

THE TRUMPETS



REV 8:6-13 *“6And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. 7The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. 8And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; 9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed. 10And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; 11 And the name of the star is called wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter. ¹²And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. ¹³And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!”*

“7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.”



This is the first of seven trumpet judgments. The last three trumpets are also called woes with the last woe containing the seven vials of wrath from God.

This first trumpet sounds, and fire and brimstone are cast onto the earth. One third of the trees on earth are burned up and all green grass.

Because of this hail and fire, trees and grass are destroyed - one-third of the vegetation of the planet is burned up during the great tribulation. *How* will this happen? Many wonder if it will happen through phenomenon we know today, like nuclear war, fallout, pollution, meteors, and so forth. These ideas are interesting and possible, but they should never obscure the essential truth: **God brings judgment**. He isn't a passive bystander. This is not "nature" taking its course.

God may use whatever *method* He desires to bring judgment, but people on earth *know* these events are from God, and do not think them to be merely natural disasters (**Revelation 16:9, and 16:11, Revelation 19:19**).

One way it could happen is through volcanic activities such as earthquakes and volcanoes. They are both a part of the geophysical earth. The earthquake in the 6th seal, could very well put in motion events to shower the earth with hot debris burning the grass and trees in the process. Joel points to this day of tribulation, and its purpose of bringing salvation to the lost.

Joel 2:30-32 *30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call."*

Revelation 8:8 *And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; 9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.*



Something like a great mountain: John carefully says that this is not an actual mountain (note the use of *like*), but it is a blazing mass as large as a mountain. It is common among some Bible teachers to take this *great mountain* as a symbol for a nation that will be judged. It is true that mountains are sometimes used as figures of governments or nations (**Jeremiah 51:25**). But in this context, *the symbol* doesn't make sense.

What does it mean that the great mountain is burning with fire? What does it mean that it was thrown into the sea? What does the sea symbolize? Who are the living creatures in the sea? What are the ships on the sea? What is their destruction a symbol of? All these questions make us say that the best solution is to see this as some literal mass of land, probably a meteor or asteroid, falling into the sea and bringing ecological disaster.

A third of the sea became blood: This disaster is a cataclysm, perhaps a meteor that crashes into the sea and results in great oceanic upheaval with residual pollution. Researchers today say that this sort of phenomenon has happened many times in the history of the earth, sometimes resulting in great ecological upheaval and disaster. Here, the result is that a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. The blood may be either the *cause* or the *effect* of the widespread death in the oceans of the world.

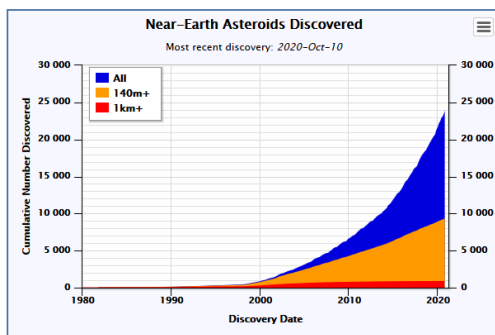
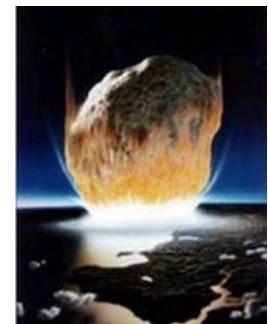


The sea may be a specific reference to the Mediterranean and not a reference to all oceans. For a person in the world John lived in, the Mediterranean Sea was the sea, and they really had little knowledge of other oceans.



Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

Great star The words used by John here are mevga *Megas* ajsthvr *Aster*, literally “Mega Asteroid” unlike the burning mountain which fell on the sea. This meteorite falls on 1/3 of the drinking water. This meteorite could very well be part of the first one, also being toxic in nature. This meteorite as it enters earth’s atmosphere could break up causing its toxicity to cover or hit the drinking waters. Areas such as the great lakes and Amazon river, could then carry the toxic waters downstream causing 1/3 of fresh water to become bitter.



Scientists today try to keep tabs of all “Near Earth Objects” (NEO’s) because the threat is real. This is a chart taken this week from NASA’S website.

