

## Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #18 | Revelation 8:7-9:12 | Five Trumpets | Dr. Randy White

### Revelation 8:7-12 | The First Four Trumpets

- Review: the seventh seal involved a silence in heaven for about half an hour, followed by some signs of God's wrath and the introduction of seven angels, each with a trumpet in hand.
- Just as the first four of the seven seals were revealed with only a little information and in very quick fashion, we see the same pattern for the first four trumpets.
- Verse 7 – The first trumpet
  - Hail mixed with blood along with the destruction of one-third of the trees and all the grass.
  - Why design “spiritual” meaning to this when the physical meaning makes sense?
- Verse 8-9 – The second trumpet
  - A mountain of fire cast into the sea, causing one-third of the sea to turn to blood.
  - If the rivers of Egypt literally turned to blood, why not here?
  - One-third of the world's ships were also destroyed.
- Verses 10-11 – The third trumpet
  - A **great star** called **wormwood** fell from heaven.
  - The effect: one-third of fresh water became bitter.
- Verse 12 – The fourth trumpet
  - One-third of the light was removed from the sun, moon, and stars.
  - The daylight hours were shortened by one-third.

### Revelation 8:13-9:12 | The First Woe

- Verse 13 – the introduction of the last three trumpets by an angel in heaven.
  - Modern translations read *eagle*, based on a textual variant.
  - Angels are announcing in Revelation 14:6 and 19:17, and it would thus be consistent for this to be an announcing angel.
- Verses 1-12 – the fifth trumpet.
  - Who is the star that fell from heaven? (v. 1)
    - The word **fall** is a perfect participle, thus “it was falling and remained fallen.”
    - Compare Isaiah 14:12 and Luke 10:18.
  - What is **the bottomless pit**? (v. 1)
    - The Greek for **bottomless** is ἄβυσσος [abussos], from which we get *abyss*. The word is composed of

“a” (the negator) and *buthos* (a deep pool of water, even the ocean). It is literally, “without depth.”

- The word is sometimes “the deep,” as in Luke 8:31.
- In this text it literally says that he was given the key to “the pit of the abyss” (not simply “the abyss”). We will contend that “the pit of the abyss” is a special place within the abyss itself. This is a place of imprisonment for demonic forces.
- The abyss (larger) is the home of “the beast” in Rev. 17:8, and the place where Satan is imprisoned by an angel, who is given the key, in Rev. 20:1-3.
- Which demonic forces are being released at this time? It is not known, but the pit is likely the same place as the **angels which kept not their first estate** and are now in **everlasting chains under darkness** in Jude 1:6.
- The **locusts** appear to be more than insects.
  - Compare Proverbs 30:27 with Revelation 9:11.
  - Their description in vv. 7-10 is more than an insect.
- This is nothing short of a five-month season of torture on all except those who have the seal of God.
  - The season is so terrible that men will **seek death, and shall not find it** (v. 6).
  - It is interesting that the five-month period corresponds to the five months that the **waters prevailed upon the earth** (Gen. 7:24) in the days of the flood. This would strengthen the connection to Jude 6 and the angels imprisoned.
- There is a **king over them** (v. 11).
  - This **angel** is over the entire *abyss* (in the larger sense, not just the pit).
  - His name is **Abaddon** and **Apollyon**, the Hebrew and Greek words for *the destroyer*. Presumably Satan himself.
- This is only one of three *woes*, which are the final three trumpets (v. 12).

### Summary

- The first four trumpets wreak havoc upon creation.
- The fifth trumpet is one of torment, designed to get men to speak truth (v. 5).