

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

"Scorpion Locusts"

Revelation 9:1-12

Introduction

1. This is the fifth trumpet sounded by the presence angels (v. 2). Hence, the information given here comes through the agency of an angel who stood in God's presence.

2. The first four trumpets have been sounded (7:1-13). Enormous judgments have come from God upon the earth (v. 7), the sea (vv. 8, 9), the rivers (vv. 10, 11), and the sky (vv. 12, 13). The steps of God from mercy to judgment are always slow, reluctant, and measured. His next step is the burden of this chapter.

3. All the matters mentioned in this chapter are a revelation from God (1:1) and relate to the items of God's program following the rapture (1:19; 4:1). The child of God of this age of grace is spared all of this dreadful torture. How good to be in the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13). Here are the details of this judgment to come:

1. ORIGINATION of the locusts vv. 1-3.

a. Fallen star

The perfect active participle tells the story of the star already fallen. It was on the earth at this time. We know the star is a person for he has responsibilities which are given to him. It is not Satan.

b. Opened abyss

The reference here is to the bottomless place. It appears this place may well be lower than hades, sheol, or tartarus. Satan will be confined here (Rev. 20:1-3) and demons are tormented in this place (Luke 8:27-31). Its orifice is opened and out comes its contents.

c. Bellowing smoke

This comes out of the abyss as out of a smelting furnace. It is more horrible than the fallen star. The sun and air are affected by the smoke. It, in turn, produces a further dreadful item: locusts!

d. Powerful locusts

This is the last item mentioned in the series. It relates to a dreadful specialized creature. It is a locust sort upon the earth. It has power (Greek: authority) like that of a scorpion. Here is an infernal cherub!

2. INTENTION of locusts vv. 4-6.

a. Realm of their power

Interestingly, the vegetation is kept from these creatures. It would have been their normal diet. They are to attack men! However, only such men as do not have God's mark in their heads (cf. 7:1-8). They cannot kill but can torment men. This means to torture men (Matt. 8: 29). Here, then, is excruciating pain, but not death.

b. Extent of their power

Five months are assigned these creatures for their torments. Twice this number is mentioned (vv. 5, 10). This is the life-span of the locust!

c. Result of their power

Men (Greek generic term) seek and strongly desire death, but it escapes them! What a contrast with Paul (Phil 1). The futuristic present shows death slipping out of grasp.

3. DESCRIPTION of locusts vv. 7-11.

a. Their shape

The word for "shape" means to "be like" (Rom. 5:14 Phil 2:7). They are like horses for war (Joel 2). Their heads have something like crowns on them. Their faces were like men, suggesting a capacity beyond a creature! Sex is indiscriminate for long hair is noted. Their teeth add to their horror. The main body of the creature is like a coat of mail. Truly, an horrendous creature is described here!

b. Their sound

Chariots and horses moving into battle are to indicate their number and the hopelessness of resisting them

c. Their sting

The power of these locusts is centered in their tails. They sting like a scorpion. They hurt men for five months.

d. Their sovereign

Normal locusts do not have a king (Prov. 30:27), but these do (v. 11). His name is "Destroyer." Both Hebrew and Greek names are given to him.

Conclusion The account given here suggests an enormous number of fierce demons released upon the earth during the Tribulation Period. Five months they will bring horrible pain to men. Death will not come, but unspeakable suffering. It is a woe from God upon godless men. To avoid this period of judgment from God, it is imperative that you receive Christ as Savior. Do it now!