

Woes of the Two Trumpets: God's Judgment And Repentance

Revelation 8:13-9:21

Case Study: Jesus, a Demon-Possessed man, and the people of Gerasenes

Go they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons.

1. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and
2. he had not lived in a house but
3. among the tombs.

When he saw Jesus, **he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice**, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? **I beg you, do not torment me.**"

For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man.

4. (For many a time it had seized him.
5. He was kept under guard and
6. bound with chains and shackles, but
7. he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.)

Jesus then asked him, "**What is your name?**"

And he said, "**Legion,**" **for many demons had entered him.**

And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.

Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and **they begged him to let them enter these.**

So he gave them permission.

Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed.

Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

(Luke 8:26-39)

Transition between the 4th and 5th Trumpets: (8:13)

Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!"

Judgment Brought by an Eagle

JEREMIAH: For thus says the LORD: "**Behold, one shall fly swiftly like an eagle and spread his wings against Moab**; the cities shall be taken and the strongholds seized. The heart of the warriors of Moab shall be in that day like the heart of a woman in her birth pains; Moab shall be destroyed and be no longer a people, because he magnified himself against the LORD. Terror, pit, and snare are before you, O inhabitant of Moab! declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 48:40-43)

HOSEA: **Set the trumpet to your lips! One like a vulture is over the house of the LORD**, because they have transgressed my covenant and rebelled against my law. To me they cry, "My God, we—Israel—know you." Israel has spurned the good; the enemy shall pursue him. (Hosea 8:1-3)

Judgment Announced by a Woe

AMOS: "**Woe** to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away." **The Lord GOD has sworn by himself, declares the LORD, the God of hosts: "I abhor the pride of Jacob and hate his strongholds, and I will deliver up the city and all that is in it."** (Amos 6:4-8)

Fifth Trumpet: Locusts of Demonic Origin (9:1-11)

What Did John Hear and See? And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and

What Did the Fallen Star Do? he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and

What Came From the Shaft? from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft.

What Did the Locusts Do?

1. Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth.
2. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree,
3. but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.
4. They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and
5. their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone.
6. And in those days people will seek death and will not find it.
7. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.

What Did the Locusts Appear As?

1. In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle:
2. on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold;
3. their faces were like human faces,
4. their hair like women's hair, and
5. their teeth like lions' teeth;
6. they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and
7. the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle.
8. They have tails and stings like scorpions, and
9. their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails.
10. They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.

Locusts: Judgments of God—8th Plague on Egypt

Judgment of the Locusts: Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, so that they may come upon the land of Egypt and eat every plant in the land, all that the hail has left." So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind upon the land all that day and all that night. When it was morning, the east wind had brought the locusts. The locusts came up over all the land of Egypt and settled on the whole country of Egypt, such a dense swarm of locusts as had never been before, nor ever will be again. They covered the face of the whole land, so that the land was darkened, and they ate all the plants in the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Not a green thing remained, neither tree nor plant of the field, through all the land of Egypt.

Pharaoh's False Repentance: Then Pharaoh hastily called Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you. Now therefore, forgive my sin, please, only this once, and plead with the LORD your God only to remove this death from me." So he went out from Pharaoh and pleaded with the LORD.

God's Grace Stops the Locusts: And the LORD turned the wind into a very strong west wind, which lifted the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea. Not a single locust was left in all the country of Egypt.

Pharaoh's Heart Hardened by God: But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go. (Exodus 10:12-20)

Joel: Locust Judgment on Israel

A) Devastating Locust Invasion (1:1-14)

B) Suffering of all Creatures from the Locust Plague (1:15-20)

C) Yahweh Himself Brings the Locust Army Against Judah (2:1-11)

D) Call to Repentance (2:12-17)

A1) Promise That devastation of Locust Invasion will be Reversed (2:18-27)

B1) In the Future All the Inhabitants of Judah will experience Yahweh's Spiritual Blessings (2:28-32)

C1) In Future, Yahweh will bring the Nations' Armies Against Judah, but He will Destroy them and Restore Judah (3:1-21)

C) Yahweh Himself Brings the Locust Army Against Judah (2:1-11)

