

“Loathsome Locusts & Horrific Horses!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. **Announce** – 5 week, Tuesday Nights @ CCCM.
- 1.2. **Outline:** Loathsome Locusts & Horrific Horses!

2. LOATHSOME LOCUSTS! - 5TH TRUMPET (1-12)

- 2.1. **HOME OF THE LOCUSTS!** (1,2)
- 2.2. Like the 8th plague/Locusts (Ex.10:1-20)
- 2.3. “Here the bottomless pit **belches out** demonic creatures to torment mankind!”¹
- 2.4. (1) **A Star fallen** = Satan? (vs.11)
 - 2.4.1. **Given the key** – i.e. he is not in control. God still orchestrating it all!
- 2.5. **Abyss** = bottomless pit. A type of holding cell for evil spirits.
 - 2.5.1. **The Pit** is the abode of demons – Jesus mentioned this Pit/abyss already in **Lk.8:31**(demons/pigs/don’t send us to the abyss early)
- 2.6. **See 2 Pet.2:4** (also **Jude 6**) Hell=*Tartarus*
- 2.7. The world must make a choice: **Life or Death?**
 - 2.7.1. **Read Deut.30:19,20.**
- 2.8. **POWER OF THE LOCUSTS!** (3-6)
- 2.9. (3) **Locusts** - God sometimes used Locusts to judge His people (Deut.28:42; Joel 2)
 - 2.9.1. **Regular locust** were feared by most biblical civilizations because 1 large swarm could strip away most crops in a matter of minutes.
 - 2.9.2. **Then** females would **lay eggs** deep in the soil & their hatch would in the spring, eating whatever grew back.
 - 2.9.3. **But, what’s worse then locust after greenery?** Locust after people!
 - 2.9.4. **Not literal Locust** - They don’t eat vegetation(**Keep off the grass**). They can distinguish people. They have an incredible sting. They have a king(11).
 - 2.9.5. It’s interesting the normal lifespan of a locust is 5 months [**May-Sept**]
- 2.10. There are more occurrences of “**like & as**” here then in any other ch. in scripture!
- 2.11. **Scorpions** - 650 species, sting is painful but not deadly (only 1 deadly in Mexico)
 - 2.11.1. Power “**as**” scorpions.

¹ Warren Wiersbe

- 2.12. (5,6) Repent?...No suicide!
- 2.12.1. I guess the same theme of the Pirates of the Caribbean movies.
2.12.1.1. The ghostly pirates that can't die.
- 2.12.2. They try suicide but cannot die! - *Like a "B" rated horror flick.* ☹️
- 2.12.3. Christopher Marlowe said, "When all the world dissolves, & every creature shall be purified, **all place shall be hell that is not heaven.**"
- 2.13. **5 months** – again probably limited to give a **warning** & an **opportunity** to **repent!**
- 2.14. **SHAPE OF THE LOCUSTS!** (7-10)
- 2.15. (7-10) John could be spiritualizing some modern means of warfare?...**They wish!**
- 2.15.1. I believe they're **Demons!** Led by none other than the Satan himself.
- 2.16. **KING OVER THE LOCUSTS!** (11)
- 2.17. They are led by none other than the Satan himself.
- 2.18. (12) 2 more woes.

3. **HORRIFIC HORSES! - 6th TRUMPET (13-21)**

- 3.1. *"You seek death?...I'll give you death!"* - Torment is now replaced...with Death!
- 3.2. This army is released at a **precise time**, & for a **special purpose!** **To kill!**
- 3.2.1. **Nothing is random or out of control.**
- 3.2.2. Jonathan Edwards "the bow of God's wrath is bent, & the arrow made ready on the string, & justice bends the arrow at your heart, & strains the bow, & there is nothing but the mere pleasure of God, w/o any promise or obligation at all, that keeps the arrow one moment from being made drunk with your blood."
- 3.3. (15) **4 angels** – they were in **timeout** for misbehavior.
- 3.3.1. What hideous fallen angels waiting years, decades, millenniums, foaming at the mouth for their time to slaughter approx 1.5 billion people.
- 3.3.2. If there is approx. 6 bill. people (1/4 was already wiped out 1.5 billion, leaving 4.5 left)
- 3.3.3. Now 1/3rd (another 1.5) leaving 3 bill. left.....**1/2 the world is gone!**
- 3.4. (16) John specifically **heard** the number 200 million.
- 3.4.1. **China** boasted of a 200 million army back in 1965.
- 3.5. (17-19) - Another Demonic Army!
- 3.5.1. **Their riders** wore **fiery red**, dark blue, & **bright yellow**.
- 3.5.2. But, it was **the Horses** not the riders that were feared.
- 3.5.3. It was their **mouths** & **tails**.

