

**TWBS**

**THE FIFTH TRUMPET**

**TOPICAL TEXT:**

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.

Revelation 9:2 (KJV)

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## **STUDY TEXT:**

Revelation 9:1-6 (KJV)

**Revelation 9:1** 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

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### APPLICATION POINT:

The Word of God constantly reminds us that at best we can only scantily “**see through a glass, darkly... and now know in part.**” As such, we will discover there remains much about God’s universe that is both simultaneously mysterious and terrifying to us. Yet, despite our moments of clear bewilderment, the Spirit of the Lord continually directs us: “**Be still, and know that I *am* God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.**” (Ps. 46:10)

# THE FIFTH TRUMPET: *(the 1<sup>st</sup> Woe)*

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**FOCUS TEXT:** 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. Revelation 9:2 (KJV)

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Just as the true dimensions and depth of the “love of God” is far beyond our ability to comprehend; so it is equally the case with respect to the scope and intensity of that which is described in Scripture as “the wrath of God.”

In regard to the Love of God, **1 John 4:9** declared: “**In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.**”

And in contrast pertaining to the latter the prophetic text of **Nahum 1:6** compels us to consider: “**Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.**”

And obviously, in either instance we cannot possibly truly “know” the tangible realities of each condition until we actually have experienced them personally. Albeit we are duly forewarned in Scripture regarding that this is absolutely not how we want to intimately “know about” the actual realization of God’s wrath.

Hence, the aftermath of the sounding of the fourth trumpet in **Revelation 8:13**, a special supernatural messenger is dispatched from Heaven to solemnly forewarn earth’s global

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inhabitants during this contemporary event: **“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!”**

And even during our present Gospel era the same messenger has been showcased before us in Scripture to warn “the lost,” as stated in **Hebrews 2:4**, **“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.”**

Moreover, the Lord Jesus endearingly pleaded (and still earnestly beckons to the unbeliever) in **John 3:36**, **“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”**

### Sounding the Fifth Trumpet

Now although the exact time interval between the sounding of each of the trumpets is not clearly defined, we should presume that specific awareness detail is not particularly relevant given the greater dramatic events that are publicly manifested by each of them.

In this instance, this incredible supernatural event, also characterized as the first “woe” plainly demonstrated the escalating intensity of the continuing sequence of divine judgments unleashed upon the fallen world governed by the wicked Antichrist and all that have chosen to follow him.

Specifically, the introductory detail of **verse 1** reported, **“and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.”**

Notably, every aspect of this declaration is naturally incomprehensible.

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Here we observe three supernatural elements presented before our view:

- 1) another supernatural angelic being (i.e., the term “star” in this instance referring to an angel personage – **Job 38:7**.)
- 2) what appeared to be a special supernatural key.
- 3) to unlock a definitive, yet naturally unknown and unseen supernatural location – “**the bottomless pit.**”

Then promptly, we are provided with a graphical detail designed to “fill in” some the incomprehensible gaps that will undoubtedly surface in our minds.

### Incredible Realities Beyond the Visible

Now in regard to the true identity of this angel no explicit detail is present in the prophetic record, although many have presumed it to be Satan (i.e., the chief among fallen angels); however, despite their cited proof text, we still cannot be absolutely sure.

But again, the specific identity is a minor matter in contrast to the more consequential action that he performs.

Next, it is reported that something resembling a special “**key**” is presented to unlock this supernatural location of confinement.

And given it is described as a location of confinement innately means that there resides something behind that locked door that for the present needs “to remain confined.”

In **verse 2** this place is referred to as “**the bottomless pit;**” and as to where it is located in the physically realm (aside from not being in Heaven) we are not told.

But what the prophetic detail does share with us in **verse 2b** is that when it is ultimately opened: “**and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace.**”

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That is, the environmental conditions that currently exists in this supernatural domain includes the material elements of intense heat (i.e., “of a great furnace”) and the dense smoke that is commonly associated with such a blazing and raging environment.

Subsequently, we are shown that once the access compartment to “**the bottomless pit**” has been opened, we are shown that the elements of its supernatural atmosphere exhausts and escapes to impact the domain of our natural environment as described in **verse 2c**, namely: “**and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.**”

Hence, from this particular commentary, we may be compelled to ponder if this supernatural domain might be or similar to the biblically defined tragic place of the “Christless” deceased known as Hell.

And despite whether we believe it to be an actual location somewhere associated with this physical earth or not, the Lord Jesus fully affirmed its (Hell) reality in the Gospels of which in **Mark 9:40** He declared: “**And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched.**”

But again, whether or not it is actually the locale of Hell is not importance; rather what is notable is presented bible truth point citing the authenticity of this supernatural place and the absolutely terrifying entities that will ultimately emerge from it.

### Prompting Closer Examination

Clearly, we observe here that great consideration is made to provide more explicit details to the hearer about the unfolding event in view.

