

- I. Overview of the Trumpets
- A. Last week we began the trumpet judgments in chapter 8. As you remember, trumpets in the Bible were always used to \_\_\_\_\_ people to God's presence or to call God's people to war.
  - B. The first four trumpets were supernatural acts of God against \_\_\_\_\_. As we will soon see, the next two release demons to torment and kill those who don't serve Jesus, and the last one heralds the return of Jesus and His rulership over every kingdom of the earth.
  - C. The trumpets take place over about a one year span. With the first 4 taking one month each, Revelation 9:10 makes it clear that the 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet is 5 months long. That would then leave 3 months for the horrible events of the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet and the final trumpet calling forth Jesus Himself on the scene.
- II. Before we jump into chapter 9 there is one verse we didn't have time to cover from chapter 8. (Rev. 8:13) *Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"*
- A. This is the first of three "woe's" in Revelation. The three woe's are the final three events that lead up to what the Bible refers to as the Great and Terrible \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord.
  - B. These last three trumpets, or woe's are set apart from the first 4 trumpets. The first 4 were judgments poured out on nature, but the last 3 directly target \_\_\_\_\_ as objects of judgment.
  - C. The creature who pronounces this woe is called an eagle flying in midheaven. Some try to say that this eagle represents America. However, there are \_\_\_\_\_ context clues or figures of speech employed here to suggest this is symbolic or figurative. The word "midheaven" can either mean in the midst of heaven, which would put this creature in the heavenly realm like the four living creatures and angels, or more likely could mean in the middle heaven which in Hebrew understanding meant in the physical sky. Whatever the case, nature itself, which God has just been judging, is crying out to humanity to turn to God!
- III. VERSE BY VERSE – The 5th Trumpet (Rev. 9:1-12) *1 Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him. 2 He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit. 3 Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man. 6 And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them. 7 The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. 8 They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like the teeth of lions. 9 They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle. 10 They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months. 11 They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon. 12 The first woe is past; behold, two woes are still coming after these things.*
- A. So next John sees a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth. As we saw earlier in revelation, the word star can refer to either angels, actual stars, or any object found in space. It is safe from the context here to determine that this is in fact an \_\_\_\_\_. Is it a bad angel or a good angel? The word fall here could mean that he is fallen just as Satan and demons are morally fallen from heaven. Or it could mean that he is descended from heaven, having come to the earth at God's bidding. It does seem strange that God would entrust a demon with authority over the pit to release demons since the pit is basically the jail that God has imprisoned demons in to await the final judgment.

- B. This angel is given a key to the bottomless pit. What is the bottomless pit?
1. In the Bible we find 5 different places used to describe the underworld: Sheol, Abraham's Bosom, Tartarus, Hades, Gehenna,. Sheol is the over arching Old Testament term for the afterlife. Most Hebrew scholars Divide Sheol into three chambers, all of which are inside the earth: one for unredeemable dead where they are tortured until the judgment, one for the redeemable dead where they await the Messiah to redeem them (called Abraham's bosom in Luke 16), and the final for the imprisonment of demons where they await the judgment. After the death and resurrection of Jesus, Abraham's Bosom has been done away with and the other 2 chambers remain. What's left is referred to in the New Testament with the Greek word Hades. Gehenna is the lake of fire where all demons and humans who have rejected Jesus go after the final judgment.
  2. It is likely, from that fact that demons arise from this pit that this angel is opening up \_\_\_\_\_ and allowing demons who have been imprisoned there for centuries a chance to vent their rage upon humanity (Jude 6)
- C. When the angel opened the pit, smoke came out, billowing much like a live volcano, and filled the atmosphere. In this judgment we see the spiritual and natural plains of existence beginning to \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. Next we see locusts coming from the smoke that begin to terrorize humanity. God actually promised throughout Scripture that he would judge the wicked with locusts (Deut. 28:38; 1 Kg. 8:37; 2 Chr. 6:28, etc.). Some see these locusts as solely demonic entities. However, what interest would demons take in eating grass or trees? Demons are chiefly interested in possessing creatures and harming men, who that hate as image bearers of God. It is likely that the demons who rise from the pit in the smoke are allowed by God to summon locusts to them and \_\_\_\_\_ these locusts, to mutating them in some way, and to use them to attack men.
- E. The description that John gives of these locusts may be figurative or literal. The use of \_\_\_\_\_ over and over could mean that the descriptions are symbolic. Or they could be the result of John trying to describe what he is literally seeing by referring to things the reader would recognize.
- F. Whatever the case we see that they are given the ability to hurt men for 5 months. Even more, we see that during this time period, God actually stops \_\_\_\_\_. Literally people cannot kill themselves or each other or die at all for 5 months.
- G. God's mercy and power is greatly displayed in the fact that \_\_\_\_\_ Christians can be harmed by these demonic locust/scorpions. What a testimony of Jesus! After all, this is what Jesus was referring to in Luke 10:19 *Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you.*
- H. This entire demonic force has one king over them, leading them throughout the earth, whose name literally means \_\_\_\_\_. There are 3 solid theories to his identity:
1. The first is that this is Satan, himself.
  2. The second is that this is the antichrist.
  3. The third is that this is just a high ranking demon whose realm of authority is specifically over the demons who have been imprisoned in the pit.
- I. And so, after 5 months of this we reach the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> woe. The ominous fact remains for the planet, though, that there are still two more woes, each greater and more intense than the last, to go before the real wrath begins.
- IV. VERSE BY VERSE – The 6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet (Rev. 9:13-21) 13 *Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." 15 And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind. 16 The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. 17 And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and*

