

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study #44: Fifth Trumpet's Plague Stings Like Scorpions
Revelation 9:1 - 12
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Note: In this study we will not have time to analyze why the seven trumpets do not represent the Turkish wars and the fall of the Ottoman Empire. We will have to look at this briefly in the next study.

Remember the seven trumpets are the same event as the seven last plagues. The seven trumpets of Revelation 8 and the seven last plagues of Revelation 16 complement each other. When you line them up together, they reveal a complete picture. In general, the seven last plagues in Revelation 16 give us information of WHAT happens, but the same plagues described after the seven trumpets blow give us details like WHEN, WHERE, WHY, and HOW. These trumpets also explain the CAUSE and EFFECT of the plagues.

As we learned in our previous studies, the seven last plagues will last for one year based on Revelation 18:8.

Summary of the first four plagues comparing Seven Plagues and Seven Trumpets

Revelation 16: Seven Last Plagues (What happened) – EFFECT	Revelation 8: Seven Trumpets (How it happened) - CAUSE
First Plague - Verse 2: “ fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men”	First Trumpet – Verse 7: “ hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth... ” 1/3 trees and all green grass burned up
Second Plague – Verse 3: “Sea (Ocean) became as the blood of a dead man : and every living soul died in the sea.”	Second Trumpet – Verses 8, 9: “ a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood... ” 1/3 sea creatures and ships destroyed
Third Plague – Verse 4: “ rivers and fountains of waters ; and they became blood.”	Third Trumpet – Verses 10, 11: “fell a great star (Wormwood) from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters... ” many men die from bitter undrinkable water.
Fourth Plague – Verse 8: “And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.”	Fourth Trumpet – Verse 12: “fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon ”

Easy way to remember the first four last plagues based on Revelation 14:7.

Revelation 14:7

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made **heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.**

What is affected in the first four plagues are the same things that are found in the first angels message – almost in the exactly same order of last part Revelation 14:7:

1. earth 2. sea 3. foundation of waters 4. heavens

After John sees the devastating scenes of the first, second, third, and fourth trumpets of Revelation chapter 8 that will cause massive calamity on this earth, what did he see and hear next before he sees the fifth angel blow his trumpet?

Revelation 8:13

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. The three “woes” in Revelation 8:13 are the climatic events after the next three angels blow their trumpets. Trumpet five is woe one. Trumpet six is woe two. And Trumpet seven is woe number three.

The three woes are NOT symbolic but literal events described using metaphors or similes to describe a literal event. **A metaphor uses a descriptive word to describe the characteristics of the literal things or events. In other words, a metaphor is a figure of speech. Similes uses words “like” or “as” to make comparisons.**

Today we only have time to look at the first woe.

What did John see in vision after the angel blows the fifth trumpet, woe number one?

Revelation 9:1

1 And 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**.

The “star” that fell from heaven in the first woe is identified as “him”. So we know that the star is a literal being that is given the key to the bottomless pit.

Who in the Bible is a “star” that fell from heaven?

Isaiah 14:12

12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Luke 10:18

18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Who fell along with Satan?

Revelation 12:9

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

The star in the first woe is a description of Satan who is given the key to the bottomless pit. Revelation 9:11 confirms that Satan is the evil angel who is given the key to the bottomless pit.

Revelation 9:11

11 And 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**.

Abaddon (Hebrew) = a destroying angel - Strong's Dictionary

Apollyon (Greek) = a destroyer (that is, Satan) – Strong's Dictionary

Satan is the one who fell from heaven because of his rebellion against God. Satan hates ALL of God's creation.

As a thief, what is Satan's main objective? What does Jesus say?

John 10:10

10 The thief cometh not, but for to **steal, and to kill, and to destroy**: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

“The power and malice of Satan and his host might justly alarm us, were it not that we may find shelter and deliverance in the superior power of our Redeemer. **We carefully secure our houses with bolts and locks to protect our property and our lives from evil men; but we seldom think of the evil angels who are constantly seeking access to us, and against whose attacks we have no method of defense.** If permitted, they can distract our minds, disorder, torment our bodies, destroy our possessions and our lives. **Their only delight is in misery and destruction.** Fearful is the condition of those who resist the divine claims and yield to Satan's temptations until God gives them up to the control of evil spirits. But those who follow Christ are ever safe under his watchcare. Angels that excel in strength are sent from Heaven to protect them. The wicked one cannot break through the guard which God has stationed about his people.” Ellen White, The Spirit Of Prophecy, Volume 4, p. 336

Satan is the evil destroying angel that is given the key to the bottomless pit.