Thus, the presumption is that Heaven’s designed intention is to embed in our conscious the sheer importance of what will literally transpire in the realm of fallen humanity, as opposed to

the position taken by many to view the scene in some figurative fashion because of our natural inability to fathom the incredibly fantastic imagery that is set forth before us.

However, an importance factor that we must continually keep in mind as we attempt to comprehend that which has been placed before our view by the Spirit of the Lord is that “verily” God has created “all things;” or as more descriptively as cited in **Colossians 1:16**, “**For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:**”

As such, we should resign ourselves to acknowledge the sure fact that we (humanity) do not know about “everything” that Sovereign God has created in the universe that will be used to service His greater purposes at those milestone instances along His established timeline in the spheres of Heaven and Earth.

### More Than a Natural Insect Invasion & Infestation

Next, our focus is directed to observe the absolutely incredible objects that immediately emerge from the open gateway of ‘the bottomless pit.’ And clearly from the description that is provided to us, we are quickly prompted to do a mental “double take” and thoroughly are left fully bewildered as to what they are.

In **verse 3** the inspired text described: “**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.**”

Now instinctively our first impression (as many have immediately concluded) is that the Apostle must be using figurative or poetic language to depict objects that are far beyond our natural minds to apprehend and envision.

For what natural creature can we imagine resembling a locust and yet have scorpion-like features that possess the power to

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inflict pain. Because of all the variety of locust insects that we are familiar with all feed on vegetation.

Assuredly, they are generally known to be very destructive creatures (i.e., at times on an epic scale); however, that is in reference to the fields and plant landscape areas that they invade and infest.

Furthermore, from the Word of God we have reference to an earlier example in human history when God weaponized their natural ability to bring judgment and ruin into the life-sphere of His enemies (i.e., Pharaoh and the Egyptians)

The inspired text described in Exodus 10:14-15, **“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.**

**“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.”**

And it is also equally true that the comparative imagery of their destruction capability is used elsewhere in Scripture to illustrate the devastating power of an invading human army.

In **Joel 1:4, 6-7** describing the desolation that would result from the Syrian invasion against Israel the Word of the prophetic vision reported: **“That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten.”**

**“For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion.**

**“He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white.”**

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Hence, it is conceivable why many have also characterized the imagery of the Fifth Trumpet judgment with the same likeness.

However, from the greater detail provided in the inspired apocalyptic vision, we are clearly shown that the creatures in view here are not of the same substance of the natural insects (i.e., **“the creeping thing”**) that we are familiar with that were created on the Sixth day (**Gen. 1:24-25**).

On the contrary, the specific target mission of these special creatures (or, perhaps demonically possessed, as many have conjectured) is to punitively mentally terrorize and physically torment the enemies of righteousness that oppose the Lord during this period.

In particular, **verse 4** explained: **“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.”**

Note closely the distinct deviation and limitation applied to their directed action: **“...they should not hurt the grass of the earth... but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.”**

Then next, we are shown the effective method that will be utilized to bring misery into the unbelieving Christless population of this period; namely as cited in **verse 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.”**

Now unquestionably what has been presented in the text is quite overwhelming to our minds, given we know of nothing that can be compared to what will appear in the world in this time space.

But perhaps we can proverbially catch our breath and get our mental bearings by simply meditating on the keynote detail cited centuries ago regarding the eight Plague of Judgment that was unleashed upon Egypt.

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In particular, let us consider the specific inspired comment of **Exodus 10:14** that stated: **”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.”**

Assuredly, here too the same comment can be fully attested regarding this group of supernaturally empowered creatures: **“before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such.”**

### For Five Agonizing Months

Lastly, **verse 6** depicts the unrelenting conditions of absolute misery that will dominate the global sphere of life during their brief life cycle, which so happens to correspond to that of ordinary locust.

The Apostle was told to inform us that this awful period of excruciating suffering would persist for five months; and that life conditions during their presence would be completely agonizingly intolerable.

Commenting on this understated key point the Word of God further enlightens us to more accurately and better understand: **“And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.”**

Remarkably, note that even after providing us with these astonishing details cited in the first six verses, there yet remains more keynote observations that have been given to us to consider and contemplate.

Now if our first impression prompts us to conclude that such these things which have invaded our minds and agitated our souls are just too incredibly difficult to believe and accept to be true, let us also remember that we are not reading the account conceived of and written by the flawed and fallible minds and hands of fallen mankind, but rather that which has been penned by the inspired Spirit-endowed Apostle that was directed specifically by the Living Lord in **Revelation 1:19**, **“Write the things which thou hast seen,**

and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.”

Too, if we are feeling completely overwhelmed by what we have read, we are in good company because **Revelation 22:8** equally described the reaction of Apostle John thus: “**And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.** “

Then later he was directed to emphasize in **verse 10**: “**And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.**”

In other words, we are not to dismiss or ignore what has been revealed; but rather, we should continue to pursue gleaning a better understanding, so as to warn and urge those that are yet unredeemed, as did Apostle Peter in **Acts 1:40b**: “**Save yourselves from this untoward generation.**”