

Things to Come

#14 The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets

(Rev. 9:1-21)

I. Introduction

With the blowing of the 5th trumpet, the judgment shifts away from the physical realm of life to the spiritual realm. Satan is raging a massive war against God, His holy angels and His people.

- A. Satan has a special hatred for Israel (1 Chron. 21:1) and the NT church (1 Pet. 5:8).
- B. He assaults believers before God (Rev. 12:10, Zech. 3:1)
- C. During the second half of the tribulation, he unleashes a torrid assault against the whole human race.

II. The Fifth Trumpet (vs. 1-11): The First Woe

- A. The pit is unlocked
 - 1. "The star from heaven" – this is an angelic being, likely Satan himself.

A word about the devil

This is an actual being, not just a force of evil. Satan has personality, will and intentionality.

His origin:

- **He started as an anointed cherub (Eze. 28:12-19)**
- **His rebellion (with other angels) caused him to be cast out of heaven (Isa. 14:12-15)**

His work:

- **He is a powerful enemy of God (Eph. 6:12) and loves to blind the eyes of men (2 Cor. 4:3-4)**
- **He is shrewd and cunning (Rev. 12:9) and uses those evil skills to tempt the hearts of men (1 Thes. 3:5).**
- **He is wicked (1 John 3:8) and despises the Word of God (Mark 4:15)**
- **He loves to harass (1 Pet. 5:8) and accuse the believers (Rev. 12:10)**

His "location":

He is fallen, but still has access to the throne room. (Rev. 12:10). And he moves around the world seeking to destroy believers.

He is a master at disguise (See 2 Cor. 11:13-15). He does not have a red suit and carry a pitchfork.

He works with demons (unclean spirits, evil spirits) – the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places (Eph. 6:12)

Some are free and roam the earth seeking the destruction of God’s plan and His people (Luke 13:16).

Some are chained awaiting God’s judgment (see Jude 6, 2 Pet. 2:4).

His ultimate demise: His head will ultimately be bruised (Gen. 3:15) and he will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone (Matt. 24:51, Rev. 20:10).

2. The bottomless pit is opened and demons are released

A word about hell

Sheol: Paradise (see Luke 16:22-25)

- **Note what Jesus did after His death: Eph. 4:8-10**
- **Those who trusted in the coming Messiah went to Paradise with Christ.**

Sheol: Hades

- **Peter calls it Tartarus: 2 Pet. 2:4 (he was using a term out of Greek mythology)**
- **Jesus used a term for hell out of the Jewish vernacular (Gehenna). Refers to a ravine south of Jerusalem where Hebrew parents had sacrificed children to the Ammonite god (2 Kings 16:3, 2 Chron. 28:1-3). It became the city dump that burned day and night – “the lake of fire”**
- **Hades is the present day hell. Unsaved souls go there, suffer in torment until the time of the Great White Throne Judgment**
- **It is also the “holding cell” for some demons.**

The final hell

- **A place of outer darkness, everlasting punishment. (Matt 13:42)**
 - **The final “home” for Satan, his demons, and the unsaved from all ages (including those who survive the Tribulation). See Rev. 20:10**
- a. These vile demons take on the form of locusts. They are swarming with their destruction. For 5 months, they inflict incredible pain likened to that of a scorpion bite. They cannot touch those who have the seal of God on their foreheads (see Rev. 3:13 and Eze. 9:4-6)
 - b. These demonic creatures “appear like” horses prepared for battle: their mission is to hurt people.
 - c. The angel of the abyss: Abaddon (means destruction or ruin) Apollyon (means “I destroy”). This is either Satan himself or an emissary of his choosing.

III. The Sixth Trumpet (vs. 13-12): The Second Woe

- A. The river Euphrates

Runs from the mountains in Turkey to the Persian Gulf. Location of the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:14), was the eastern boundary of the Promised Land (Gen. 15:18), the enemies of God will cross over this river to begin the battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16:12-16)

- B. The Four Angels: demonic forces that will serve as instruments of divine judgment.
- C. They will kill a third of the world's population. 7.4 Billion people on earth right now.
- D. The armies of the horsemen: 200 million strong
Note that their colors are features of hell (see 14:10, 19:20)
- E. The rest of mankind – does not repent
 1. They continue to worship demons and idols (see Deut. 4:28, Ps. 115:5-7)
 2. They are murderers (Ex. 20:13)
 3. They participate in sorcery (a word that means pharmaceuticals)
 4. They are immoral ("Porneia")
 5. They are guilty of thefts

IV. So What?

Consider Eph. 5:3-7 ³ *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.* ⁴ *Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.* ⁵ *For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.* ⁶ *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.* ⁷ *Therefore do not be partners with them."*

Who are we partners with?