

Locusts & Horses, Sweet & Sour

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

A. Sun Nite Prayer. FPU starts this Sun. Men's starting up Tues. R&R next Thurs.

II. Slide2 **Intro: Locusts & Horses, Sweet & Sour**

A. There are more occurrences of **like** & **as** here than in any other ch. in scripture.

1. Poor John, how difficult to explain what he's **seeing in the future, using only words he owns now.**

B. Let's start w/*the bottomless pit belching out demonic creatures to torment mankind.* Wiersbe

III. Slide3 **LOCUSTS (9:1-12) 5TH TRUMPET**

A. Slide4a **THE HOME OF THE LOCUSTS** (1,2)

B. Like the **8th** plague from Exodus/Locusts (Ex.10).

C. (1) **A Star fallen** = Satan? (vs.11)

1. **Given the key** – **i.e.** he's not in control. *God still orchestrating it all.*

D. **Abyss** = bottomless pit. A type of holding cell for evil spirits.

1. The Pit is the abode of demons. Jesus mentioned this Pit/abyss in Lk.8:31 (demons/pigs said, *don't send us to the abyss early*)

E. Slide4b **THE POWER OF THE LOCUSTS** (3-6)

F. (3) **Locusts** - God sometimes had used *Locusts* to judge His people (Deut.28:42; Joel 2).

1. Regular locust were feared by most biblical civilizations because 1 large swarm could strip away most crops in a matter of minutes. **Then** females would lay eggs deep in the soil & their hatch would in the spring, eating whatever grew back.
2. **But, what's worse than locust after greenery? Locust after people!**
3. **Not literal Locust** - **They** don't eat vegetation (Keep off the grass sign). **They** can distinguish people. **They** have an incredible sting. **They** have a king (11).

- G. **Like the torment of a Scorpion** - 13-1400 species, sting is painful **but** not deadly (only 25 deadly to humans).
- H. (5,6) **Repent?...***No, attempted suicide.*
1. The pain will be so great that they will **prefer death**, **but** the stings **wont be fatal**
- I. It's interesting the normal lifespan of a locust is **5 months** [May-Sept]
1. **5 Months** – probably speaks of giving a **warning &** an **opportunity** to **repent**.
- J. **Slide4c THE SHAPE OF THE LOCUSTS** (7-10)
- K. **Slide5** (7-10) Could John be spiritualizing some modern means of warfare? Attack helicopters? Weaponized mean-looking drones?...**They wish!**
1. I believe they're **Demons**.
- L. **Slide6 THE KING OVER THE LOCUSTS** (11)
- M. They are led by none other than the **Satan** himself.

IV. **Slide7a HORSES (9:13-21) 6TH TRUMPET**

- A. **You seek death?...**I'll give you death. Torment is now replaced...with Death.
- B. **This army** is released at a precise time **&** for a special purpose. **To kill.**
1. Nothing is random **or** out of control.
 2. **Slide7b** 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 1 moment from being made drunk with your blood.
- C. (15) **4 angels** – they were *in timeout for misbehavior*.
1. **Slide7c** This must be what the special compartment of **hell** is for...*tar-tar-RO.*
 - a) 2 Pet.2:4 *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.*
 - b) Jude 6 *And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day.*
 2. What hideous fallen angels waiting years, decades, millenniums, foaming at the mouth for their time to slaughter approx 1.9 billion people.

- a) **Slide8a** If there are 7.6 bill people on our planet. 1/4 were already wiped out (1.9 bill, 4th seal), leaving 5.7 bill left.
- b) **Now** 1/3rd gone (another 1.9) leaving 3.8 bill left...so *1/2 the world is gone.*

D. (16) **John specifically heard the number 200 million.**

- 1. Many said, maybe China's army when they boasted of a 200 million army... again I think it would be... *They wished!*

E. (17-19) Another Demonic Army.

- 1. **Slide8b** I think the riders are from Chad *or* Romania (*see flags*) because it says their riders wore **fiery red**, **dark blue**, & **bright yellow**. [*totally joking!*]
- 2. *But seriously*, it was **the Horses not the riders that were feared**.
 - a) *It was their mouths & tails*. **Mouths** of fire, smoke, & brimstone. **Tails** like snakes w/heads of their own that could also injure others.
- 3. Whatever these horrific **horses** are...*they are hellish!*
 - a) *Demon-inspired, demon-led, resulting in unparalleled death & destruction.*

F. **Slide9** Interesting how each time period thinks it could be them (which was the purpose): This plague of horsemen seem similar to the **Parthian warriors** [ancient Iranian people] who threatened **Rome** from the East.

- 1. **Tails...they do harm** (19) - The Parthian shot is a light horse military tactic made famous in the West by the Parthians, an ancient Iranian people. While in real or feigned retreat their horse archers would turn their bodies back in full gallop to shoot at the pursuing enemy. [**Today** a *Parthian Shot* means to make a final hostile remark or gesture made while leaving]

G. (20,21) You'd think 5 months of torment, then catastrophic deaths, would bring mankind to its knees in Repentance...*Nope!* (they would not)

- 1. These **sins** listed sound **contemporary** with today.
- 2. **The very demons who were agents inflicting widespread death... were the objects of their worship?**
 - a) 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.

