

### Introduction

- We will look at the major different views of trumpets 5-6.
- It does matter and impacts the lessons we take from the passage.
- The main idea is the need for repentance in the face of God's judgment.

### Preterist

- These views see the events of Revelation as having been fulfilled in the 1st century, especially regarding Jerusalem's destruction in 70 A. D.
- The locusts are describing a real army of Romans, similar to Joel.
- The darkness is from a supposed volcanic eruption or the burning of Jerusalem.
- The torture of the locusts is the siege of Jerusalem itself, which lasted for 5 months.
- Apollyon is the Roman Emperor's son, Titus, who commanded the Apollinaris legion.
- The four angels being held back are the four Roman legions who were stationed at the Euphrates before being brought into Jerusalem.
- The animalistic descriptions describe the Roman army's armor, weapons, and banners. Some of the imagery they used was based on constellations.
- Jerusalem was certainly destroyed according to Jesus' prophecy.
- The earliest church fathers did not interpret Revelation this way.

### Historicism

- This view sees Revelation as having been fulfilled over the entire history of the world.
- Catholic historicists see the locusts as the Reformation and the falling star is Luther.
- Most see the 5th trumpet as the Saracens, Muslim Arabs, and their conquests in the 600-700's of the Eastern Empire.
- The fallen star is the Prophet Muhammad.
- The sixth trumpet represents the Seljuk Empire, Turkish muslims behind the 1st and 2nd crusades.
- The Seljuk Empire was known for its cavalry, which they counted by myriads.
- The colors refer to the cavalry, which tied horse tails to their spears.
- The smoke and sulphur refer to gunpowder.
- Some interpret the 6th trumpet as the Mongolian invasions.
- Some interpret this as the Fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Empire.
- This even did mark the final end of the Roman Empire after 1500 years.
- Historical fulfillment does not rule out multiple fulfillments.
- Revelation is relevant for every age, whether or not it is fulfilled in each age.

### Idealism

- This sees Revelation as primarily symbolic and is meant to point to present spiritual realities.

- Some see the pain the locusts bring as the mental anguish unbelievers feel as a result of not knowing Christ.
- Unbelievers face unique moments of despair because of their unbelief.
- The locusts do not harm the physical earth because they are bringing a spiritual famine.
- The key to the pit is false teaching and doctrine that deceive the masses.
- The locusts tails are leaders who have fallen away from the head of the church.
- The four horns of the altar are the Gospels.
- The horses' mouths are false teachers and heretics who deceive.
- The fire, smoke, and sulphur are blasphemies from false teachers' mouths.
- The fire, smoke, and sulphur are sins that lead to death.
- The death is a final spiritual death that leads to eternal torment.
- This position holds that Satan is both sealed in the pit and holds the key to the pit.

#### Futurism

- This sees Revelation as primarily revealing future events.
- It is unclear when the trumpet and seal judgments will fall in the tribulation.
- The early church interpreted these trumpets symbolically and literally.
- I believe there are spiritual lessons here and that these demons will literally judge the earth at some point in the great tribulation.
- The locusts are demons who are currently imprisoned.
- The army is not a literal human army, but an angelic army to judge the wicked.

#### Trapped Demons

- Some demons are locked in hell because of their sin (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6-7).
- I believe their sin was sexual in nature as described in Genesis 6.
- This used to be the primary understanding of the church, but became a minority position in the modern age.
- I believe some of these are the demons who are released in the 5th trumpet.

#### Application

- Each viewpoint agrees that the main idea is the need for repentance and the failure of many to do so.
- Spiritual warfare is involved in the spiritual blindness of unbelievers.