*those who sat on them: the riders had breastplates the color of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone. 18 A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths. 19 For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm. 20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; 21 and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.*

- A. The first thing that happens is a voice comes out of the golden altar. The only thing on this altar is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints. So the prayers of the saints in unison are crying for the angel to release the four angels bound at the Euphrates River. God's praying people release the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgment on the earth!
- B. And so the angel, recognizing the will of God, responds and releases the four angels. These four angels are clearly \_\_\_\_\_, because there is no precedence for good angels being bound by God.
- C. In just a few months they kill 1/3 of mankind! When combined with the 4<sup>th</sup> seal, we are being told that \_\_\_\_\_ of the population of planet earth is dead within only about 2 years or so.
- D. 1/3 of humanity might seem like a lot of deaths in a 3 month period, but 200 million demonic horsemen would only have to kill \_\_\_\_\_ people each to reach 2 billion.
- E. There are \_\_\_\_\_ context clues to suggest that number of the horsemen given is symbolic. John is told that there are literally 200 million of them. It is possible that at the blowing of the sixth trumpet, the same demons possessing the locusts are forced out and then possess and assemble this army at the river Euphrates under the new leadership of these 4 even greater demonic beings bound there who give them authority to not only torment humans but kill them.
- F. This would explain the strange descriptions given the horses and why they are so similar in feature and in color to the locusts. Both are described as in formation like horses, both have breastplates, both have features similar to a lion, both attack with their tails, and both operate under the authority of greater demonic leaders.
- G. We are told that these horses harm people with their tails but don't kill them. It's the plagues of fire and smoke which come from their mouths which end lives.
- H. In verse 20-21 we see that men, for the most part, turn not to God, but still to any other sources. In fact we are told that many will \_\_\_\_\_ the very demons that are killing them.

#### V. Overview for Revelation 10

- A. At this point the 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation is almost completed. The first 2 of the 3 woes has brought this age to the brink of its conclusion. Men have hardened their hearts against God and have truly made their choice to continue in sin and defiance of God. All that remains is the third woe – the seventh trumpet.
- B. Yet, once again, with chapter 10, God hits the pause button on the events to explain some things to John with another parenthetical section. This parenthetical section starts with 10:1 and goes through 11:13. It's important to see this whole section as a single conversation. The angel who gives John the little book in chapter 10 is the same angel who gives him the reed and speaks in chapter 11. When we take these chapters together the storyline emerges in a much clearer way.
- C. These chapters take us back to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the 3 ½ year tribulation to explain the prophetic direction the saints will be receiving and operating in throughout the judgments.

#### VI. VERSE BY VERSE – The Mighty Angel and the Seven Thunders (Rev 10:1-4) *1 I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire; 2 and he had in his hand a little book which was open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land; 3 and he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars; and when he had cried out, the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices. 4 When the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from*

*heaven saying, "Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken and do not write them."*