An object half a mile across packs a one-million-megaton punch, enough to threaten the globe, but objects this large are rare. "Tunguska-class" objects, that is, those measuring about 195 feet (60m) across strike Earth far more frequently. Indeed, the class itself refers

to an object that exploded above the Siberian taiga in 1908 with an estimated force of 10 megatons or more.

Many men died. The result of this was the death of those who dwelt on the earth.

The third of the earth: This refers to probably two thirds of the northern hemisphere. For a comet to hit the earth and spread debris over a third of the earth it most likely will hit on the

hemisphere where most of the land is. The northern hemisphere is 50 percent land mass, and the southern hemisphere is only 25 percent land mass. A comet or meteorite would not spread debris over a third of the land surface of earth unless the debris was caught in two prevailing wind patterns. The Westerlies and Easterlies in the northern hemisphere fill the bill because these two wind patterns cover most of the northern hemisphere and about 1/3 of the landmass of the earth if you exclude the landmass that occupies the Doldrums. The northern hemisphere is also where most of the persecution of God's saints took place, so it would be the appropriate place to receive the judgments from the wrath of the Lamb.

“12And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. 13And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!”



Third of the sun: The results of the first three trumpets, results in what happens in the fourth. With the increase in volcanic activity and the burning of grass and trees, the earth being struck by two asteroids the billowing smokefills the outer atmosphere. These events could be limited to portion of the earth atmosphere causing 1/3 of the sky to be darkened. A great example is Mt. St. Helens, which caused the earth to appear pitch dark in the middle of the day as volcanic ash covered the sky. The events spoken about here are much greater than a single volcanic event. Another example are the fires in California right now that are blocking out the sun.

A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night: This does not describe a one-third lessening of light, but one-third of the day and night are plunged into absolute darkness. As Jesus said: ***“the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light”*** (Matthew 24:29).

Woe to the inhabitants of the earth: Because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet the angel’s woes are well founded, because one-third of the earth’s population will die in the next three trumpets. *The meaning of woe is passionate cry of grief or despair.* After Wormwood hits the earth it will throw up huge amounts of debris and smoke into the atmosphere so that the sun, moon, and sky become darkened on this third of the earth.

13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

Woe, Woe, Woe to the Inhabitants of the Earth The inhabitants of the earth as opposed to the inhabitants of Heaven. Those who trust in the Lord and die on the earth become inhabitants of Heaven.

Remaining blasts These first four trumpets all involve environmental catastrophes. The next two trumpets are God's judgments against man as opposed to the environment.

Observations on the first four trumpets.

These first four trumpets reveal the severity of God's judgment. He attacks all the ordinary means of subsistence, such as food and water; and He attacks all the ordinary means of comfort, and knowledge, such as light and the regular rhythm of days.

Man has come to see these aspects of the created order as impersonal, perpetual forces. During the great tribulation, God proclaims His Lordship through their agonizing disruption. We know the great humility that comes upon men in the midst of something like an earthquake, because they know that "nature" is not as reliable as they had thought. With these four trumpets, that effect will be multiplied greatly.

The first four trumpets also reveal the *mercy* of God's judgment; these are partial judgments striking only one-third and are meant to warn and lead a rebellious world to repentance before the final curtain. For now, God *s pares* more than He *smites*.

One thing is for certain, these things are going to happen and sooner than we may think.

Are we prepared for them if we are here on planet earth when it takes place?

Are you sharing your testimony with those that might be killed during this time?

Will your words keep someone out of an eternal hell?

We can make a difference individually and corporately as the body of Christ!

Time is short. Let your light shine while you can!

CHAPTER 9

REV 9:1-11

"¹And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. ²And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. ³And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. ⁵And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. ⁶ And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. ⁷And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. ⁸And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. ⁹And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. ¹⁰And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. ¹¹And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon."

The trumpet judgments in Revelation chapters 8 and 9 take place in the first half of the tribulation. The first four trumpet judgments involve catastrophes to the physical earth. Burning hail, asteroids and smoke devastate the earth in the four trumpet judgments of chapter 8. These plagues strike the earth at the direction of the "Two witnesses" in Jerusalem, calling down God's judgments. Following these physical judgments in chapter 8, spiritual judgments take place in the 5th and 6th trumpets in chapter 9.