What is the bottomless pit?

Bottomless (Greek) = abyss or **immeasurable depth**.

Pit (Greek) = “a hole in the ground (dug for obtaining or holding water or other purposes), that is, a cistern or well; **figuratively an abyss (as a prison)**: - well, pit.”

When Satan deceived Eve, and Adam and Eve sinned against God, sin entered into this world. From that time forward until Jesus comes again Satan and his evil angels have had full access to this world and its universe. Simply the bottomless pit is this earth and the immeasurable access that Satan and his evil demons have on this earth. Even though Satan has immeasurable access he is not given permission to destroy everyone on this planet.

Like a figurative abyss or prison, there are limits and constraints that God places on Satan and his evil demons. They are confined to the invisible realm. They can impersonate and possess people now, but they are not allowed to reveal themselves physically in their fullness.

This “prison” of constraints are lifted during the fifth trumpet, when God gives Satan the key to the bottomless pit. Satan and his demon will be allowed to make themselves visible in their fullness during the fifth trumpet.

Currently, Satan and his demons are the unseen enemy of souls.

Ephesians 6:12

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

What does Satan do when he is given the key to the bottomless pit?

Revelation 9:2-3

2 And 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.

3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was **given power**, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

In the fifth trumpet, Satan is given a key. This key is God’s permission to Satan and his evil angels to wreak havoc on this planet when the fifth trumpet sounds. This is the reason why it is called a woe.

When Satan, the Destroyer, opens the bottomless pit, John describes that he sees smoke and fire come out of this pit like a great furnace and locusts coming out of this bottomless pit in which they were **given** power as scorpions.

John in the plague of the fifth trumpet is not talking about literal insects of locust, but he is describing an army coming out of the pit with the power to sting victims like scorpions. Satan is the commander of this army and his demons are as numerous as a swarm of locusts. This army of demons have power and deadly sting like scorpions.

Visible and Darkness

Remember during the fifth trumpet Satan’s evil army is let loose from the invisible realm. They are now allowed to make themselves visible by the billions! Like a literal swarm of billions of locusts will look like smoke from a distance, they will be as dark thick smoke that will be so dense that the “sun and the air are darkened.” So during the fifth trumpet the world will also be plunged into darkness.

What is Satan and his army of his evil demons given permission to do during the plague of the fifth trumpet? Also what were they not permitted to do?

Revelation 9:4-6

4 And 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.**

5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented (**Gk: torture - pain**) 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.

Satan and his demons are not permitted to hurt the earth during the plague of the fifth trumpet. They are not only given permission to make themselves visible, but they are given permission to torture ALL people living at the time who do not have the seal of God. Remember, all those who are not sealed with the seal of the living God have the mark of the beast. These are those who rejected God's invitation of mercy. During the plague of the fifth trumpet the wicked are physically and literally tortured by Satan and his demons. They are allowed to strike them like scorpions, but they are not allowed to kill them. They will be suffering from an extreme amount of pain with no mercy! They will desire death, but will not be able to die. They will see how much the evil leader that they chose truly hates them.

Since the wicked will be tortured like the sting of a scorpion, what can the sting of a scorpion cause?

For example, one of the world's most lethal scorpions is known as the Indian Red Scorpion that is found throughout most of India, eastern Pakistan and the eastern lowlands of Nepa. The venom from their sting can cause "severe pain, vomiting, sweating and convulsions. The truly dangerous symptoms though affect the heart and lungs with pulmonary oedema (fluid in the lungs) being the major cause of death. This occurs within 24 hours of the sting." - <https://www.planetdeadly.com/animals/worlds-dangerous-scorpions>. They will feel like they are drowning!