- 3.5.4. **Mouths** – fire, smoke, & brimstone.
- 3.5.5. **Tails** – like snakes w/heads of their own that could also injure others.
- 3.5.6. **Whatever these horrific horses are...they are hellish!**
- 3.5.6.1. Demon-inspired, demon-led, resulting in unparalleled death & destruction.²
- 3.6. **Interesting:** This plague of horsemen seem similar to the **Parthian warriors** who threatened Rome from the East.
- 3.6.1. At the border of the roman empire to the east was the river Euphrates.
- 3.6.2. Beyond lived the Parthians, an **Iranian** people, who were a grave threat to the civilized world of Rome.
- 3.6.3. Several times their mounted troops constituted a terror from the East.
- 3.6.4. **(19) Tails...they do harm -**
- 3.6.4.1. Have you ever heard the phrase a “**Parthian Shot**”? – it means to make a final hostile remark or gesture made while leaving.
- 3.6.4.2. From the Parthians’ legendary tactic of **firing arrows over their shoulders while retreating**. [Encarta Dictionary]
- 3.6.4.2.1. Thus, danger coming from the rear of the horse.
- 3.6.4.3. The Parthians would **draw up** for battle and **then withdraw**, drawing the cumbersome Roman legionaries after them. They **repeated this tactic** until the Roman column was severely extended. Then the **Parthians turned**, enveloped the head of the column, massacred them, and moved back to the next part of the column until the Romans were almost entirely wiped out.³
- 3.6.5. I’m not trying to explain this away. Just thought that this would be interesting to John’s readers of **his day!**
- 3.6.5.1. Then, in **our day today** with the worlds problem with Iran’s leader saying, “**Israel should be wiped off the map**”.
- 3.6.5.2. And their “**let’s talk strategy**” so they can continue to build their nuclear program!
- 3.7. (20,21) - You’d think 5 months of torment, then catastrophic deaths, would bring mankind to its **knees** in Repentance....**Nope!** (they would not)
- 3.7.1. These sins listed sound contemporary with today!
- 3.7.2. The very **demons** who were agents **inflicting widespread death...** were the **objects of their worship???**
- 3.8. The most frightening thing about ch.9 is **not the judgments that God sends**, but **the sins that man persists in committing...even while He is judging them!**

² Shepherd’s Notes; pg.32

³ Encarta Reference Library 2005.

- 3.8.1. What was Paul's warning in 2 Cor.4:4? "The god of this age has **blinded the minds of unbelievers**, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."
- 3.8.2. Not only do people hang onto their **false worship** but also their **wicked lifestyles**.
- 3.8.3. If you break the **1st table** of the 10 commandments(*sins against God*), **then** breaking the **2nd tablet** is sure to follow(*sins against man*).
 - 3.8.3.1. Love of **God & love for humanity** are linked!
 - 3.8.3.2. True biblical love for God has **ethical results**.
- 3.9. **End:**
 - 3.9.1. We are at the mid-point (3 1/2 yrs. past)
 - 3.9.2. Ch.10-14 → Takes place in the middle of the trib.
 - 3.9.3. **Pause next week, for a night of worship!**
- 3.10. Note the 3 main points:
 - 3.10.1. [1] The Reality & Power of **the unseen world** of Demons & Satan.
 - 3.10.2. [2] The Reality & Power of **a God who Judges**.
 - 3.10.3. [3] The Reality & Power of the **Hardness of sinful human hearts**.
- 3.11. **God's Heart? Choose Life!** "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; **therefore choose life**, that both you and your descendants may live; "that you may **love** the **LORD** your God, that you may **obey** His voice, and that you may **cling** to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days..."
 - 3.11.1. **Now is the day of salvation!**
 - 3.11.2. "For God did not appoint us to **wrath**, but to **obtain salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ"
 - 3.11.3. **Choose Life!**