- A. "another" In saying that this was another strong angel, John is connecting him to some other angel he has discussed \_\_\_\_\_. There are 3 places in Revelation that John refers to an angel as a "strong" or "mighty" angel. They are 5:2, here in 10:1, and later in 18:20. Thus, this new angel, like the one in chapter 5, must be very powerful and have great authority in judging the worthiness of individuals.
- B. This angel is not \_\_\_\_\_, because everywhere Jesus is found in the New Testament, the writer makes it clear that it is Jesus. The title "another angel" is hardly worthy of the Son!
- C. However, he is described similarly to the \_\_\_\_\_. He is mighty because he is saturated with the power and presence of God; he is clothed in a glory cloud because He is coming from the place where God's glory is made manifest; and he is crowned with a rainbow because he reflects the mercy that emanates from the throne of the Father.
- D. On an interesting side note, Jesus prophesied that the end times would be like the days of \_\_\_\_\_ in Matt 24:37. After the flood, God made the promise to never destroy the earth with a flood again with the sign of the rainbow, and this here God is reminding all of creation that he keeps his promises.
- E. In connection with this, just as God raised up Noah as a prophetic messenger in his day, God will raise up prophetic \_\_\_\_\_ in the end times.
- F. Going back to the angel, his face is described as shining like the sun from beholding God's fullness for millennia. The angel also has feet like pillars of fire speaking of God's zeal to purify and establish holiness in the earth.
- G. This angel looks like the Father because he has been before the Father and \_\_\_\_\_. His message. In the same way, those who give themselves to God in the last days will not only proclaim the word of the Lord, but will themselves be a prophetic message that the only way to stand is by giving yourself fully in obedience and abandonment to God.
- H. This angel has a little book in his hand. Recalling chapter 5, the scroll was closed before because the revelation inside it was unavailable until it was time to be released. This open book speaks of revelation that will only be \_\_\_\_\_ during the Great tribulation.
- I. The angel sets his purifying feet on both the water and the land, indicating the \_\_\_\_\_ of what He is about to do as being over all of the earth. He then cries out with authority like the roar of a lion. His roar releases something called "seven thunders" throughout the earth. What are the seven thunders?
  1. Well in context we see this angel is carrying revelation that is \_\_\_\_\_ for all believers during the great tribulation. He comes to the earth and releases it in a roar. In response, seven thunders utter their voices.
  2. These thunders were clearly understandable to John because he wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ the words of what they said.
  3. This is a picture of a series of seven prophetic messages being delivered by God to the earth by an angel.
  4. The truth of this is embodied by the two witnesses of the next chapter, who, empowered by this angel, stand in Jerusalem throughout the 3 ½ year great tribulation prophesying against the antichrist and his empire in power and authority.

VII. VERSE BY VERSE – The Guarantee of Completion (Rev 10:5-7) *5 Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven, 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE EARTH AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE SEA AND THE THINGS IN IT, that there will be delay no longer, 7 but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.*

- A. So here we see this same angel lifting up his hand and swearing an oath. Truly the end has come and the fullness of judgment is at hand. The mystery of the end of the age is about to finally be revealed and answered unmistakably to all of creation.
- B. The swearing of this angel is the supernatural \_\_\_\_\_ of the message being preached by God's people on the earth explaining the judgment going on and warning of the wrath to come.
- C. Here, in this oath, we see that the angel is promising that before the seventh trumpet is blown, the "mystery of God" will be finished. What is the mystery of God? There are multiple verse which talk about the mystery of God. Rom. 11:25-26, 16:25-26, Eph. 1:9-10, 3:3-6, 5:31-32, Col. 1:26-27. These verses together give us an idea of three parts to this mystery of God.
  - 1. First is that the mystery of God includes the joining together of all things in Christ.
  - 2. Next is that the mystery of God includes the joining of Jews and Gentiles together as fellow \_\_\_\_\_ of the Kingdom.
  - 3. Thirdly, the mystery of God includes the full number of the gentiles appointed to salvation being saved followed by Israel's \_\_\_\_\_ salvation.

- VIII. VERSE BY VERSE – Eating the Scroll (Rev 10:8-11) 8 *Then the voice which I heard from heaven, I heard again speaking with me, and saying, "Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land."* 9 *So I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. And he said to me, "Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey."* 10 *I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.* 11 *And they said to me, "You must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings."*
- A. Before we jump in and finish today, I wanted to point out that this is very similar to the commissioning of Ezekiel in Eze 2-3 and makes a great study.
  - B. So John hears the voice from heaven again. The source of this voice is not directly told, but it is likely this is the same voice that called John up through the door in heaven in chapter 4 – \_\_\_\_\_!
  - C. Then John is told to take the book from the angel. This is the first time in the book that John moves from being a spectator to actually \_\_\_\_\_ in the visions he is experiencing. This is a message for everyone of all generations. Whether you live during the actual events of Revelation or not, you are an integral part if you take the battle plan of Jesus and partner with the Father in preparing the way for it to happen (2 Pet. 3:12).
  - D. So John partners with Jesus and takes the book from the angel. The angel then tells him to eat the scroll. John is digesting God's word so that it becomes a \_\_\_\_\_ of Him and comes out of Him.
  - E. The reaction of John, just as the angel told him was that it was sweet in his mouth, yet bitter in his stomach.
  - F. Just as John did, we too must take and eat the scroll, getting the revelation of Jesus Christ and His plans and purposes for the end times down into our \_\_\_\_\_. When we do this, though, we, just as John is commanded in the last verse here, are released to prophecy. When we receive revelation from God, He almost always commands us to proclaim it. This is what it means to prophecy. God is calling all Christians to receive His revelation and proclaim it to the nations. We are all prophets, just as Paul said in 1 Cor. 14:31 "for ye may all prophesy" (KJV) and in the last days, just all Joel foresaw God will pour out prophesy on every believer in a powerful earthshaking way! The message of chapters 10-11 is that believers will have profound prophetic direction from God throughout the GT.