

October 15, 2023
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Revelation: The Seven Trumpets // S3E2 – The Fifth Trumpet
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Revelation 9:1-12

The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. ² When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. ³ And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. ⁴ They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵ They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes. ⁶ During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them. ⁷ The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. ⁸ Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. ⁹ They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. ¹⁰ They had tails with stingers, like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months. ¹¹ They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer). ¹² The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.

KEY WORD: SOVEREIGNTY

The Fallen Star: The angel of the Abyss is identified with Satan himself, depicting his role as the destroyer and opponent of God's people and purposes.

- **Vs. 1** The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.
 - **Luke 10:18:** "He (Jesus) replied, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.'" NIV 1984¹

The Abyss is a place where demons are held in captivity.

- **Vs. 2** When he opened the **Abyss**, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the **Abyss**.
 - **Luke 8:31:** In the account of Jesus casting out demons from a man into a herd of pigs, the demons beg Jesus not to order them to go into the **abyss**.

Main Points

1. **Angels have assignments, demons have limits.**
2. **God's people have a protector.**

1. Angels have assignments demons have limits:

- **Vs. 1** The **fifth angel** sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.
 - Each angel in the book of Revelation has an assignment to which they are aware of and obedient to.
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- **Demonic Limitations:** The demon locust seemed all powerful, but they were limited.
 - **Vs. 4** They demons were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree.
 - **Vs. 5** The demons were not allowed to kill people but only to torture them for five months.
 - **Satan loses his keys: Rev. 20:1-3** An angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the abyss and a great chain in his hand, binds Satan for a thousand years, showing that God's power far exceeds Satan's.

2. **God's people have a protector. Vs. 4** They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the **seal of God on their foreheads.**²

- **Rev 12:11** They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

Practical Takeaway: Repent, **Prepare**, Trust and Share.

- **Prepare: Luke 12:35-36** - "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him."

Questions for small groups:

1. **Discussing Sovereignty:** How do you see God's sovereignty displayed in Revelation 9:1-12, especially considering the limitations placed on the demonic forces? How does recognizing God's ultimate control impact your perspective on worldly chaos?
2. **Understanding the Abyss:** The Abyss is mentioned as a place where demons are held captive. How does this notion of a controlled and contained evil contrast with popular cultural depictions of evil forces?
3. **Reflection on Protection:** Reflecting on verse 4, where God's people are protected from harm by a seal on their foreheads, how does this assurance of protection amidst chaos influence your current approach to challenges and fears in your own life?
4. **Exploring Angelic and Demonic Activities:** In light of the mention that angels have assignments and demons have limits, discuss how you currently understand God's assignment in your personal life?
5. **Engaging with Symbolism:** Revelation is rich with symbolism. How does the imagery of locusts with characteristics like crowns, human faces, and scorpion tails (verses 7-10) serve to communicate deeper truths about evil, destruction, and spiritual warfare?

¹ **Isaiah 14:12:** "How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!" NIV 1984

Revelation 12:9: "The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him." NIV 1984

² The seal of God was placed on the foreheads of the 144,000 in Rev. 7:2-4