The sting of the Devil and his evil demons will be much more severe than the sting of an Indian Red Scorpion!

How long are Satan and his demons given permission to torture the wicked during the plague of the fifth trumpet? (go back to Revelation 9:5)

Revelation 9:5

5 And 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.

Since the plagues of the seven trumpets are literal the context of time is also literal. The wicked will be tortured like scorpions for five months! This plague will be extremely wicked; you see why God calls it a woe!

Even though Satan and his army of demons are the ones afflicting the pain, he will lie to the wicked and tell them that God is doing it. Satan will be torturing the wicked, but make it appear that he is an angel of light!

How is Satan's army of evil demons described in the plague of the fifth trumpet?

Revelation 9:7-12

7 And 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.

8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as *the teeth* of lions.

9 And 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.

- 10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power *was* to hurt men five months.
- 11 And 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.
- 12 One woe is past; *and*, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

Those who have been sealed or marked with the seal of the living God which will not be touched by Satan and his evil demons during this time. They will be protected.

Sadly, the wicked who have chosen traditions and imaginations of men over the commandments of God will be tortured by the one who they have ultimately chosen to worship.

How does that the plague of the fifth trumpet in Revelation 9 compare to the fifth plague in Revelation 16? Remember in general the seven last plagues let us know what happened, the effect and the seven trumpets tell us how it happened, the cause.

Revelation 16: Seven Last Plagues (What happened) - EFFECT	Revelation 8: Seven Trumpets (How it happened) - CAUSE
<p>Fifth Plague –</p> <p>Revelation 16:10-11 10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, 11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.</p>	<p>Fifth Trumpet –</p> <p>Revelation 9:2-5 2 And 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. 3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 And 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 5 And 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.</p>

Remember the plagues that come from the first four trumpets have a direct impact first on the earth, second, the sea; third, the foundation of waters; fourth, the heavens (sun, moon, and stars). The plague of the fifth trumpet has a direct impact on all the wicked in Babylon!

What is the second woe (sixth plague) that the sixth trumpet blows? To be continued...

The study of Revelation and understanding these plagues is to prepare you and not scare you. It is obvious from what we have been studying it is going to be a very trying time and a time of great devastation. Again friend, we are living in preparation time now. Don't you want to be a part of that number who are sealed and able to stand during these last day plagues and the coming of Jesus? Obey ALL of God's Word and His commandments – NOW. Now is the time to prepare. Now is the time to give your life totally to Jesus Christ. When the trumpets blow and these last day plagues hit this earth, it will be too late. Now is the time. Jesus is pleading with us all. Be ready. Allow the Holy Spirit to take total control of your life now, so you can be ready. Jesus loves you friend. That is why He has revealed all these things in the book of Revelation to us.

There is NO Middle Class

“No one can occupy a neutral position; there is no middle class, who neither love God nor serve the enemy of righteousness. Christ is to live in His human agents and work through their faculties and act through their capabilities. Their will must be submitted to His will; they must act with His Spirit. Then it is no more they that live, but Christ that lives in them. He who does not give himself wholly to God is under the control of another power, listening to another voice, whose suggestions are of an entirely different character. Half-and-half service places the human agent on the side of the enemy as a successful ally of the hosts of darkness. When men who claim to be soldiers of Christ engage with the confederacy of Satan, and help along his side, they prove themselves enemies of Christ. They betray sacred trusts. They form a link between Satan and the true soldiers, so that through these agencies the enemy is constantly working to steal away the hearts of Christ's soldiers.” Ellen White, Thoughts From The Mt. Of Blessing, p. 94

“It is in this life that we are to separate sin from us, through faith in the atoning blood of Christ. Our precious Saviour invites us to join ourselves to Him, to unite our weakness to His strength, our ignorance to His wisdom, our unworthiness to His merits. God's providence is the school in which we are to learn the meekness and lowliness of Jesus. The Lord is ever setting before us, not the way we would choose, which seems easier and pleasanter to us, but the true aims of life. It rests with us to co-operate with the agencies which Heaven employs in the work of conforming our characters to the divine model. None can neglect or defer this work but at the most fearful peril to their souls. Ellen White, Great Controversy, p. 623