Blow a trumpet in Zion; / sound an alarm on my holy mountain! / Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, / for the day of the Lord is coming; it is near, / a day of darkness and gloom, / a day of clouds and thick darkness! / Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains / a great and powerful people; / their like has never been before, / nor will be again after them / through the years of all generations. / Fire devours before them, / and behind them a flame burns. / The land is like the garden of Eden before them, / but behind them a desolate wilderness, / and nothing escapes them. / Their appearance is like the appearance of horses, / and like war horses they run. / As with the rumbling of chariots, / they leap on the tops of the mountains, / like the crackling of a flame of fire / devouring the stubble, / like a powerful army / drawn up for battle. / Before them peoples are in anguish; / all faces grow pale. / Like warriors they charge; / like soldiers they scale the wall. / They march each on his way; / they do not swerve from their paths. / They do not jostle one another; / each marches in his path; / they burst through the weapons / and are not halted. / They leap upon the city, / they run upon the walls, / they climb up into the houses, / they enter through the windows like a thief. / The earth quakes before them; / the heavens tremble. / The sun and the moon are darkened, / and the stars withdraw their shining. / The Lord utters his voice / before his army, / for his camp is exceedingly great; / he who executes his word is powerful. / For the day of the Lord is great and very awesome; / who can endure it?

D) Call to Repentance (2:12-17)

"Yet even now," declares the Lord, / "return to me with all your heart, / with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; / and rend your hearts and not your garments." / Return to the Lord your God, / for he is gracious and merciful, / slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; / and he relents over disaster. / Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, / and leave a blessing behind him, / a grain offering and a drink offering / for the Lord your God? / Blow the trumpet in Zion; / consecrate a fast; / call a solemn assembly; / gather the people. / Consecrate the congregation; / assemble the elders; / gather the children, / even nursing infants. / Let the bridegroom leave his room, / and the bride her chamber. / Between the vestibule and the altar / let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep / and say, "Spare your people, O Lord, / and make not your heritage a reproach, / a byword among the nations. / Why should they say among the peoples, / 'Where is their God?'"

Transition between the 5th and 6th Trumpets: (9:12)

The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still to come.

6th Trumpet: Four Angels and Their Armies of Demonic Origin (9:13-19)

What Did John Hear and See?

Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet,

What Did the Four Angels Do?

"Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

What Did the Four Angels' Army Appear As?

The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number.

And this is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them:

1. they wore breastplates the color of fire and of sapphire and of sulfur, and
2. the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and
3. fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths.

What Did the Four Angels Do?

By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed,

by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths.

For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails,

for their tails are like serpents with heads, and by means of them they wound.

Fire, Smoke, Sulfur: Judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah

The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven. And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. And he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace. So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived. (Genesis 19:23-29)

And he said to the disciples, "The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. And they will say to you, 'Look, there!' or 'Look, here!' Do not go out or follow them. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all—so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it. I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left. There will be two women grinding together. One will be taken and the other left." And they said to him, "Where, Lord?" He said to them, "Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather." (Luke 17:22-37)

Consequences of the 5th and 6th Trumpets (9:20-21)

The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues,

1. did not repent of the works of their hands
2. nor give up worshiping demons and
3. idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk,
4. nor did they repent of their murders or
5. their sorceries or
6. their sexual immorality or
7. their thefts.

Repentance and Judgment: Sign of Jonah

When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, "This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. (Luke 11:29-32)

Surviving the Woes: The Plagues of Job

Lord God and Satan: Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. The LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

1st Plague: Oxen, Donkeys, Servants Killed by Sabeans: Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and there came a messenger to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

2nd Plague: Sheep and Servants Killed by Fire from Heaven: While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

3rd Plague: Camels and Servants Killed by the Chaldeans: While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

4th Plague: Sons and Daughters Killed by Great Wind: While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

Job Worshipped and Blessed God: Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

Lord God and Satan: Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. And the LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason." Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life."

5th Plague: Job Struck Down with Boils: So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes.

Job Remains Faithful: Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die." But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Lord God Restores Job: And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. Then came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and ate bread with him in his house. And they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him. And each of them gave him a piece of money and a ring of gold. And the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. And he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. He had also seven sons and three daughters. And he called the name of the first daughter Jemimah, and the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-happuch. And in all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters. And their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. And after this Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, four generations. 17 And Job died, an old man, and full of days.