

# Revelation

Notes #9A

Seal #7 - Trumpets #5-6: Woes

Chapter 9

## Trumpet

**#5**  
**[Woe #1]**

## Description

(1) Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a **star** from heaven which had **fallen to the earth**; and the **key of the bottomless pit** was given to him. (2) He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the **smoke of a great furnace**; and the **sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit**. (3) Then out of the smoke came **locusts** upon the earth, and power was given them, as the **scorpions** of the earth have power. (4) They were told not to hurt **the grass of the earth**, nor any **green thing**, nor any **tree**, but only **the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads**. (5) And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for **five months**; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man. (6) And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and **death flees from them**. (7) The appearance of the **locusts** was like **horses prepared for battle**; and on their heads appeared to be **crowns like gold**, and their faces were like **the faces of men**. (8) They had **hair like the hair of women**, and their teeth were like **the teeth of lions**. (9) They had breastplates like **breastplates of iron**; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of **chariots**, of **many horses** rushing to battle. (10) They have **tails like scorpions**, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for **five months**. (11) They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is **Abaddon**, and in the Greek he has the name **Apollyon**. (Revelation 9:1-11 NASB)

## Symbology

## Meaning(s)

Star	Mohammed, a fallen prince
Bottomless Pit	Cave in the desert (furnace), darkness (falsehood)
Smoke	Obscures or hides the truth
Locusts	Saracens, swarm over land bringing destruction
Scorpions	Saracens, power to hurt but not destroy
Grass, Green	Literally green vegetation. Symbol of Islam (color green)
Five Months	Prophetic year; 5 times 30 years = 150 years

## Period

## Interpretation

**610-782 AD The Mohammedan or Islam Uprising. The Saracen Empire.**

It seems that the term **Saracen** initially referred to people from the desert in and around Arabia but did not include **Arabs** per se. Later, the term included Arabs, then all who professed the religion of **Islam (Mohammedans)**, until the Saracen became synonymous with the **Muslim**.

Clearly, this trumpet begins with **Mohammed** who was like a fallen star, for he was a prince (star) by birth, the heir of the rule of Mecca. Unfortunately, his grandfather and father died when he was young and he became a servant, not a leader. In 610 AD, he began having visions while in a cave, which led to writing the **Koran** and the formation of **the religion of Islam**. In 612 AD, Mohammed began sending out missions to spread Islam to other lands, but he soon formed armies to spread it by conquest. This occurred six years after the **Bishop of Rome** declared himself to be the "**universal bishop**," thus, bringing on the judgment of God against the Roman Church as meted out by the Islamic Saracens. However, the conquering (true) Christians (seal of God on their foreheads) were to be left untouched.

Mohammed's visions that came while in a cave in the desert could be likened to the smoke of a great furnace that went out of the pit. A furnace is likened to the extremely hot desert. Smoke obscures light or truth, and Islam is a dark, false religion that obscures the truth of God's Word. A darkened sun leaves the moon and stars only, which are popular symbols of Islam, as evidenced by their flags that portray a crescent moon and a star.

By the 630's, Arabia and the region up to the border of the Byzantine Empire had been conquered and converted. Palestine, Syria, Mesopotamia, Egypt, the north of Africa, and Spain, including cities like Jerusalem, Antioch, and Alexandria, had all been taken captive by the Saracens. Judgment had fallen on a third of the Christianized Roman world.

Islam peaked when its capital moved from Damascus to **Baghdad** in 762-763 AD. **Bagdad was called the "City of Peace."** This is called **the golden age of the Saracen power**, and the era of the **Arabian Nights**. This concluded the 5 prophetic months or 150 years (612-762). By 782 AD, the Saracens or Mohammedans had ceased their efforts to convert the world to Islam and began to consider peace. Others have noted that there was another 150-year period that began in 632 when the Saracens began their conquest and ended in 782 when the ruler Haroun Al Rashid engaged in friendly correspondence with the Christian rulers of Europe.

