

## 20211024 – THE FIFTH TRUMPET AND FIRST WOE

Sunday AM – Revelation 9:1-12

### I. THE STAGE IS SET

- A. The time has come and only one description is accurate REV. 8:13
1. Webster's 1828 – "Grief; sorrow; misery; a heavy calamity."
    - a. Think about each of those words – we take them too lightly
    - b. Grief
      - i. I like Charlie Brown, but "good grief" is not possible
      - ii. Grief results from a gut-wrenching MEANINGFUL loss
    - c. Sorrow
      - i. Must have a different meaning than loss or grief
      - ii. 2 COR. 7:10 – "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."
      - iii. A world that knows it's caught but still unrepentant!
    - d. Misery
      - i. I had a virus once and probably said I was miserable
      - ii. We should be careful in the way we use words
      - iii. Where agony is physical, misery is emotional
    - e. Calamity
      - i. Not just an incident of misery-causing destruction
      - ii. But a HEAVY one (according to the definition of woe)
  2. There are the seven angels with the seven trumpets
    - a. As they sound a judgment is poured out upon the earth
    - b. Four trumpets in Chapter 8, 2 in Ch. 9, and 1 in Ch. 11
    - c. A progression that tells us of worsening impact (binary 4,2,1)
- B. Breathtaking silence falls at the breaking of the Seventh Seal
1. There are events of such eternal importance that COMMAND attention
    - a. Jesus upon the Cross when He cried "It is FINISHED!"
    - b. The attention of all Heaven was entirely upon Him.
    - c. When the Temple was dedicated, and God filled it with Glory
    - d. The attention of all Heaven was transfixed
  2. When Stephen was killed in Acts Chapter 7
    - a. As His saint was stoned to death after preaching the Gospel
    - b. ACTS 7:55 – "But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,"
    - c. I can only imagine that a certain silence fell
  3. But this time, not only a silence but one that LASTED a half-hour
    - a. Before the trumpets sound, each more terrible than the last!
    - b. The judgment, the destruction, is BREATH-TAKING

- C. Today we shall view the Star that Falls, the Locusts from the Pit, the Death that Hides, and the Lamb that Saves

## II. THE STAR THAT FALLS

- A. This is an unnamed personality – the “star” is described as “him”
  - 1. This could be Satan himself
    - a. ISA - 14:12 – “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! (13) For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. (15) Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.”
    - b. LUKE 10:18 – “And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.”
  - 2. The Bible does not name this “star” (messenger) a fallen angel
  - 3. If this isn’t Satan, it is one of his highest generals
  - 4. REV. 12:4 – “And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.”
- B. Name may be unknown, but we know this fallen angel’s AUTHORITY (vs. 1)
  - 1. He was given the key – that means he is not “breaking in”
    - a. He is AUTHORIZED to open it – to send forth Satan’s forces!
    - b. Remember – this fallen angel has only what power God allows
    - c. And NO MORE!
  - 2. Don’t be fooled into thinking that Satan has a chance to win this battle!
  - 3. This “star” didn’t just have the key, but he OPENED the pit! (vs. 2)
- C. This pit is not hell - this is a special pit
  - 1. ISA 5:14 – “Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.”
  - 2. Hell is enlarged, but not “bottomless”
  - 3. There is the idea of eternal “free fall”
    - a. For instance, the center of the earth
    - b. Would technically be “weightless” or eternal falling
- D. There is smoke out of this pit too
  - 1. This is a marked difference from the smoke in Heaven
  - 2. ISA. 6:4 – “And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.”
  - 3. This was not the glory of God (light) but dark and wicked

### III. THE LOCUSTS FROM THE PIT

- A. These are literal beings as seen in the plagues of Egypt
  - 1. EXO. 10:14 – “And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous were they; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such.”
  - 2. Some have tried to make these out to be Apache attack helicopters
    - a. Their wings sound like thunder, face like a man, big as a horse
    - b. And a sting in their tail (but helicopters do not attack that way)
    - c. And by the way, an Apache helicopter is WAY bigger than a horse
  - 3. Read the meaning OUT from God’s Word, don’t try to read INTO it!
- B. Their Description
  - 1. They had very distinct features (vs. 7)
    - a. We have a similar description in the Old Testament prophecy
    - b. JOEL 2:4-5 – “The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. (5) Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.”
  - 2. Long hair like a woman with a face like a man (vs. 8)
    - a. Doesn’t sound like an Apache helicopter to me
    - b. 1 COR. 11:14 – “Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?”
    - c. These are not sent from God (He does not compromise His Word)
  - 3. They make a mighty noise (vs. 9) – LIKE THUNDER
    - a. Interesting that LUKE 10:14 calls Satan lightning
    - b. Thunder always follows lightning
  - 4. They had a sting in their tail – like a scorpion (vs. 10)
    - a. Literally true, take Bible at face value unless otherwise noted
    - b. But they had a “comely beginning” and a stinging end
    - c. Much like sin, pleasurable for a season, but the end is destruction
- C. Their King (vs. 11)
  - 1. His name is ABADDON (destruction) / APOLLYON (destroyer)
  - 2. This is not the devil himself but a named king that is placed over them
  - 3. This is a general on the ground
- D. Their Duty
  - 1. Notice that they had specific restrictions:
  - 2. Different than in Egypt – EXO. 10:15 – “For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left: and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt.”
  - 3. And they were not allowed to kill those sealed REV 7:4

E. Their Duration (vs. 5 & 10) – a literal period of FIVE months

#### IV. THE DEATH THAT HIDES

- A. Because of the great suffering caused by these Locusts, death is desired
  - 1. Sometimes we say words like “thrill-seeker”
    - a. Or of a daredevil we talk of his “death-defying” feats
    - b. Even the name “dare devil” should be looked askance
    - c. That is not what we see here!
  - 2. Such woe is placed upon them! Such misery! Such anguish!
  - 3. It is so bad that they SEEK death – ACTIVELY PURSUE!
- B. But God says that death won’t be found
  - 1. Think of all those who ever dreamed of a fountain of youth
  - 2. All of those who ever wanted to live forever
  - 3. I have news for them: THESE people could not die, but it wasn’t good!
- C. They think death will end their suffering, but they are wrong!
  - 1. The very idea of suicide being an end to suffering is more than tragic
  - 2. HEB. 9:27 – “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”
  - 3. The Bible tells us of a real place called Hell
    - a. Jesus preached more on Hell than He did on Heaven!
    - b. The Rich man from Luke chapter 16 is STILL THERE!
    - c. Still TORMENTED in that FLAME!
  - 4. I am here to say: NO ONE HAS TO GO TO HELL!

#### V. THE LAMB THAT SAVES

- A. There is a LAMB that Saves – His name is Jesus Christ
  - 1. ACTS 4:12 – “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
    - a. He is the Way (the only way), the Truth (the only Truth), and the Life (the only Life,
    - b. NO MAN – NOT ONE – cometh unto the Father BUT by Him
  - 2. HEB. 2:3 – “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;”
  - 3. There is NO OTHER WAY of escape!
- B. Revelation 9 begins to tell us of Hell on Earth
  - 1. But there is a real hell AFTER Earth
  - 2. A place of everlasting death and torment
  - 3. Because the wages of sin is death – ETERNAL death
- C. BUT the gift of God is ETERNAL LIFE through Jesus Christ our Lord
- D. Be Saved Today!