H. **We are at the mid-point of the 7 year tribulation.** *Ch.10-14 takes place in the mid of trib.*

V. Slide10a **SWEET & SOUR** (ch.10)

A. Slide10b Here we have 1 of the greatest **Real Estate Deals** in History.

1. **Manhattan** (Borough of NY city) **was a pretty good deal**. 1st purchased by **Peter Minuit** from native Indians, for **\$24 worth of trinkets** in 1626.
2. **The Louisiana purchase** - Thomas Jefferson paid \$15 million in 1803 for about **a million square miles**, West of the Miss River...so our nation could grow.
 - a) **But the greatest deal** is this 1 here, as it deals with **the whole earth**. [note: in vs.2 at Jesus' return to earth *He stands upon both earth & the sea*, thus claiming ownership of both]

B. **Heavenly scene**. Longest Vision here in this book.

C. Here we have another chapter set aside to assure us that...*Not for a single moment has God abandoned our protected planet to His foes.*

1. After a few days of a storm it sure is refreshing when the Sun peers its rays thru. It may just be a glimpse, but it's a quick reminder that behind all those dark clouds.....the sun still shines.

D. **Ch.10 is another breath (inhale/exhale)**.

1. All troubles in this world stem from the fact that **men have lost sight of Him**.
 - a) So John turns our eyes back on **Jesus**.

E. **Slide11a EYES ON JESUS** (1-3)

F. **This Angel?** - Just another angel...**Or, Jesus?**

1. **Slide11b Clothed w/a Cloud** (Ps.104:3; Acts 1:9; Rev.1:7). **A Rainbow on His head** (4:3). **Face like the sun** (1:16). **Feet like pillars of fire** (1:15). **Loud voice** (1:10,15). **Lion** (5:5). **Swearing** (5,6)

G. **Foot on earth & other on sea** – His mission involves *the whole world*.

H. **Slide11c EYES ON JOHN** (4-11)

I. (4) **Seal up** – John's 1st time muzzled.

1. Slide11d Proof God knows more than you. Job said, *Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways, And how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?* 26:14
2. Don't crave to know the **hidden** things of God.
 - a) Aren't there some things you keep **hidden** from your little children...for their sake? (maybe details of a tragedy/ you simplify it, mommy was in an accident)
 - b) Slide11e Deut.29:29 *The **secret** things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are **revealed** belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*
 - c) *Remember the purpose of scripture is to **save sinners** & to **sanctify character**....**not to satisfy curiosity.** Wiersbe*
- J. (5,6) I swear - hand up. Heb 6:13 *For when **God** made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, **He swore by Himself.***
- K. (6,7) Delay no longer – See 7th Trumpet in 11:15.
 1. The end of Satan's kingdom has come. Chapter 12 he's thrown out of heaven & from accusing the brethren ever again.
- L. What Joy this brings to the Martyrs & others who ask, *how long?*
 1. God has His times & purposes on schedule. **Yet**, now He is the God who **still delays**...*thank You Lord.*
 2. Heb 10:37 *For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.*
- M.(8) John has been faithful to: record the letters. Enter the open door into heaven. Overcome his fears of all the things he was seeing in this strange & wonderful world. *Now he's about to get a little bit more involved.*
 1. He is challenged to approach the mighty angel & take the scroll He's holding. *I think I'd rather take away a bone from a ravenous dog* (Bongo rake story).
 2. Well, he didn't **take** it **but he did ask** for it (9). **Then** he's told to **take it & eat it**
- N. Strange wording? Yet we say, *did you finish that book? yah I ate it up.*
 1. **David** used this analogy when talking about God's Word that it was **Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.**

2. **Jeremiah** used this analogy, *Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.*
- O. **Slide12a** (9,10) **Both bitter & sweet** - Remember the old commercials of Miller Light in the 70's where they'd fight over whether it *Taste great*, or was, *less filling* [it was both].
1. Here we have something **sweet** to taste & **bitter** to digest. & *probably low in calories.*
- P. We should allow the word of God to **affect us** 1st **before** we minister it to **others**.
1. **Slide12b** 1Cor.15:3 *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received.*
 2. We must take the Word: **Taste it & see it is good. Receive it inwardly like food. Then Digest it & let it become part of us.**
 3. To **eat** God's word is to **fully digest** what God is saying.
 - a) This will give better results than the *binge-&-purge* approach to Scripture.
- Q. This is also a vivid picture of **Truth**. 1st it's **pleasant** to the taste, **then** once fully digested it brings *heaviness*. (yeah heaven for bel's, **ohh** judgment & hell for others)
1. **Sweet** – God's wrapping things up, & His Kingdom is coming.
 2. **Bitter** - **but** there 1st will have to be much *blood shed, beasts, bowls & battles* to come.
 3. John **could not** take a *mere academic interest* in the Revelation...*it upset him.*
 4. I think its normal then when we are reading the OT & run across the wars & slaying of **men, women & children**...*to be upset.*
 - a) Can you take a *mere academic* approach to Revelation?
 - b) Will you let Jesus coming for His saints & His coming judgment for those who are not His...*affect you?*
- R. (11) The Little Book obviously contained **future prophecies**.
- S. **God still needed John to declare His message to the people.**
1. **The scene is being set** for the **final conquest**, the man of sin shall be revealed, the final show-down is triggered.
 2. **God & Antichrist. Good & evil. Final & total victory will be won. Questions will find their answers. Wrongs will be righted.**

a) God promised for centuries He would *balance the scales of justice* for us...and He will. **Evil** may flourish now, **but** it cannot in the end *be triumphant*.

T. What do you expect from Gods Word?

1. Some expect a **jolt** every time they read the bible. It's more like taking Vitamins. You don't take Vitamins for a **jolt** **but** for the **long term benefits**.

U. *****

V. Relief from the Hephthalite bowl, depicting a Parthian shot.