However, it is abundantly clear that the symbology of this woe refers to the Mohammedans as aggressors led by the king-angel of the abyss called **Abaddon** (Hebrew) or **Apollyon** (Greek), meaning "a destroyer." The locusts, the horses, the horsemen, the scorpions, and all the symbols identify the aggressors as those wielding the sword for Islam and its founder Mohammed; a sword wielded against both the Hebrews and the Greeks.

Locusts came from the eastern deserts and devastated the land (Judges 6:5) literally for five months, starting around April. In like fashion, the Saracens came from the desert of the east and brought devastation for five prophetic months. The locusts were likened to horses prepared for battle. The previous tribal aggressors against the Roman world had been primarily foot soldiers, but the Saracens were an army of horsemen that conquered with swiftness analogous to locusts. They swarmed over the land and left devastation in their wake.

These men also wore upon their heads something like crowns of gold, had the faces of men, and had the hair of women, that is, long hair that flowed from their shoulders and streamed in the air. Historical records speak of the yellow turbaned Arabs with their uncut hair and beards. From a distance, a yellow turban could resemble crowns of gold. The Jews and Arabs wore long beards. The Roman and northern races shaved their faces. These locusts are very much like the bearded men of the East. They had the teeth of lions, meaning they were ferocious in their aggression. In fact, their captives were given three options: convert to Islam, or pay a high tribute (tax), or die. Also, the locusts had breastplates of iron. The Saracen's were known for their iron coats of mail. "God has given you coats of mail to defend you in your wars" (Koran).

Islam is known for the color green. Mohammed wore a green cloak and turban and filled his writings with the color. Islamic flags are green. Further, the Koran commands that they not destroy palm trees (green), fruit trees, or any field of corn. **"Cut down no palm trees, nor burn fields of corn. Destroy no fruit trees."** Thus, "do not hurt the grass or any green thing."

The Saracens are likened to having tails like scorpions, whose sting is quite painful but does not lead to death. An unconverted person living under a Mohammedan was almost intolerable. But the tail also speaks of the falsehood of the founder and his religion. **The prophet who teaches falsehood is the tail** (Isaiah 9:15b).

**Trumpet****#6**  
**[Woe #1]****Description**

(13) Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, (14) one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the **four angels** who are bound at the **great river Euphrates**." (15) And the four angels, who had been prepared for **the hour and day and month and year**, were released, so that they would **kill a third of mankind**. (16) The number of the armies of the horsemen was **two hundred million**; I heard the number of them. (17) And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: the riders had **breastplates the color of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone**; and the **heads of the horses are like the heads of lions**; and out of their mouths proceed **fire and smoke and brimstone**. (18) A third of mankind was killed by these **three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone** which proceeded out of their mouths. (19) For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their **tails are like serpents** and have heads, and with them they do harm. (20) The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent** of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; (21) and they **did not repent** of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts. (Revelation 9:13-21 NASB)

**Symbology**

Breastplates  
Heads of lions  
Three plagues  
Tails

**Meaning(s)**

Colorful apparel worn by Ottoman warriors  
Cannons  
Fire, smoke, brimstone – result of gunpowder spewing from cannons  
Fuse of the cannons

**Period****977-1453 AD****Interpretation**

**Turkish Uprising. Rise of the Seljuk and Ottoman Empires, and the downfall of Constantinople and Byzantine Empire.**

God's judgments had fallen on two-thirds of the Old Roman Empire, but there was one-third yet to be judged and that was the ERE or the Byzantine Empire based in Constantinople. For this judgment, God raised up the Turkmans or Turks, specifically the Seljuk Turks followed by the Ottoman Turks.

The **Seljuk Empire** was founded by a warrior named Seljuk and stretched through Persia and Mesopotamia. By 1064, the Seljuk Turks had crossed the Euphrates and had begun to shrink the Byzantine Empire until **Constantinople fell on May 29, 1453** to the Osmani Turks, another Turkish tribe founded by a chieftain named Osman. At this point, the last third of the ERE was gone and the judgment of the RE was complete.

