

Revelation: A Study of End-Time Events

Lesson Five: Chapters 9 - 10

Overview:

In Chapter 9, we will see that the sounding of the fifth trumpet brings a horde of demons out of the Abyss (the bottomless pit, which is the abode of demons) taking possession of some type of physical creature. They are sent to torment those who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. A bizarre and terrifying description of these demon-possessed creatures is given.

The sounding of the 6th trumpet releases a literal army from the East numbering 200 million, with a description of modern day warfare that kills a third of mankind. We are given more insight into this army, their final destination, and the timing of their arrival, from Chapter 16. We are told that the “rest of mankind” did not repent at this time.

As we move into Chapter 10, John sees a mighty angel standing on land and sea, announcing that when the 7th trumpet is sounded, the mystery of God will be accomplished. John is told to eat the “little book.” As the Word of God, it is sweet as honey in his mouth, but the prophecies of judgment turn his stomach bitter.

Chapter 9: 5th & 6th Trumpets (More of God’s Judgment)

9:1-2

- 1) Notice the difference between this star and that mentioned in Rev. 8:10-11, which was a literal star (asteroid). “He” of v.2 signifies a personality.
- 2) What is identity of the “star that had fallen”?

Read Luke 10:17-18 This speaks of the fall of Satan in the angelic rebellion, which occurred prior to the creation of man. We know this because Genesis 3 tells of the “serpent” (Satan, identified as the “ancient serpent” in Rev. 12:9) tempting Eve. We’ll study this event further in Rev. 12.

- 3) The “Abyss” is “the bottomless pit--*Greek*, "the pit of the abyss"; the orifice of the hell where Satan and his demons dwell.¹

¹ (JFB) Jamieson, Faussett, Brown, A. R., A.M., *Commentary on Revelation*. "Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible". <<http://bible.crosswalk.com/Commentaries/JamiesonFaussetBrown/jfb.cgi?book=re&chapter=003>>. 1871. Public Domain.

9:3-4

- 1) First, smoke arose from the “abode of demons,” signifying their release. Then, “out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth.” Similar to the Egyptian plagues, locusts are a symbol of God’s judgment.
 - a) Read Exodus 10:3-4.
 - b) Read Luke 8:26-37 Note that the demon-possessed man was not free to do as he pleased. Also note that the demons begged Jesus not to send them back to the Abyss, but into a herd of pigs instead, implying that without a living “host” (human or animal), they would be forced back into the Abyss.
- 2) These demon-possessed creatures are told not to harm grass, plants or trees (the normal function of locusts), but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.
 - a) The 144,000 Jews have the seal of God on their foreheads, but all believers are sealed in the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14), which is a sign of ownership (purchased by Jesus Christ with His own blood: Rev.5:9). This is similar to the protection provided to the Hebrews during the Egyptian plagues. Read Exodus 12:12-13
 - b) We see in 16:2 that torment was only for those who bore the mark (seal) of the beast (Antichrist).

Read Rev. 16:2 The mark is a sign of ownership by the Antichrist and, therefore, by Satan himself. Those taking the mark will become demon possessed (Rev. 9:20).
- 3) Note: Because this follows the 7th seal, we know it is in the last half of the Tribulation, when Antichrist will be in control and the False Prophet will force everyone to take the mark of the beast, or be executed (Rev.13:16-18).

9:5-6

- 1) Five months is “the ordinary time in the year during which locusts continue their ravages... Cannot refer to an invading army (of men). For an army would kill, and not merely torment.”²

²Jamieson, Faussett, Brown, *Revelation*.

- 2) In reading Luke 8:26-39, we saw that the demon-possessed man was not free to do as he pleased. Here, because those taking the mark become demon possessed, they are not free to end their own lives.

9:7-12

- 1) Their appearance is not that of normal locusts, but of a completely unnatural creature. These are some type of demon-possessed creatures, living hosts for the demons coming up from the abyss. John was attempting to describe a creature he had never seen before, with language of his day.

Read Joel 2:1-10 A prophecy of this army in “the day of the Lord.”

- 2) Their king is Satan, the angel of the Abyss, called Abaddon in Hebrew and Apollyon in Greek, both meaning “destroyer.” He is the thief who has come to kill, steal and destroy (John 10:10).

9:13-16

- 1) In Rev. 6:8, we saw that a fourth of mankind will be killed when the “pale horse” is released. That would reduce today’s population of 6 billion to 4.5 billion. Another third would reduce the 4.5 to 3.0 billion. Whatever the population will be at that time, and considering that possibly a billion believers will be caught up in the Rapture, half the world’s population is in view here. However, many more millions will be killed by the other judgments in addition to these specified.
- 2) The area surrounding the Euphrates River is considered to be “the cradle of civilization”.
 - a) God takes us back to where it all started: Read Genesis 2:2-14
 - b) Later, the Euphrates was the eastern boundary of the Roman Empire. Today, it runs through modern day Iraq.
 - c) This ties in with Rev. 16:12-16 (Please read).

9:17-19

- 1) Note: Not to be confused with the locust-like creatures sent to torment; this is a real army.

- 2) These riders can be viewed as literal soldiers wearing something like breastplates.
- 3) The horses are obviously not literal horses, considering the description, but most likely picture future warfare as described by the Apostle John:
 - a) Their heads resembled heads of lions.
 - b) Out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur (symbolic of God's judgment: Sodom & Gomorrah, Gen. 19:24).
 - c) Their tails were like snakes having heads.

9:20-21

- 1) The "rest of mankind" refers to the rest of unredeemed mankind.
- 2) Their idols may be material possessions from which these are made.
- 3) The "magic arts" (*pharmakeia*) spoken of here "signifies the use of medicine, drugs, spells. In 'sorcery,' the use of drugs, whether simple or potent, was generally accompanied by incantations and appeals to occult powers."

Chapter 10: God's Kingdom Program - No More Delay!

10:1-4

- 1) The angel, as representative of Christ, reflects His glory and bears the insignia attributed in Revelation 1:15,16, 4:3, to Christ Himself.³
- 2) This book or scroll is not sealed, but only the words of the seven thunders, symbolic of the voice of God. Read Psalm 29:3

10:5-7

- 1) The seventh trumpet is not being sounded at this moment, but in Rev.11:15, which explains the mystery of God to be accomplished.
- 2) The 7th trumpet includes all of the remaining judgments through the end of the Great Tribulation.

³Jamieson, Faussett, Brown, *Revelation*.

10:8-11

- 1) This open book is the Word of God... Read Psalm 119:103
- 2) While the Word of God is sweet to the taste, the prophecies telling of divine judgments are bitter. We see similar language in Ezekiel 2:9;3:1-3, speaking of divine judgment.
- 3) This appears to be the now open seven-sealed scroll of judgment in Rev. 5:1. It may be the same book referenced in an angelic message given to the prophet, Daniel, which would be sealed until the time of the end. Read Daniel 12:5-10.

*Now what?
How will this lesson change the way you live?*

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