

**REVELATION PART FIVE - Chapters 9, 10, 11****Chapter 9 – The Fifth Trumpet Judgment: The Locusts from the Bottomless Pit**

In Chapter 8, we saw an eagle flying in the air saying, “Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the Earth”. This means that there will be three woes or curses that will befall Earth as we have only seen 4 of the 7 trumpets (in the 7 Trumpets Judgement) sounded so far. The first woe of these 3 remaining woes was released when the Fifth Trumpet was blown.

1. Revelation 9:1-3.
  - a) John saw a star being given the key to the bottomless pit. Normally, Christ held the key. The angel (or star) was a good angel since he was given the key. The angel opened the bottomless pit. The bottomless pit is a place where fallen angels or demons were cast into.
  - b) The moment when the pit was opened, a huge shaft of smoke rushed out (like when a hot furnace door is opened) and darkened the sky. Locusts were then seen flying from the smoke.
  - c) Locusts are generally common, but these locusts had the power to torment like scorpions, unlike normal locusts which will normally avoid humans and eat only vegetation.
2. Revelation 9:4-6.
  - a) These locusts were commanded not to touch the people who had the seal of God on their forehead.
  - b) They were not real locusts but demonic beings who had the power of scorpions. The stings of scorpions are very painful and though they do not kill, they hurt badly.
  - c) These locusts were allowed to torment people for 5 months, to those who did not have the seal of God on them, but the locusts were not allowed to kill them. These people would rather seek death than be tormented because the pain was unbearable, yet death was not possible.
  - d) Thus, they had to endure through 5 months of repeated scorpion stinging.
3. Revelation 9: 7-9. Who or what are these locusts that caused us to be confused when we read this chapter?
  - a) The shapes of the locusts had strange appearance of horses; they had teeth of lions, crowns of gold, women’s hair and faces like men, etc. These locusts sounded like chariots of horses running to battle.
  - b) Christians spend a lot of time speculating who they are. Demons can take all kinds of shape and appearance, so why do we need to agonize and speculate over something that we have never seen or can never imagine what they are? Most of us do not care about how a Coronavirus (Covid-19) looks like, and we only care about the effects they cause.
  - c) So, let us also not spend time trying to speculate, and not let the parts of the book of Revelation that have symbols stumble us.
4. Revelation 9:11.
  - a) The king of the army of locusts was Abaddon in Hebrew and Apollyon in Greek.
  - b) The king was a destroyer and might possibly be Satan but he was not allowed to kill people.
  - c) Satan cannot do anything beyond what God permits. His power is only temporary.
5. When we read about the 7 Seals Judgement, we notice the intensity of wars, famines and earthquakes, but now we begin to read about things that we have never seen before such as locusts that have strange appearances. From here, we can see that God will be overlaying the judgments when the events in the book of Revelation happen in the future. God is helping

to prepare us for the different layers (or levels) of suffering that is to come; sufferings of such massive scale that we cannot even imagine.

Chapter 9 – The Sixth Trumpet Judgment: The Angels from the Euphrates

1. Revelation 9:12. The Sixth Trumpet was blown and this was the second woe mentioned in Revelation 8:13.
2. Revelation 9:14-16. We saw the release of 4 angels who were bound up in River Euphrates, to allow one third of the world to be slayed by them.
3. Revelation 9:16.
  - a) John saw a massive army of 200 million mounted troops.
  - b) At that time when the book of Revelation was written, it was difficult to even find an army of 2 million. But today, the army of China can easily mobilise 200 million troops.
  - c) The description of the army was very bizarre. They had breastplates of red and yellow with fire fuming out from their mouth. They also had powerful tails like serpents, etc.
  - d) What do all these mean?
    - i. Again, many Christians are baffled and thus claim that they cannot understand the book of Revelation. We do not need to understand all these because these are troops with weapons that have not been invented yet. It is just like drones and inter-continental ballistic missiles that the author John had never heard of when he wrote the book of Revelation, yet drones are now common weapons.
    - ii. We just need to know that these troops will kill more than one third of the world's population which will be worse than the previous judgment that killed a quarter of the world's population.
    - iii. Hence, we do not have to waste time trying to understand things we cannot conceptualise as they will become very clear when it happens, just like how drones were used to attack terrorists in Taliban.
4. Revelation 9:20-21. It is important to see in this chapter that despite all the calamities which were similar to those that happened in Exodus, and that people should have easily realised that the wrath of God was behind these calamities, yet these people still refused to repent of their idolatry, murders, sorceries and sexual immorality.
  - a) Murders
    - i. Many people think that there are not that many murders in the world, but in reality, there are more babies being killed than being born every day. "Abortion on demand" is permissible in many countries, e.g. Japan.
    - ii. The embryo is a little human with eyes and brain; it is not just cells in the womb. Murderers are not just committed by gangsters but respected doctors in white coats form the greatest group of murderers in this world. To date, there are more murders committed than in any other era, and all are done by respectable doctors, and requested by mothers who are supposed to be the ones to love and protect their babies.
    - iii. This is definitely not a world that God wants to see, as an embryo is a miracle of God, and made in the image of God.
  - b) Sorceries
    - i. Sorceries may sound quaint to us since we do not see witches these days brewing liquids etc., but the word "sorcery" means "pharmakon" in Greek. This is the word from which we get the word "pharmacy" and it simply means