In chapter 9, under the 5th trumpet, John describes beings emerging from the Abyss as locusts, who torment the lost for 5 months. Following this, in the 6th trumpet, John describes the release of four bound angels, who then allow 200 million horsemen to kill 1/3 of those left alive. John, reports what he literally sees. John describes events taking place in Heaven and on earth, both spiritual and physical. Here in the 9th chapter, he describes two groups of beings unlike anything seen on earth, locusts and horses and horsemen. Are these beings in the physical world or the spiritual world? This is one of the issues that need to be addressed in understanding this chapter.



Revelation 9:1 – *“Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.”*

Star fallen After the fifth angels sounds John sees a star fallen from heaven to earth. One of the hardest aspects in understanding Revelation is distinguishing between metaphor, literalism, and symbolism. In Revelation 8:10, after the Third Trump, John describes a falling star or a *falling star*, that poisons 1/3 of the drinking water. In **Revelation 8** the word was used in a literal sense. However, here the word “Star” is used in a metaphorical sense like “Sports star”, “Movie Star”. In **Revelation 12:4**, angels referred to symbolically as “Stars” being cast to earth.

The star from heaven is given a key to the bottomless pit. The meaning of “Star” here is a personification of an angel. This angel from Heaven has authority to open the bottomless pit. Some have argued this angel is Satan, since we see a star “Fallen.” The meaning here is one of **descent to accomplish the task assigned** to the angel, **not a fall in position.**

Key The key is the source of authority. This same angel seems to maintain the key of the bottomless pit, during the tribulation period. In **Revelation 20:1-2**, this same angel takes hold of Satan and binds him for 1000 years in the same bottomless pit.

Revelation 20:1 *“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.”*



Bottomless pit: The Greek word here is, *abussos*, also known as the “abyss” is a separate compartment from Hades. Hades is where the un-saved go after death (**Luke 16:23**). The “Abyss” seems to be prison for angelic beings. The demons dwelling in the man from Gadarenes, called “Legion” begged Jesus not to send them to the abyss before their time.

Luke 8:29-31 *“29 For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. 30 Jesus asked him, saying, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” because many demons had entered him. 31 And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.”*

Scripture lists two types of demons or fallen angels, one type has the freedom to operate in the physical earthly realms as specified in **Ephesians 2:2,6:12** and **Matthew 12:43-45**. They are over earthly kingdoms and vie for control of men. The second type are imprisoned demons which are restrained and held back. They are referred to in **2 Peter 2:4** and **Jude 6**, as being chained in darkness, reserved for the day of judgment. The word used by Peter was *tartarowv Tartaroo* known as “Tartaros”, distinct from Hades.

Ephesians 6:12 *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”*

2 Peter 2:4 *“For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell (Tartaroo – the deepest abyss of Hades; to incarcerate in internal torment) and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;”*

According to **Jude 6**, these angels left their first estate (**Genesis 6:2-7**) causing them greater judgment than the rest of angels. These imprisoned demons are released in the 5th and 6th trumpet. They plague men rather than the physical earth.

Although “Tartaros” is not directly called the Abyss (a[busso]), both are clearly identified as a prison for fallen angels. So, it’s very likely the judgments of chapter 9, both the 5th and 6th trumpets are the release of these imprisoned demonic forces upon the earth.

The source of demons

When God created the heavens and the earth, he created living spiritual “Freewill” beings known as angels. Amongst the highest order of angels were the Cherubim, which surround the throne of God. One of these Cherubim, known as Lucifer, chose through freewill to rebel against authority and establish himself as God (**Ezekiel 28:14-16, Isaiah 14:12-14**).

Along with Lucifer, 1/3 of the angelic host joined in his rebellion against God (**Revelation 12:4**). These fallen angels, known today as demons, operate in the world today until judgment. Satan and his fallen angels test those who dwell on the earth. They oppose God’s plan and attempt to keep the world in darkness. Their sole desire is destruction of man’s soul in an attempt at revenge against God.

