

## Revelation 9:1-21: The Trumpet Calls of the Fifth and Sixth Angels (Seventh Seal)

- A. Invasion, The Fifth Trumpet; Rev. 9:1-11
1. The falling star—represents an angel's moral fall (c.f. 12:4)
  2. This underlines God's sovereign ability to use even those who are evil to accomplish His purposes.
  3. Satan's fall—Luke 10:18; cf Rev. 20:1
  4. Abyss—place of evil and where evil entities are imprisoned (Rev 11:7; 17:8)
  5. "Locusts"—plagues in Egypt; like other trumpet calls;
    - a. Locusts: Human face; Tail like scorpion; horses prepared for battle, crowns of gold, women's hair, Lion's teeth, iron breastplates, wings sounded like thundering chariots rushing into battle.
    - b. Reference: Joel 1:6, 2:4—described as an invading army; Rev. 3:9-12 (eschatological invading army)
    - c. Not normal locusts: not harming plants; but hurting humans
    - d. Will not kill but inflict great torture.
    - e. Evil forces used to wreak havoc: God sets limits on intensity and the length of time.
  6. Those with God's seal will not be harmed—Purpose of the judgment is to turn people to repentance.
  7. "Abaddon"—subterranean place of the dead in OT: Job 31:12.
  8. "Apollyon"—*apollymi*; Greek word "to destroy"—ridicule Apollo—the archer god.
- B. A Parthian Invasion? Rev. 9:12-21
1. Voice from the golden altar—represents a further response to the prayers of the saints.
  2. Sixth trumpet—like sixth bowl: Dramatic: (Battle of Armageddon Rev. 16:12-16)—also involves kings from the East from across the Euphrates.
  3. Euphrates River—boundary between the Roman Empire and the Parthians.
    - a. Parthian Empire—began in 40BC with seizing of Jerusalem; Herod the king of Judea. Empire lasted for five centuries.
  4. God will use agents of judgment on a wicked world by stirring the Parthians.
  5. Sting in tails—Parthian archers riding up hills.
  6. Are these mounted troops the Parthians or horrific images that point to a demonic army; just as John saw the 144,000 at first glance—this army may turn out to be something different than the Parthians.
  7. Fire from their mouths—just like God's true prophets—exhibits power to exercise judgment on the world.
  8. Death of 1/3 of the world is judgment, but it is also mercy.

### Prophetic Visions/ Symbols

- Shake us from our complacency; not to make us feel comfortable.
- Locusts—literal, demons, or can we think in modern terms—Cobra helicopter?
- Christians do not need to fear Satan's evil empire—it's divided against itself—while the Church of Jesus Christ remains and grows.
- Christians flirting with compromise with the world should think twice, because the entire social order will be destroyed in the awful catastrophes of war; Christ alone is adequate security. God does not merely wait until Christ's return to act in history on behalf of justice.