- medicine. In the past, medicine was used not only to cure sickness and to also influence one's mind and mood, etc.
- ii. Today, there are so much 'mood-changing' medicine such as tranquilizers, etc. that these have formed part of our life. One of the most popular medicine demanded today is for people who are feeling depressed, and who wish to lift up their mood. One can easily get such drugs to make him or her feel high. This is very similar to sorcery but at a much greater scale; unlike previously, when it was limited only to just a few witches. These days, when people are depressed, they do not go to God but to their 'magic' cabinet to take medication.
- c) Sexual immorality is so common these days. One do not even need to sneak out to a striptease bar. Teenagers can easily access it on laptops or phones. Immorality is everywhere, even in offices and homes.
  - d) Thefts
    - i. Most people think there are not many thefts in Singapore, but almost everyone is a thief, using software illegally and buying imitations of branded goods. These are thefts of companies' copyrights and others' hard work. Today, creativity is greatly demanded at the workplace, yet the biggest industry is the imitation industry stealing all those creative design work. Such industry only thrives because we are all thieves who desire to buy all these imitation goods.
    - ii. We have to search ourselves and ask this pointed question, "Is there really any difference between stealing things and buying imitation goods?" Are we all not thieves? We may try to rationalise these sins away but God is seeing all our unrepentant hearts.
5. God is tired of seeing murders, sorceries, sexual immorality and thefts, etc., taking place. He does not want all these to continue and to get worse. Thus, He will wipe out the world like in the days of Noah.
6. When God wiped out Noah's world, Noah's heart was still the same. But when God wipe out the current world, He will ensure that there will be a people with a new heart, hopefully prepared and trained for a new life on the New Earth. Let us be blessed with the understanding of this simple message that this current world needs to be destroyed. We must be thankful to God that He is not just going to destroy the current world, but He is also going to create a new Earth for us, His people.

### Chapter 10 – The Angel and the Little Scroll

In Chapter 9, when the Sixth Trumpet was blown, there were 4 angels who were bound in the River Euphrates that was released. We saw an army of 200 million troops armed with strange descriptions. The question is, "Is this army of 200 million just a repeat of what was revealed in the events of the 4 horsemen (on the White, Red, Pale and Dark horses) in Revelation Chapter 6?" These 4 horsemen caused a lot of bloodshed, famines, diseases and death. So, is Chapter 9 just giving more details of that same happenings described in Chapter 6?

It is very likely so, that Chapter 9 could be describing in detail how the warfare recorded in Chapter 6 was going to take place and how it caused so much bloodshed, famine, disease and death on Earth. The key point is this, that despite all these judgments which included supernatural disasters, people still refused to repent.

In Chapter 10, we saw an interlude or intermission before the Seventh Trumpet was blown.

1. Revelation 10:1. John saw a mighty angel coming down from heaven, and he was clothed in a cloud with rainbow over his head, and his face was like the Sun and his legs were like pillars of fire. It described an awesome angel.
2. Revelation 10:2-3.
  - a) In the hand of this angel was a little scroll. This was not the big scroll which only the Lamb had the right to unseal in Revelation Chapter 5. Perhaps there is more detailed information in this little scroll regarding what was written on the big scroll.
  - b) This angel planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land and spoke with a loud voice. This simply meant that he was giving a message to the entire world since the world is made up of land and sea.
3. Revelation 10:4-7.
  - a) When the angel called out in his loud voice, there were 7 thunders, but John was not allowed to write down what he heard or saw from the scroll. All that John could hear or see was sealed.
  - b) This same angel swore that there would be no more delay when the Seventh Trumpet was blown. The consummation of all the mysteries and prophecies (in bits and pieces of how the world would end) in the Old Testament would be unveiled and fulfilled at that time when the Seventh Trumpet would be blown.
4. Revelation 10:8-9. The angel told John to take the scroll and eat it which would taste bitter in the stomach but sweet in the mouth. John ate the scroll and it was truly so. This probably illustrates that when a believer sees the beginning of these events that would lead to a New Heaven and New Earth, the thought itself would be sweet because Jesus is coming back at last! But when we digest it, it would be bitter because of the horrendous destruction of the Earth and the sufferings that unbelievers would have to go through, and the horrible ending of all the unbelievers.
5. Revelation 10:11. The angel told John that he ought to go and prophesize and tell this message. This is a short intermission. So, even as Christians dream of Jesus coming back, we know from the book of Revelation about the bitter ending that await all the people who reject Him as Saviour and hence we ought to bring the Gospel to unbelievers with urgency.