The year 1453 is critical in understanding this second woe that speaks of the four angels who had been prepared for the hour (part of a year) and day (1 year) and month (30 years) and year (360 years). Prophetically speaking, this pointed to a 391-year period that started in 1063, the year that Tughrul-Begh, the head of the Seljuk Turkish Empire, died after having conquered Baghdad eight years earlier in 1055. His successor, Alp Arslan, then conquered Georgia and Armenia from the Byzantines. With release of the angels, the number killed by the expansion of the Turkish Empire was a third of the people in the eastern region; not a third of all mankind on earth.

As to the four angels and the 200 million horsemen, there are varying views on this.

One commentator sees the four angels as four divisions of the Turkish Empire. Through a series of deaths, Malek Shah became its ruler and divided it into four principalities (Persia, Kerman or India, Syria, and Roum or Asia Minor) and gave each to one of his four sons. This commentator points out that the Turks had been bound at the Euphrates for a 60-year period after which they crossed the great river and began to conquer the ERE.

However, others see the angels as well as the 200 million horsemen symbolically representing spiritual beings or unclean spirits that were empowered by God to go forth to judge the ERE. The Greek states "two myriads of myriads," and a myriad generally refers to 10,000. Thus, two 10,000s of 10,000s is equated to 200 million. Considering the magnitude of such a number, it is easy to see why most see it as symbolic of a mighty spirit army. Surely, this would fit with the angels representing spirit beings.

However, verse 17 actually begins to describe the apparel of this army, as well as their weaponry, and this is clearly a description of a literal army. Given this, it seems that the 200 million may relate more to the Turks than to spirit beings. Perhaps the 200 million is symbolic of their mighty strength, which could have included all the cannon balls and other projectiles with which they struck the ERE capital.

At any rate, what needs to be seen is that God was behind this judgment, and it was no small one at that. Bound and released at the Euphrates simply indicates from whence the judgment commences, leaving no doubt as to its human character and agent.

As were the Saracens, the Turks were horsemen as well. The woe began with the Suljuks and ended with the Ottomans, but the woe places the emphasis on the Ottomans, starting in verse 17. The Ottomans were known to wear colorful, warlike apparel of scarlet, blue, and yellow, and they were the ones to first in the region to effectively use cannons fired by gunpowder, which led to their taking of Constantinople.

Their cannons match the description of the heads of the horse resembling the heads of lions, etc., for their cannon was actually shaped like a horse with a lion's head, and, when the gunpowder ignited, they belched forth fire and brimstone (smoke, sulfur smell). They even had a long fuse that ran up the back of the cannon that looked like a tail. Once the tail was ignited it sent forth its destructive power. This must have been quite a sight for John's eyes.

Unfortunately, this woe did not lead the Roman church to repent of their murders, their sorceries, their immorality, or their thefts. A greater judgment was on the horizon that would free the true Christian from **churchism** that had kept the people in the dark and martyred those who disagreed with the tradition of men.

By the way, if you cannot tell, I made up the word *churchism* by adding the suffix *ism*, which refers "to any doctrine, theory, system, body of principles and practices, action, process, state or condition, or characteristic quality whose name ends in *ism*;" **usually disparaging.** When I attach *ism* to a word, I mean it in a disparaging way or to reflect it is of man and not of God.

All religions are identified as an *ism*. Christianity is not a religion; unfortunately, when man gets hold of it and pushes the Head out of it, it quickly becomes an *ism* as well, and could be called *churchism* or *Christianism*. Interestingly, the religion of Islam is called Islamism, but have you noticed that *ism* is built into its name? Leave out the *la* and you have *Is~~m~~-Islam*. In French, *la* is the word for the female definite article *the*. Perhaps, we could say that Islam is *the* *ism* of all *isms*.