

SALVATION IN SYMBOLS & SIGNS

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Corresponds to Programs 38, 39

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the NKJV and KJV.

THE FIFTH TRUMPET STUDY GUIDE

Revelation 9:1-6

As a recap, the third trumpet dealt with the sweetness of the gospel turned into bitterness in the form of wormwood, and the fourth trumpet dealt with the turning of light into darkness. Let us look at the words of the prophet Isaiah for understanding: “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isaiah 5:20). This is what happened in Isaiah’s time, and is again fulfilled in this prophecy. Isaiah pronounces a “woe,” and this is another name for the fifth trumpet. Here is what Isaiah predicted would happen:

“He will lift up a banner to the nations from afar, and will whistle to them from the end of the earth; surely they shall come with speed, swiftly. No one will be weary or stumble among them, no one will slumber or sleep; nor will the belt on their loins be loosed, nor the strap of their sandals be broken; whose arrows are sharp, and all their bows bent; their horses’ hooves will seem like flint, and their wheels like a whirlwind. Their roaring will be like a lion, they will roar like young lions; yes, they will roar and lay hold of the prey; they will carry it away safely, and no one will deliver” (Isaiah 5:26-29).

Here God shows that He will bring other nations from afar to use as His agents to bring judgment. The imagery is very similar to that found in the fifth trumpet! As we begin our study of the fifth trumpet, let’s look at the symbols that we will be dealing with.

Star fallen from heaven — This is not hard to understand because we have discovered in past lessons that this represents Satan, who was cast out of Heaven to the Earth.

Key — As noted in a previous lesson, a key is a symbol of control (Revelation 3:7). When I lock a room or compartment with a key, I control what is in it.

Bottomless pit — The word used in the Greek is *abussos*, which is the same word used in Genesis 1 to describe the Earth before it was formed by God. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep” (Genesis 1:1, 2). The Greek word *abussos* (ἄβυσσος) means without form, in chaos.



“Then the fifth angel sounded:
And I saw a star fallen
from heaven to the earth.”

REVELATION 9:1

Smoke — Smoke is used as a symbol of idol worship. “Now they sin more and more, and have made for themselves molded images, idols of their silver, according to their skill; all of it is the work of craftsmen. They say of them, ‘Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves!’ Therefore they shall be like the morning cloud and like the early dew that passes away, like chaff blown off from a threshing floor and like smoke from a chimney” (Hosea 13:2,3).

Sun and wind — the sun represents Christ the “Sun of Righteousness” (Malachi 4:2). Wind is used as a symbol of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4; John 3:8).

Locusts — Locusts are a symbol of devouring armies, before which nothing can stand (Joel 1:4-6; 2:4, 11).

Grass, green thing, tree — People and leaders who trust in the Lord are likened unto these. (Isaiah 40:7; 1 Peter 1:24; Daniel 4:20, 22; Jeremiah 17:5-8; Revelation 9:4).

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 3:7 GOD OPENS & NO MAN SHUTS

Malachi 4:2 THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Isaiah 40:7 PEOPLE ARE AS GRASS

Ephesians 1:13 GOD’S PEOPLE SEALED BY HOLY SPIRIT

Seal of God in the forehead — Those who receive the seal of God have His character in their lives, sealed there by the Holy Spirit, and are obedient to God (Ephesians 1:13).

Five months — In prophetic time, a day equals a year. Bible months had 30 days, so 30 days times 5 months equals 150 days or 150 literal years (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34).

Abaddon — This is the Hebrew word which means “destroyer.”

Now that we have all the pieces to work with, what is the Bible telling us? The star that was seen falling was Satan cast to Earth, and he has the key (control) over the church that is represented as an abyss, a church in chaos, darkness, and without Christ. The church of the Dark Ages was polluted with idolatry, which obliterated the light of the gospel. The Sun of Righteousness was not seen, and the Spirit of God was not seen in it, and it was filled with unbiblical teachings. As a result, a swarm of locusts rose up to come against the church, which persecuted the faithful of God. As Isaiah described, they were all-devouring, and came with the sound of horses. They made war against the Roman church, because of her sin of idolatry. Because of her sins against the faithful of God, the Roman church received violence for violence. As Isaiah predicted, Rome put bitter for sweet and darkness for light so they received darkness and bitterness. Rome was a church-state power and so a church state power came against it.

The Islamic armies, which came against Rome, used armored horses to protect them, something John had not seen before. The rider's heads had bronze helmets and some had turbans with extension down the back, like women's hair. Many also wore armored breastplates that were harder than anything in Isaiah's day.

History tells us that the Islamic army tormented the Holy Roman Empire for 150 years. The Islamic tribes finally came together under single leadership. This is the reference of the word *Abaddon*, meaning the “destroyer.” They destroyed many of the Roman armies during the crusades.

The Muslims destroyed the “crusaders” of Rome because of its idolatry. In fact, the Muslims were protective of the early Protestant reformers and believers because they were also against idol worship.

It's ironic but true that God used the Islamic army, latterly known as the Ottoman Empire, as His tool to divert the wrath of Rome from the Protestants. Even as Babylon was used to

bring judgment on Israel in Jeremiah's day, the Roman church was chastised by the Lord for their sins. Just as Islam protected the reformers, offering them refuge and reprieve from the attacks of the papacy, so Babylon protected God's people like Jeremiah from his enemies, the professed people of God who attempted to kill him (Jeremiah 39:11, 12).

Prophecy can be tricky, but not if we follow the Biblical principles and look to the Bible itself to identify the symbols, allowing history to confirm. Papal and Muslim history does exactly that: it confirms this prophecy. Revelation borrows the very symbols of locust, horses, and lions to predict in symbolic language a repeat of the same history and judgments visited upon God's idol worshiping, apostate people. Past history repeated confirms prophecy.

Symbols Summarized:

- Torment = Assaults and Incursions of Muslims
- Death Flees from Them = Misery and Ruin
- Horses = Chief Weapon of Muslims
- Crowns of Gold = Turbans and steel/gold/brass helmets of Muslims
- Hair of Women = Turbans of Muslims
- Breastplates of Iron = Armor of Muslims
- Sound of Their Wings = Sounds of many Horses
- King Over Them = Othman (Ottoman Empire Begins)
- Five Months = 150 Literal Years 1299 to 1449

Summary—The apostasy of the Christian church during the Dark Ages led to image worship, obscuring the heavenly mediation of Christ and His righteousness, and the power and mediation of the Holy Spirit.

This brought divine judgments in the form of Islam, who, like the papacy, obscured Christ and the Holy Spirit. They rose up to destroy idol worshiping apostasy while sparing those who worshiped God according to the Bible.

In the 13th century, Islam organized under Othman, and on July 27, 1299, began tormenting attacks against the Eastern Roman or Greek empire that lasted until its fall in 1449.

There was great woe in the Christian lands during this time, and we are informed that two more woes are still to come! ★