

All Hell Breaks Loose

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Revelation 9.
- B. The trumpets are identified for us as the first of three great woes.
- C. It is difficult to determine whether the bowls and the trumpets are simultaneous.
- D. There is an increase in intensity, but it is not necessarily chronological.

II. The fifth trumpet.

- A. The passage begins with the falling of a great star unto the earth. It probably speaks to something literal such as a meteor but also symbolically to an individual who opens up the gates of hell.
- B. The figure is probably a Jewish figure that rebels against the earth.
 - 1. Grass, trees and plants represent people related to Israel specifically.
 - 2. The 144,000 are protected and guarded from this invasion of human thought.
- C. The effect of the Anti-Christ's teaching will be like a scorpion's sting.
 - 1. The leader will have great authority and the appearance of great power.
 - 2. He is under the influence of Satan.

III. The sixth trumpet.

- A. What happens here is an answer to the prayers of the saints.
- B. The saints pray for the avenging of the blood of the saints whose lives have been taken on earth.
- C. The answer takes the form of releasing four fallen angels.
- D. This is the first glimpse we have of the campaign of Armageddon.

IV. The army described.

V. The people will believe the lie rendering them unable to repent. (II Thessalonians)

- A. The idols do nothing, but the age imagines that they do.
- B. Even under these terrible judgments people do not change their ways.

C. God does not expect to convert the world through judgment—He wants to use it to get us to listen to grace.

D. How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?

Application questions:

1. The saints seek for the justice of those martyred. Under what conditions is this right to do?

2. What is the function of judgment? What is it intended to accomplish in Revelation?

3. How has judgment helped to encourage you in your Christian walk? Explain.
