

³ Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near. —
Revelation 1:3 (NKJV)

A man with a long, grey beard and hair, wearing a simple, light-colored robe, is seated in a rocky, arid landscape. He is holding a scroll open with his left hand and writing on it with a quill in his right hand. The scroll has some text written on it, including the words "KAAACBIAITY" and "TONTICRAPHIX". The background shows rolling hills and a clear sky.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)

“THE 5TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN” (9:1-12)

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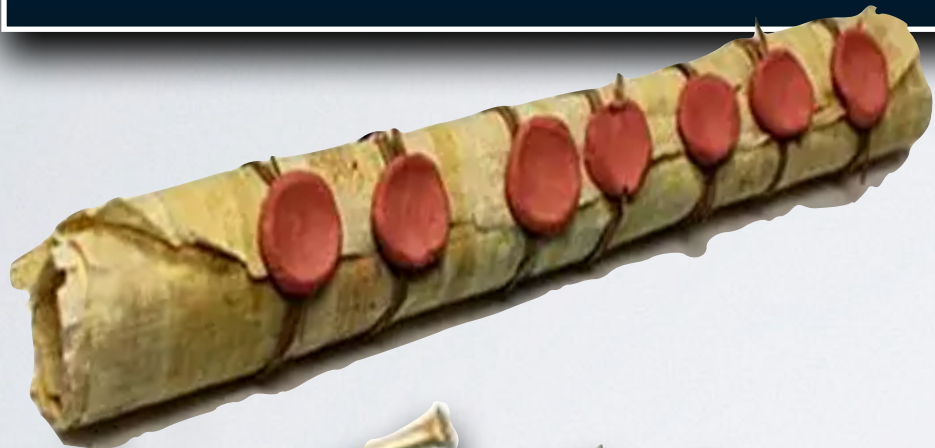


- The **imagery** and **symbols** in Revelation are necessary in comprehending the **BIG PICTURE** - but if we focus too much on the imagery and symbols we can easily **MISS** the **BIG PICTURE**.
- The **BIG PICTURE** in chapters 8:2-11:19 is clearly **GOD WILL BRING CALAMITY** upon those who persecute His people.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)

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- A series of three “7’s” — 7 seals (6:1-8:5); 7 trumpets (8:6-9:21); and 7 bowls of wrath (15:1-16:21).
- These run parallel to each other in a recapitulation pattern with God’s judgments being increased in intensity.
- John describes them one after the other by revealing from different viewpoints the judging and restraining action of God.

7 TRUMPETS - Rev. 8, 9
God's Call To Repentance



7 SEALS - Rev. 6-8:1
God's Judgment Is Coming



7 BOWLS - Rev. 16
God's Wrath Is Full



THE WICKED



All three series of sevens are simultaneous, although the trumpets and the bowls of wrath are more limited in time as they deal only with the “things which must shortly come to pass” (1:1).

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- 7 ANGELS & 7 TRUMPETS (8:2-6)
 - ▶ The urgent pleas and prayers of the saints have not gone unheard (cf. 6:10).
 - ▶ This vision is letting those who prayed so intensely for help in their distress know that God was indeed listening - it would be their prayers that initiate divine judgment.

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■ 7 ANGELS & 7 TRUMPETS (8:2-6)

- ▶ The natural calamities symbolized by the first four trumpets have weakened the Empire, but did not bring it down. (8:1-13)
- ▶ The fifth and sixth trumpets seem to introduce these last two factors that contributed to the demise of the Roman Empire.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)

“THE 5TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN” (9:1-12)



- HOW GOD WILL ULTIMATELY BRING AN END TO ROME'S POWER
 - ▶ Crisis of the 3rd Cent. AD (235–284).
 - **Civil wars** - at least 26 claimants to the title of emperor.
 - **Natural disasters** - Antonine & Cyprian Plagues, (165-180; AD 249 to AD 262); extreme weather events, agricultural instability; famine; volcanos, - economic collapse
 - **Barbarian immigrants / and numerous invasions.**

Revelation 9:1–12 (NKJV)

¹ Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. ² And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. ³ Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴ They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

Revelation 9:1–12 (NKJV)

⁵ And they were not given *authority* to kill them, but to torment them *for* five months.

Their torment *was* like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. ⁶ In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

⁷ The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces *were* like the faces of men. ⁸ They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' *teeth*.

Revelation 9:1–12 (NKJV)

⁹ And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings *was* like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. ¹⁰ They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power *was* to hurt men five months. ¹¹ And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew *is* Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. ¹² One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)

“THE 5TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN” (9:1-12)



■ THE 5TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:1-12)

- ▶ Satan is depicted in the Bible more than once as fallen to earth (cf. Luke 10:18; John 12:9),
- ▶ The pit of the Abyss is just as clearly viewed as his dominion (see Matt. 10:25; 12:24).
- ▶ Satan is given a key, a symbol of loosing and unloosing, thus permission to summon evil.

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Revelation 9:2
(NKJV)

² And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

■ THE 5TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:1-12)

- ▶ The bottomless pit, or abyss, symbolizes the lower depth of depravity, the cavity from whence originates evil, the abode of the devil and his angels (11:7; 17:8; 20:1-3).
- ▶ Internal corruption, moral decay, rottenness and wickedness is symbolized by darkness and is the cause of the woes described by the fifth trumpet vision.

