

SERMON OUTLINE

In Revelation 8:13-9:21 we are shown the God's judgment on idolaters on the earth prior to the final judgment as brought by angels blowing 2 more trumpets.

- I. The 5th Trumpet brings increased trouble on earth as demons (envisioned as locusts) are released to torment the idolaters.
 - A. The demons' release is authorized by God (8:13-9:1).
 - B. The demons ascend from the abyss (9:2-3a).
 - C. The demons are equipped:
 1. with power (9:3b).
 2. with a mission (9:4-6).
 - D. The demons are described (9:7-10).
 - E. The demons have a king (9:11).
- II. The 6th trumpet brings increased, though limited, trouble on earth as demons deceive and kill idolaters.
 - A. The demons' released is authorized by God (9:12-14).
 - B. The demons are prepared for this specific task (9:15).
 - C. The demons are numbered (9:16).
 - D. The demons are described (9:17).
 - E. The demons accomplish their goal of deception:
 1. Leading to death for 1/3 of mankind (vs. 9:18-19).
 2. Leading to continued lack of repentance for the rest (9:20-21).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 26, 2018

Passage: Revelation 8:13-9:21

Memory Passage: Revelation 9:20:21

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Revelation 8:13-9:21.** As you interpret and apply this vision remember 3 guiding principles: (1) when numbers and visions are encountered in apocalyptic our default position is to understand them symbolically unless the context dictates otherwise (this is the “literal” interpretation of visions and numbers in apocalyptic), (2) our chief source for understanding and interpreting the vision is the same as John’s: the Old Testament, and (3) the vision must be understood by and able to be applied to the believers in the 7 churches to whom the letter is addressed.

(b) What similarities do you see between the 1st 4 seals and 1st 4 trumpets? Between the 5th & 6th seals and 5th & 6th trumpets?

(c) What is different about the 5th & 6th trumpet judgments when compared with the first 4 (type, severity, destination, participants, recipients, etc.) and how does the eagle and its announcement help you answer (8:13)?

(d) Who is the star that falls from heaven (v. 1), what is his role, and is he good or evil (cf. Luke 10:17-20)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 8:13-9:21.** What is “the shaft of the bottomless pit” and who gave the fallen star the key?

(b) Why does “smoke, like the smoke of a great furnace” rise from the shaft, and how should we interpret the smoke and its effects (i.e. darkening the sun and air)?

(c) Since “the locusts have no king” (Prov. 30:27), who is this king mentioned in v. 11 (most of your Bibles will inform you in the footnotes of the meaning of both the Hebrew and Greek names mentioned)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 8:13-9:21.** Write down everything you learn about the locusts from vs. 3-10 and explain what each part of their description tells you about who they represent, their mission of destruction, and what types of actual torment the vision represents (cf. Ex. 10:1-25; Joel 1-2).

(b) When does the torment represented in this vision actually take place, and what did you find in your analysis of this section that supports your answer?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 8:13-9:21.** To what is the command to the 6th angel tied in 9:13 (cf. 5:9-11), and what do the 4 horns reveal about what is to follow?

(b) Read the following select passages (there could be many more!) as you read and interpret 9:17-19 and explain the nature of the judgment described: Gen. 19:23-29 [cf. Luke 17:28-29]; Ps. 11:4-6; Is. 30:31-33; Ez. 38:22; Rev. 1:16; 11:5; 14:9-11; 19:11-21; 20:10; 21:8.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 8:13-9:21.** Why did those who survive not repent (vs. 20-21)?

(b) What kinds of false teaching deceives the church today (deception was the cause of the spiritual death preceding the physical death)? What kinds of deception must we be on guard for in Bible Church? What kinds of deception must you guard your own heart against?

(c) It is idolaters that are killed, those who don’t have God’s seal and are therefore already spiritually dead. What types of idolatry tempt the church today that God is or will judge? What types of idolatry tempt the Bible Church? What idols are you personally fighting against? Remember: anything that one worships rather than God is an idol. Consider money, fame, security, fortune, reputation, family, constitutional rights, hobbies, vacations, 401ks, privacy, escaping in drugs/alcohol, government, knowledge, happiness, stuff-and-things . . . need I keep going?

(d) In what ways do you see the judgment of the 5th & 6th trumpets being carried out today (we won’t see the final judgment described until the 7th trumpet)?

DATE: August 26, 2018

PASSAGE: Revelation 8:13-9:21

Destruction & Death but Still No Repentance