

Revelation 9

Recommended: *New International Commentary (Revelation)*, John Mounce

Review of Revelation 8:

- The seventh seal is broken
- What happens?**
- First: hail, fire, blood
- Second: fire (Mt. Vesuvius?)
- Third: meteor – water poisoned by wormwood
- Fourth: darkness
- Then: eagle flying in heaven/woe: 3 trumpets remaining

Revelation 9.1-6 - Blowing of the fifth trumpet

V1 – Notice: Trumpets #1-4 were about 2 vs. apiece

-Trumpet #5: 12 vs.

-**Any comments?** The punishment is growing in importance

Fifth trumpet sounded

What happened? A star fell from heaven

Who or what was this star? Satan – **Read Luke 10.17-20** - See *Revelation 12.7-12*

-In other words, the origin of Satan

What was Satan in charge of? Hell (bottomless pit)

V2 – **What came from the pit?** Smoke

V3 – **What caused the smoke?** Locusts

-Remember Joel – *Joel 2.10* – the locusts darkened the sun

-Power was given to the locusts

Defense against the locusts? Guns? Sticks? Armor?

-See *Exod. 10.12-15* – No defense; they ate everything

Why are scorpions terrifying? Ugly (lobster-like), dangerous, poisonous

V4 – **Instructions to the these locusts?** To attack only people who did not have the mark of God on them

-Remember: **Read Eph. 1.13-14**

-**How would Rev. 9.4 have encouraged the first century Christians?** Persecution was only temporary

V5 – **Pain worse than death?** Yes (some forms of suffering)

-**Who was to be tormented?** Evil people (people who had not been sealed)

V6 – **View of death?** That people can escape their problems by dying

-**Christian view?** No, departure to be with Christ

-**Applications to euthanasia, abortion, suicide?**

Revelation 9.7-12 – Longer description of the locusts

V 7 – What reaction would we have in seeing one of these locusts? Horror and terror

- What is the significance of the hair "*like the hair of women*"? See *1 Cor. 11.2-16*
- So women are to have long hair, and men are to have short hair

V 8 – What men in the Old Testament had long hair? Samson (*Judges 16.13, 19*), Absalom (*2 Sam. 14.25-26*)

V 9 – What did the locusts sound like? Battle (breastplates of iron, chariots, war horses)

V 10 – What was in the tails of the scorpions? Stingers

- How long could they afflict people? 5 months

V 11 – Abaddon (Hebrew) = Destruction

- Apollyon (Greek) = Destroyer

-Who is Apollyon a satire on? Apollo, the son of Zeus, the god of the sun

-Caesar Augustus made Apollo the patron saint of the Romans, the protector of the empire

-Notice how John hid the real meaning (Apollo) from the Roman censors who were reading this letter to the 7 churches (while John was in prison)

-The Christians would have understood that this was an attack on Apollo, the Roman god

V 12 - 2 more woes are coming (7 trumpets in total)

Revelation 9.13-21

V 13 – The sounding of the sixth angel

- Another reference to the altar of God: *Rev. 6.9-11* – the martyrs were under the altar of God

V 14 – 4 angels, holding back the 4 horsemen of the Apoc. (*Rev. 7.1*)

-River Euphrates = eastern edge of the Roman Empire

-Across the river? The Parthians/Persians

-Read *New International Commentary (Rev.)*, p. 200 – The Romans were terrified of the Parthians (Persians)

-Rome was defeated by them in 53 B.C. and 62 A.D.

-Remember the wise men from the east and how terrified King Herod was

Read Matt. 2.1-3

-Remember: Esther, Mordecai, many Jews in Persia after the Babylonian captivity

V 15 – The four angels were to be released

V 16 – How many soldiers were there on the east side of the Euphrates River? 200,000,000

-Has there ever been an army of 200 million? No, U.S. today: about 1 million

-John must have seen soldiers as far as the eye could see

V 17 – Describe the horses – Terrifying

-Hyacinth: a precious stone of purple or light violet color; also a plant

V 18 – What part of mankind was killed by these horsemen? 1/3 of mankind

V 19 – The horses are dangerous because of their heads and their tails

V 20 – What was the reaction of the people who saw this disaster? They did not repent

-What did they continue to do? Worship their idols (Zeus, etc.)

-How did John describe these idols? They cannot see or hear or walk

-Just like zodiac today, and statues of Mary and Jesus (and nativity scenes, etc.)

V 21 – What were they guilty of? Murder, sorcery, immorality, theft

-Locusts

-Take *On the Banks of Plum Creek*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder, p. 263ff (locust attack), also *National Geographic*, Dec. 1915

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