LIKE horses)
- Riders, with breastplates (seemingly human?)
- Breastplates fiery red, hyacinth blue, sulfur yellow (national flag?? Or coalition?)
- Also colors of fire, flames.
- Horse heads like heads of lions.
- Fire, smoke and brimstone (burning sulfur) from "mouths"



Revelation 9:16-17, 6th Trumpet

- Supernatural armies have appeared before in scripture: 1) Horses/chariot of fire took Elijah to heaven (2 Kings 2:11) and 2) Dothan besieged by Syria, God opened Elijah's servant's eyes to see the horses and chariots of fire (2 Kings 6:13-17)
- <u>Don't know</u> the association these horsemen have with the 4 angels released in this judgment. We do know they are destructive. Perhaps they command the horsemen.
- Warfare in the spiritual world, ongoing. (more in chapter 12, also Daniel 10, etc.)

Revelation 9:16-17, 6th Trumpet



The angel who came to visit Daniel in chapter 10 of that book said he was "detained" by the "Prince of Persia." This is a battle in the spiritual realm. "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. " (Daniel 10:13)

Revelation 9:16-17, 6th Trumpet

- Because we cannot "see" supernatural forces, there is a tendency not to believe they exist.
 Years ago we couldn't see viruses or bacteria either. <u>Don't let personal unbelief or</u> preconceptions get in your way of the truth.
- It is best to stick to a literal interpretation although these beings don't seem to be like anything we know yet.
- Remember John is a first century guy trying to describe with words what he is seeing happen thousands of years later.



Revelation 9:18-19, 6th Trumpet

- Keep in mind we are still in the 6th Trumpet judgment. The 4 angels and the strange horsemen are all part of this judgment.
- These are demonic, and the effect on earth will be terrifying.
- These judgments are not what could be called "remedial" – to change behavior. They are "retributive" – intended for judgment and punishment.

Revelation 9:18-19, 6th Trumpet

- Three things are called "three plagues" fire, smoke, and brimstone. One-third of mankind will be killed by them (that's 1/3 of what is left at this point!)
- We don't know how these deaths will happen, perhaps through environmental disasters, dangerous pollution, fires, etc.
- "Brimstone" is burning sulfur. Fireworks have a "burning sulfur" smell. Burning sulfur creates sulfur dioxide, a very toxic gas.
- Again...avoid speculation! It gets us nowhere but confused.



Revelation 9:20-21, 6th Trumpet ²⁰ But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and 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 or their Repent sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Revelation 9:20-21, 6th Trumpet

- Perhaps the saddest verses in scripture.
- God has gone to amazing extents to get mankind's attention – very dramatic displays of His power (and allowing the Enemy to display his also). Yet unregenerate mankind continues to run from Him, and pursue sin.
- Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?"
- World knows at this point what is happening, and WHO is doing it.

Revelation 9:20-21, 6th Trumpet

- This is the height of foolishness and rebellion. "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Corinthians 2·14)
- God has made Himself clear, but people do not want to turn to Him.
- The remaining half of the world's population continues in their unrepentant state.

Revelation 9:20-21, 6th Trumpet

We are told exactly what those sins are:

- Works of their hands words used here indicate a "hollowness" or "grasping" for things that cannot be obtained. Pride in own power and accomplishments. May also refer to "idols" –also works of our own hands.
- 2. Occult practices and worship, including worship of demons, idols. Consider things some think "innocent" lucky charms, horoscopes, Ouija boards, the paranormal all things forbidden by God, of the occult. But occult practices will become even worse in this time. Paganism is on the rise already.

Revelation 9:20-21, 6th Trumpet

- **3. Murders** this is literal, the killing of humans (can include abortions, "mercy killings," euthanasia, etc., and the senseless taking of human life in any way)
- 4. Sorceries (Gr. pharmakeion) Where we get the word "pharmacy." This is drug use. Some interpret this as occultic practices but it is likely about drug use, which may coincide with sinful practices. This will become a large part of the Tribulation, both to escape the pain, but also as part of false "religious" experiences.

Revelation 9:20-21, 6th Trumpet

- 5. Sexual immorality not much needs to be said about this. Our society is rampantly sexually immoral already. Will only get worse. We exalt what is forbidden, and condemn what is righteous. "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20)
- **6. Thefts** (Gr. *klemmon*, from *klepto*) stealing or "filching" of anything. Our culture is based on stealing, deception (deceptive business practices, etc.). Riches, no matter how obtained, are exalted.

Revelation 9:20-21, 6th Trumpet

- Notice there are 6 things listed. Six is the number for unregenerate man, incomplete without God. These six sins will include every sin in the book. It is what man turns to instead of God. Man puts himself on the throne instead of God. And, it is what will condemn him when his life is compared with the Law (his chosen form of judgment only two, either the Law or Grace more on this later.)
- QUOTE: "This was no longer about ignorance. It was about choice." (<u>Apollyon</u> by LaHaye and Jenkins, "Left Behind Series")

COMMENTARY: "The Bible tells us the "the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9) The book of Revelation certainly answers the oft-stated suggestion of individuals that "what man needs is a second chance after death." During the tribulation man will have unprecedented opportunity to see the omnipotent hand of God working in the affairs of men, yet he will stubbornly persist in his rebellion against God and his rejection of Jesus Christ. That is seen by the fact that, in spite of the destruction of half of the world's population and one-third of the world's vegetation, light, and water supply, man will not repent of his stubborn heart and sinful practices...The tribulation population instead will embrace the pleasure of sin for a season and damn their immortal souls in the process." (LaHaye)

Revelation 9:20-21, 6th Trumpet

- It is important to note that deception will be on the rise during this time. "But evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." (2 Timothy 3:13)
- Consider these verses: "The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)

Revelation 9:20-21, 6th Trumpet

- What is <u>THE LIE</u>? That we can be gods ourselves, and do whatever we want, like petulant children in defiance and rebellion. Same lie told in the Garden. Leads to death, eternal separation from God.
- "There is a way that seems right to man, but its end is the way of death." (Proverbs 16:25)
- These judgments and warnings are frightening, and they are supposed to be!
 Should humble, sober, correct and hopefully save mankind, including us!
- Two woes now past. Third to come. First another interlude in chapter 10.

