

9:1-6. The events after the sounding of the **fifth . . . trumpet** are given considerable explanation, implying that this is a most important step in God’s progressive and increasing judgments on the earth. Because of the **he** in verse 2 and “king” in verse 11, the **star** that fell **to the earth** was a person rather than a fragment of a star (cf. Isa. 14:12-17; Luke 10:18). Even in modern terminology it is customary to speak of an unusual athlete or performer as a star. This star, probably representing Satan cast out of heaven at the beginning of the Great Tribulation (Rev. 12:9), **was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss** (“bottomless pit,” KJV). The “Abyss” (*abyssos*) is the home of demons (cf. Luke 8:31; Rev. 9:11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1, 3; in Rom. 10:7 it is translated “deep”). Satan will be confined for a thousand years in the Abyss during the reign of Christ on earth (Rev. 20:1-3).

Here the star (Satan) used his key to allow demons in the Abyss to come out and afflict the earth. Visually this event was represented as a great **smoke**, darkening the **sky** and the **sun**. **Out of the smoke** came creatures called **locusts** with the deadly sting of **scorpions**. While they were harmless to natural vegetation and trees, they stung **people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads**.

In chapter 7 the 144,000 of Israel were sealed, and protection from the plague was extended to all who knew the Lord in that day (cf. Eph. 1:13-14; 2 Tim. 2:19). In the Old Testament locusts were a fearful plague, for they were able to reduce the land to starvation by eating up all green vegetation (Ex. 10:12-20; Joel 1:4-7). These locusts, however, did not eat vegetation, but had the power to torment people **for five months** (cf. Rev. 9:10). Thus they might be demons who appeared in the form of locusts. This is confirmed by the fact that they came from the Abyss, the home of demons (Luke 8:31). Their demonic control over people was such, however, that though the victims desired to die they could not take their own lives.

9:7-11. The description of the **locusts** compared to **horses prepared for battle** is awesome: **human faces . . . crowns of gold . . . women’s hair . . . lions’ teeth, ironlike breastplates, and wings** that sounded like horse-drawn **chariots rushing into battle**.

Obviously John was describing what he saw but did not interpret each characteristic. The picture is one of Satan’s awesome supernatural power and the demon world especially in relation to unbelievers.

Unlike the previous judgments which apparently were short in time this judgment extended for five months (v. 10; cf. v. 5). This is important as it refutes clearly the notion that all these judgments will occur in a brief span of time immediately before the second coming of Christ.

The demons had a ruler **over them** whose **Hebrew** name is **Abaddon** and whose **Greek** name is **Apollyon**. Both words mean “destroyer.” Though Satan is sometimes portrayed as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14), here Satan and his demons are seen for what they really are, destroyers of people. This judgment confirms what was already intimated in preceding judgments, that the Great Tribulation, as Christ described it, will be a time of “great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again” (Matt. 24:21).

Part 5–The Trumpet Judgments:
The Earth and Heavens Judged
Revelation 8



Growing up in Iowa it was a normal occurrence to hear tornado sirens and to spot tornadoes from time to time. One of the unique features of a tornado is the silence and calm that comes right before a tornado strikes. One summer our family was in our backyard when a large storm came through and we used the strong winds to fly some homemade kites(yes, I know that was not intelligent!) and just before the heavy winds hit the sky changed colors and there was a silence and calm. At the time I thought this was pretty awesome, but if I were to be in this situation again I would find it ominous and possibly unnerving.

This is the picture we find at the beginning of the trumpets as there is silence in heaven for a half hour and there seems to be a general, ominous peace and silence just before God unleashes divine wrath and judgment upon the earth. Unlike the seal judgments, the trumpet judgments will all bear the mark of supernatural origins.

✚ **THE _____ BEFORE THE STORM (1-7)**

✚ **THE _____ OF THE STORM (8-13)**

- ✚ **Trumpet #1—Judgment upon the _____**
- ✚ **Trumpet #2—Judgment upon the _____**
- ✚ **Trumpet #3—Judgment upon the _____**
- ✚ **Trumpet #4—Judgment upon the _____**

✚ **THE _____ SURROUNDING THE STORM**

- ✚ **How can a _____ God bring such judgments on earth?**
- ✚ **What is God’s _____ for destroying His creation?**
- ✚ **How can a _____ God save anyone?**

Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:4-6

Preparation for Next Sunday's Message
Part 6- The Trumpet Judgments: Supernatural Creatures Unleashed
Revelation 9

Monday and Wednesday

Read Revelation 9:1-12 and describe these hideous creatures...for extra credit draw a picture of what they might look like!

Written description of the creatures...

Pictorial description of the creatures...



Write down your thoughts as you consider the events of verses 1-12


Tuesday and Thursday

Read Revelation 9:13-21

Write a description of the scene described in the 6th trumpet. Once again for extra credit draw a picture of the scene.

Written description of the scene...

Pictorial description of the scene...



Write down your thoughts as you consider the events of verses 1-12

Read Revelation 9 in its entirety and write down your final thoughts as you consider this time of great wrath and judgment.