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“THE 5TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN” (9:1-12)



Revelation 9:3
(NKJV)

³ Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

■ THE 5TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:1-12)

- ▶ Locusts were common pest and various illustrations are drawn from their characteristic features in the Bible (Deut. 28:38; Joel 2:1-11, 25; 2 Chron. 7:13; Ps. 105:34; Nah. 3:15).
- ▶ These locusts are not ordinary. They have the power of scorpions to hurt sinful men.

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■ THE 5TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:1-12)

- ▶ In this fifth trumpet, locusts represent the agents of Satan operating in the hearts of evil men.
- ▶ They hurt only the enemies of God, those without the seal of God in their forehead.
- ▶ This imagery illustrates that man reaps as he has sown (Gal. 6:7-8), therefore the servants of the devil suffer the consequences of sin.

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Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)

“THE 5TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN” (9:1-12)

Revelation 9:5
(NKJV)

⁵ And they were not given *authority* to kill them, but to torment them *for* five months. Their torment *was* like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.

■ THE 5TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:1-12)

- ▶ The locusts tormented for five months. Since five is half of ten, it represents a limited period.
- ▶ This internal rottenness, politically and otherwise, is well known to historians as being the cause for the decline of the Roman state.
- ▶ Moral depravity will destroy any society, including ours!

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)

“THE 5TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN” (9:1-12)



Revelation 9:6
(NKJV)

⁶ In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

■ THE 5TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:1-12)

- ▶ So great was the torment that men long to die, but death eludes them.
- ▶ There are many who choose to live in misery as a consequence of their sin, but we should remember, we do not sin in a vacuum.
- ▶ Why would anyone follow a course of life that brings bitterness and hurt to self and others?

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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“THE 5TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN” (9:1-12)



■ THE 5TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:1-12)

- ▶ Verses 7-10 provides the appearance of these locusts which portrays the appeal, deceitfulness, strength, and destructive nature of sin (Heb. 3:13).
- ▶ Wickedness is described as a powerful army which cannot be resisted by those corrupted by immorality. Destruction is certain!
- ▶ Any vice to which we give power will ultimately bring about our ruin.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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■ THE 5TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:1-12)

- ▶ Call him by either term, but his name means Destroyer.
- ▶ Therefore these symbols described in the fifth trumpet as darkness and locusts causing pain, led by the Destroyer, seem to represent the consequences of moral corruption.
- ▶ Idolatry, greed, unrestrained gross sexual immorality, cruelty, political corruption, etc. caused Rome's fall.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)

“THE 5TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN” (9:1-12)



Revelation 9:12
(NKJV)

¹² One woe is past.
Behold, still two more
woes are coming after
these things.

- THE 5TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:1-12)
 - ▶ After the fourth trumpet sounded an angel had warned of three woes that were to follow (8:13).
 - ▶ The first one is finished; two more are to come with the sounding of the sixth and seventh trumpets.
 - ▶ In other words, as bad as all of this seems, still worse things are yet to come.

This world has repeatedly brought suffering to the people of God, but the day will come when God will avenge His saints, and glorify His people.

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The consequences of sin most certainly will bring about pain and suffering, and those given to evil are powerless against its destructive forces!

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Mercy is still greater than judgment since a longsuffering God extends every opportunity for men to return to God. (2 Peter 3:9)

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**HEAVENS DOOR HAS BEEN OPENED
FOR YOU - WILL YOU ENTER?**

Believe — John 3:16;

Repent — Acts 17:30;

Confess — Romans 10:9,10;

Be baptized — Acts 2:38;

Endure by faith — I Corinthians 15:58

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)

“5TH & 6TH TRUMPETS: WOES UPON MAN” (9:1-21)

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Joel 2:1–11 (NKJV)

¹ Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the Lord is coming, For it is at hand: ² A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning *clouds* spread over the mountains. A people *come*, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any *such* after them, Even for many successive generations. ³ A fire devours before them, And behind them a flame burns; The land *is* like the Garden of Eden before them, And behind them a desolate wilderness; Surely nothing shall escape them.

Joel 2:1–11 (NKJV)

⁴ Their appearance is like the appearance of horses;
And like swift steeds, so they run. ⁵ With a noise
like chariots Over mountaintops they leap, Like the
noise of a flaming fire that devours the stubble, Like
a strong people set in battle array. ⁶ Before them the
people writhe in pain; All faces are drained of color.
⁷ They run like mighty men, They climb the wall
like men of war; Every one marches in formation,
And they do not break ranks. ⁸ They do not push one
another; Every one marches in his own column.
Though they lunge between the weapons, They are
not cut down.

Joel 2:1–11 (NKJV)

⁹ They run to and fro in the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, They enter at the windows like a thief. ¹⁰ The earth quakes before them, The heavens tremble; The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars diminish their brightness. ¹¹ The Lord gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong *is the One* who executes His word. For the day of the Lord *is* great and very terrible; Who can endure it?