

The Fifth Trumpet - #1 Woe

Revelation 9:1-12

Revelation 9:1-6 - The Fifth Trumpet is the First Woe - "Locust" in the Bible.

Exodus 10:1-19 – Egyptian Plague

Deuteronomy 28:38 – Spiritual Warning .

2 Chronicles 7:13; Psalm 105:34 – God commands locust

Joel 1:1-4 – Metaphorical implications

Revelation 9:3, 7 – Unusual Locust

What I Learn: These creatures have no power of their own, they are instruments of God to punish those who are not his children; as they discern "the seal of God".

What I Learn: My response to sin in this culture is an indicator of my spiritual condition.

Revelation 9:7-11 - This description seems more like fantasy creatures. The angel with the key who opened the pit was from above but the angel who comes out of the pit is from below (Destroyer). God controls both.

What I Learn: This star/angel is under God's control and in this case uses him for his divine purposes; as a 'strike force' on those who resist the good news.

Conclusion: God will use what is at his command to bring about his will and punish evil and these evil creatures are at his command and when they are loosed they do what they do—they destroy and maim whatever and whoever they are directed at.

These locusts do not have the power to kill anyone; rather God is giving unbelievers more time to consider the claims of the gospel. There is irony in this woe; these people killed the martyrs who wanted to live and they cannot die even though they desire it.

Job 39:19-25 precedes verses 7-11 - God has complete control.

'Believers' have no reason to fear these beasts. The trauma and trials that are depicted here should remind us that for now God's design is to patiently call to repentance all those who are his enemies.

I learn here that the devil rewards his loyal subjects with torture and misery, as God uses it to call them to repentance. Second, these unbelievers seek death and God gives them life to consider his great salvation; but they refuse.

This woe highlights God's role in redemption and man's responsibility to respond to it. We learn here that God marks his own and that mark is an internal distinction that manifest in an external sign. We also learn that we manifest externally what God has done internally and it is recognized in the spirit world. (2 Peter 1:10-11)