Revelation 9:2-4 *"2 And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So, the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. 3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads."*

Smoke arose John reports what he sees, to the reader. The smoke arising corresponds to the events taking place in the fourth trumpet, when the darkness (**Revelation 8:12- 13**) blocked a third of the sun, moon, and stars. Joel referred to this day of darkness and gloom. (**Joel 2:2a**) *"A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, the like of whom has never been nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations."*

During this period, the volcanic smoke from underneath the earth signals the visible signs of this judgment.

Locusts Next John describes a type of "Locusts" which are unlike any being yet known to man. These beings have one purpose and function to torment humanity. The question is, are these locusts in the physical or spiritual realm? John is describing what he sees, in Revelation he describes the physical and spiritual realms. His descriptions offer vivid real pictures in both realms.



There are different views according to the literal understanding of scripture just what is taking place in the 5th trumpet.

John could very well be describing physical locusts dwelling in the sub terrain earth, now released for the sole purpose to torment lost humanity for 5 months. John is describing what he is seeing in the spiritual realm. These locusts are demonic and are literally taking place in the spiritual realm but not seen in the physical.

Power...as scorpions These beings described as locusts were limited in what they could do while they were on the earth. John compares their effect to that of a scorpion. Scorpion stings can cause death, but for the most are more painful than deadly. John is comparing the effect they will have to the power of scorpions.

Commanded The fact that these “locusts” are commanded and have a leader over them lends argument to them being spiritual *and* physical in nature. They are also able to distinguish the saved from the lost, those who have God’s seal will not be stung by these creatures.

Seal of God The identity of those sealed would include the 144,000 and those who have come to Christ during this period of the tribulation. The Bible is clear when someone finds Christ they are “Sealed” until the day of redemption. (Ephesians 1:13, 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:22).



John was seeing things from the future. It was difficult for him to put into words what he was seeing. If he had never seen an airplane or helicopter it could look like a scorpion. Especially if it was a helicopter firing ammunition. It would look like fire coming from their mouth and tail. Even the breastplates mentioned in verse 9 could look like the sides of an aircraft. Whatever, or whoever these locusts that look like scorpions are, they were given limited power. They could only hurt people that did not have the seal of God in their foreheads. This means that any Christian alive at this time cannot be hurt by this being, whether real locusts or a machine. Thank God for the protection of His blood and salvation to the saints at this time!

There is much conjecture about UFO’s. Many have said they have seen them. Whoever or whatever they are, they are demonic. Satan will use any deception he can to bring fear to the human race. The blood of Jesus applied to our lives will protect us from anything Satan can try to throw at us! During this time mankind will have so much fear they shall seek death but will not find it. They shall desire to die, but death shall flee from them. These beings whether mechanical or demonic in nature are only given the power to torment those that do not have the seal of God in their foreheads. The forehead is where our thinking is. This is the root of our soul and our spirit.

If we have Christ, He is in the center of our thoughts, or forehead. Those without Christ do not have Him in their thoughts. They are not sealed.

Authority The locusts operate under God’s authority. They are only permitted to torment the lost. What would be the purpose of this torment? Even in torment, the purpose and plan of the tribulation is evident. The locusts are only permitted to sting and not kill the lost. Here, God extends His mercy to those who are still alive to choose Christ and avoid an eternity of pain. The lives of the saved will be made evident to the lost, those who know Christ will not be under the torment of the lost. Five months of torment is short when compared to eternity. The whole purpose of the torment is to help the lost make a decision for their eternity.

God, for His own reasons is not allowing any unsealed person to escape this torment. I think this is the ultimate tough love program. I believe God is allowing demons to give men of flesh a five-month taste of the Lake of Fire. It is given in love so they will choose not to go there for eternity. Later they will have to make a choice between taking the mark of the Beast and going to this place of torment for eternity or choosing God's Son and losing their physical lives so their soul will be saved for eternity. All mankind will still have another chance to come to Jesus and not choose to go to the place of eternal torments.

The king over these beings is named Abaddon. The name Abaddon actually means the destroyer. These locusts are led by the destroying angel who is probably Satan's commander of the dimension called the underworld. These locusts ascend out of the same pit the angel in verse two opened with his key. The five months of this torment will be a literal hell on earth. How much better it is to know the Lord and not suffer these horrible conditions. This is not a fairy tale.

This is coming in the very near future. Let us persuade all that we can while we can to accept Christ before this future of torment awaits them!