

“CREATURES FROM THE ABYSS”

Revelation 8:13-9:12

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

INTRODUCTION

“Ouai, ouai, ouai!” [The sound gives its meaning—“Woe, Woe, woe!”]

This is what is about to happen to “earth-dwellers” in the last 3 trumpet blasts.

God has already removed food, water, light, transportation, etc.; now He removes comfort, and gives torment. Things become so bad that “death is a welcome friend”!

God gives sinners what they deserve; He puts on His own horror picture show.

The warning [evidently heard on Earth] given by an eagle—cf. KJV “angel”—see 14:6.

Flies at the zenith of the sky—mid-heaven—where the sun stands at midday, and is thus seen by all.

Why an eagle?

- A bird of prey (cf. 19:17-18—also flying in mid-heaven)
- Strength of wing
- Symbol of judgment and vengeance (Hab. 1:8; Hos. 8:1; Dt. 28:49—cf. Mt. 24:28—coming judgment)
- Cf. 4:7—the 4th living being; could this eagle represent an angelic being?
- We must not symbolize the vultures and carcass of Mt. 24:28 to Christ’s body and the saints! [See written sermon notes for more.]

After this warning, the 5th angel sounds. A trumpet blast.

I. THEIR RULER (1, 11)

A. Star descended—“fallen”

1. This is not Satan—despite Is. 14:12; Lk. 10:18; and Rev. 12:4— 1/3 of stars swept to the earth. Cf. 20:1—the same angel.
2. Jesus holds the Keys: Rev. 1:18; 3:7
3. Destroying angels are His messengers (Ezek. 9; I Chr. 21:15; etc.)
4. His name is “Abaddon”, “Apollyon”—“Destruction”, “destroyer”
5. He has control of this realm—Satan does not! He will be punished there.
6. Compare the angel of “waters”, of “fire,” of the “four winds”, etc. These are all good angels—God’s angels.
7. Would Satan punish his own followers (9:4)? Rev. 12 shows that he persecutes Christ’s followers.

B. God’s Sovereign control is seen in:

1. Their release (v. 1)
2. Their empowering (v. 3)
3. Their limiting (v. 5)

II. THEIR ORIGIN (2-3)

Sheol and the Abyss in the OT and NT is:

- A. The Realm of the dead—now the unsaved dead
- B. The abode of Antichrist (11:7)
- C. The Prison of Satan in 20:3
- D. The place of punishment of demons (Lk. 8:31)
- E. The prison of those who left their first estate (II Pet. 2:4; Jude 6)
 - *The locusts cannot be these angelic spirits, nor can they be indwelt by them, for these angels are kept under chain until the day of judgment and are not released.*
 - The locusts are beings specially created by God.
 - They are reserved underground until the right time.
 - They are associated with the abyss because of the objects of their torment.
 - **I see in this judgment “a divine mockery of demonic wickedness and ugliness and corruption, since man had chosen to worship demons” (9:20).**
 - The smoke is from the fires of hell—cf. 19:3; 18:15 (smoke and torment); Luke 16:24-25—flames in Sheol!

III. THEIR APPEARANCE (7-10)

A. Background—Ex. 10:1-20 (Locust plague on Egypt); Joel 1:2-2:11 (Locust plague on Israel)

B. Description

- Sort of infernal cherubim—Horse, man, lion, scorpion
- Size—evidently quite large
- Defense against—difficult: strong armor, swift moving, hide in darkness
- Duration—5 months, long lasting
- The description moves from head to tail.
- Here we have more usage of the words “like” or “as” than any other passage in the NT.
- **Yet, they are not “like” locusts—they are locusts (vv. 3, 7).**

IV. THEIR ORDERS (4-5)—Do not kill, but torment for five months.

CONCLUSION

Earth dwellers respond by seeking and longing for death, but they do not find it and death actively flees from them (v. 6).

However, this is not the worst punishment upon Beast followers, those unsaved; more is to come—two more woes (v. 12). Seiss comments: **“God almighty in His mercy, save us from the evils of those days!”**

Men will long for death—cf. Paul in Phil. 1:23 who desires to depart and be with Christ which is far better; these men wish to escape the torments of earth—but, **for what? THE TORMENTS OF THE LAKE OF FIRE!**

The creatures from the abyss are coming. Are you ready?