### Chapter 11 – The Two Witnesses

In Chapter 10, we saw that John was given a little scroll. This scroll probably tells in greater details, the sufferings on Earth which John was not allowed to write down or tell. The scroll was sweet (which refers to Jesus's return) and bitter (which refers to horrendous sufferings on Earth) and thus, was so hard to accept.

1. Revelation 11:1-2.
  - a) John was given a measuring rod to measure the temple of God in Jerusalem. There would be a temple in Jerusalem before Christ's return.
  - b) John was told to measure the whole temple except the outer court. Gentiles were only allowed in the outer court but were not allowed to cross beyond the outer court. If they were caught crossing, they would be condemned to death. In the last 3½ years (i.e. the Great Tribulation period), the outer court would be severely trampled upon when those horrendous events took place.

- c) Measuring the temple would be like drawing a boundary where nobody could cross. It was like God putting a protection over His people. This prophecy is also recorded in Zechariah 2:1-5. Zechariah 2:5 says that God will protect Jerusalem with a wall of fire. Hence we can conclude that measuring the temple is an image of protection by God.
  - d) The outer court would be trampled upon for 3½ years which ties in with Daniel's prophecy of half week (half of 7 is 3½) in Daniel 9:27. There would be great suffering during this Great Tribulation period.
2. Revelation 11:3. God raised 2 witnesses, and both were dressed in sack cloth. They would prophesize in Jerusalem for 1260 days which was again 3½ years. (This period is further described in later chapters of book of Revelation.)
- a) The 2 witnesses would preach against their sins of idolatry, immorality, etc.
  - b) They would severely persecute those who refused to hear the call for repentance.
  - c) If anyone tried to harm these 2 witnesses, they would pour fire from their mouths to kill them. They could even shut the heaven to stop the rain and to turn water into blood, and call out any plague anytime they wanted.
  - d) They would be awesome witnesses whom we have never been seen before, unlike Elijah and Moses who also performed many miracles in the Old Testament.
3. Revelation 11:7-13.
- a) When the 2 witnesses had finished preaching at the end of 3½ years, the beast would come out from the bottomless pit to kill them. (This beast will also be further described in the later part of this book of Revelation.) When their testimony was done, God would allow them to be killed.
  - b) After they were killed, these 2 witnesses were not allowed to be buried, and they would lay in the street of Jerusalem for 3½ days for all to see and gloat about the victory they won over these 2 witnesses who kept calling them to repent. The whole world rejoiced that they had gotten rid of these 2 irritants who spoil their fun.
  - c) Suddenly, a breath of God went into the dead witnesses and they stood up. One can imagine all the press cameras focusing on their resurrection. There was then a loud thunderous voice from heaven calling them back to heaven. And they went up. We can imagine the terror of the world!
  - d) At that time, a great earthquake crumbled 1/10 of the city of Jerusalem and 7000 people died.
  - e) This is an interesting side show. God always send preachers even at the last hour despite people not hearing. He wanted to give a last chance over the 3½ year period, even though He had already sent so many judgments and people were still not repenting.
4. Revelation 11:13-19.
- a) The Seventh Trumpet was blown, and a loud voice says, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ and He shall reign forever and ever!"
  - b) The 24 elders worshipped God who had begun to reign and judge the wicked and reward His people.
  - c) John saw the temple in heaven open with an ark inside.
  - d) There were lightning, thunder and earthquake.

Chapter 11 ends with lightning and thunder and earthquake. Note that the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal ended the same way. Similarly we will see later that the 7<sup>th</sup> Bowl would end in the same way too. Hence, the record of the first set of 7 Seal Judgments shows only the generic suffering in the last days. Then the record

of the next set of 7 Trumpets Judgments describes in greater details the wars, famines, diseases, and death (already described in 7 Seals Judgements). The record of the 7 Trumpets Judgments explains how so much suffering came about.

Therefore, we can conclude that the 7 Seals, the 7 Trumpets and 7 Bowls Judgements are the same but details are added increasingly. The sufferings did not look so bad in when the events of the 4 horses in the 7 Seals Judgements took place, as it was just like any war but in the 7 Trumpets Judgements, there were locusts or demons, 200 million army etc. which were terrible. Now, we can see why there are so much sufferings such as famine, diseases and death.

All three sets of judgments ended in the same way – with thunders, lightning and earthquake. Hence, all three sets of judgments happened in the same period but with greater details and horrors mingled with some intermissions (such as John eating the scroll, the measurement of the temple and the 2 witnesses) in between. It is not a sequential order of 7 Seals, then 7 Trumpets and then 7 Bowls Judgements.

Instead of getting into the details or speculating about such judgements and the timings, let us focus on knowing who God is and how merciful He is. He refused to give up and instead, placed two witnesses to preach for repentance for such a long 3½ years period to give men a last chance for repentance and to call on His name.