

Revelation 9: Fifth and Sixth Trumpets

8.2-11.19: Seven Trumpets

Lex talionis – the law of retribution: 16.6; 18.6

8.2-6: Trumpet Judgments Begin

Seven archangels in Apocrypha – (1 Enoch 20.2-8)

Seven priests blowing trumpets – Joshua 6.4-8; 1 Chronicles 15.24; Nehemiah 12.41

Trumpets will announce *the eschaton* – Mathew 24.31; 1 Corinthians 15.52; 1 Thessalonians 4.16

The Golden Censer – 1 Chronicles 9.29; an open-topped pan made of gold (1 Kings 7.50)

‘Smoke of the incense’ – the cloud of smoke that filled the Holy Place; Levit. 1.9; Eph. 5.2; Phil. 4.18

8.5 – the coals become a symbol of the fire of God’s judgment (Ezekiel 10.2-7)

8.7-12: The First Four Trumpets

1. Hail and fire mixed with blood (Seventh plague, Exodus 9.13-35)
2. ‘Something like’ a huge mountain of fire was cast into the sea (First plague, Exodus 7.14-21)
3. Huge star – ‘Wormwood’ - blazing like a torch, fell from heaven (a symbolic, bitter shrub [Prov. 5.4])
4. 1/3 of Sun, Moon, and Stars are darkened (Ninth plague, Exodus 10.21-23)

9.1-11: The Fifth Trumpet

‘a star fallen from the sky’ – a symbol for an angel (Judges 5.20; Job 38.7; 1 Enoch 88.1)

A good angel or an evil angel? This angel is given a key to the shaft of the abyss by God

‘abyss’ – originally meant the fathomless depths of the ocean (Genesis 7.11; 8.2). It became an idiom for the place of the dead (Psalm 63.9; 71.20; Romans 10.7; Luke 8.31); Revelation 11.7; 17.7; 20.1-3

9.2-6: Locust Plague

‘smoke’ - Joel 2.30: ‘blood and fire and billows of smoke’ will designate the Day of YHWH

Exodus 10.1-20 – the Eighth Plague; also Joel 1.2-2.11

Are these locusts?

‘These are demons in the guise of locusts, for the king is Abaddon, the angel of the abyss’ (Aune 527)

They are commanded by God:

1. They *exousia* – ‘were given authority’ by God!

Describe these demonic locusts: Joel 1.6-7; 2.4-5; see 9.7-10

Scorpion – a metaphor for terrible punishment – 1 Kings 12.11, 14; Luke 10.19

2. God told them not to consume vegetation, but . . .

Directed at those who have rejected God’s call to repentance (9.20-21)

3. Do not kill (people), but torment them for five months

Basanismos: ‘Torment’ – 11.10; 14.9-11; 18.7-15; also Ezekiel 32.24, 30

9.11: The King of the Demonic Swarm

Abaddon, from the Hebrew word *abad*, ‘to destroy’ – Destroyer

Maybe antichrist (2. Thess. 2.3); maybe an ‘angel of death’ (2 Baruch 21.23), likely another

9.12-21: The Sixth Trumpet

‘horns of the golden altar’ – Exodus 30.1-10; 37.25 – protuberances at the four corners signifying the strength and power of YHWH

‘release the four angels’ – remember 7.1

‘Bound’ – as Satan is bound by Christ (Mark 3.27)

Euphrates – the eastern boundary of the Roman Empire in the 1C; the source of 3 invasions of Israel

‘prepared by God’ - a term used for God’s predestined will

What is their purpose?

Two ‘myriads of myriads’ – 200,000,000

1C Roman army composed of 25 legions + auxiliary = 200,000 – this is 1,000X that number

What comes from the mouths of these lion-like creatures? Job 41.19-20; Genesis 19.28; Ps. 11.6

9.20-21: How do the survivors respond?

Deuteronomy 32.16-17: ‘They made Him jealous with their foreign gods and angered him with their detestable idols. They sacrificed to demons, which are not God’

Vice lists – Romans 1.29-31; 13.13; 1 Cor. 5.9-11; Galatians 5.19-21; Ephesians 4.25-32, 5.3-5