

REVELATION, Chapter 9

Chapter 9:1 – 12; The Fifth Trumpet: Locust torture for five months

Chapter 9:13 – 21; The Sixth Trumpet: 200 million horsemen kill a third of mankind

SIMILARITIES of the Fifth and Sixth Trumpets:

1. A large number of creatures; locust and horsemen.
2. Both locusts and horsemen have specialized tails.
3. Both are linked to time periods; five month and an hour, day, month, & year.
4. Both emerge from specific locations; the bottomless pit and the River Euphrates

DIFFERENCES of the Fifth and Sixth Trumpets:

1. The tails, times, and places are different.
2. The horse locusts are only allowed to torture, while the horsemen are allowed to kill.
3. The sixth Trumpet horsemen have “three plagues,” the fire, the smoke, and the sulphur.

THE THREE WOES

A fallen star: Satan, and the Islamic leaders who served his purposes.

A bottomless pit: Arabia viewed as a vast, mostly uninhabitable wasteland, a place of death.

Flying horse like locusts: Islamic armies in their early, Arabic phase of conquest. Wearing turbans, long hair, spreading their poison like scorpions. A swarm of locust

The spread of Islam A.D. 750: all of Northern Africa, Arabia, North and East of the Euphrates River to India, including Southern Spain. This is exactly the Northern range of the Desert Locust.

Grass and green trees: People of God whom the Moslems allowed to go on living.

People of God sealed on their foreheads: Sincere Christians whom the Moslems allow to go on living.

Five months' torture: Approximately 150 years, probably the years between the beginning (674) and the end (823) of the early series of Islamic attacks on Constantinople.

“Destroyer,” the locust king: Satan and the Moslem leaders.

The four angels: Islamic leaders (Turkish origin, swarming down from the north and east from the Euphrates) conquering the Byzantine Empire. Mohammed (Mehmet II the Conquerer (1451 – 1481); ruled the Ottoman Empire as the 391 years, 15 days begin.

Suleiman the Magnificent (1520 – 1566) opposed Charles the V. Mahmud II (1808 – 1839) and Abdulmecid (1839 – 1861) ruled the 391 years ended.

The Euphrates: General geographical term for Mesopotamia, east and southeast east of Asia Minor.

The 200,000,000 horsemen: The later Islamic armies dominated by Turk sand especially the Ottoman Turks.

Fire, smoke, and sulphur: The use of gunpowder and cannons by the Ottoman Turks.

A third of mankind: The Eastern Roman or Byzantine Empire, or the Eastern Orthodox Church and its capital Constantinople, which fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453.

An hour, and a day, and a month, and a year KJV: A period of 391 years separating, 1) a series of events clustered around the fall of Constantinople in 1453 from, 2) another, series clustering around 1844, the close of the 2300 years-days.

The Eastern Roman or Byzantine Empire was closely allied to the Eastern Orthodox Church. Unlike the Western Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church chose to observe both Sabbath and Sunday and it did not venerate images; however, it did venerate elaborate pictures known as “icons,” and it, too, silenced “heretics” and interposed its priesthood between the people and Christ’s heavenly priesthood. Like the western Roman Church, it also became heavily involved in political scandals, often encouraging the empire to engage in injustice and in military aggression. God permitted eastern Rome to be attacked by Islamic armies. Maxwell, C. Mervyn; *God Cares*, V. 2, pp. 258 – 260

Vs. 19, 20; “And the rest of the men . . .”

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Who played a vital role in the success of the Protestant Reformation?

1. _____

In the year 1840 another remarkable fulfillment of prophecy excited widespread interest. Two years before, Josiah Litch, one of the leading ministers preaching the second advent, published an exposition of Revelation 9, predicting the fall of the Ottoman Empire. According to his calculations, this power was to be overthrown "in A.D. 1840, sometime in the month of August;" and only a few days previous to its accomplishment he wrote: "Allowing the first period, 150 years, to have been exactly fulfilled before Deacozes ascended the throne by permission of the Turks, and that the 391 years, fifteen days,

commenced at the close of the first period, it will end on the 11th of August, 1840, when the Ottoman power in Constantinople may be expected to be broken. And this, I believe, will be found to be the case."--Josiah Litch, in Signs of the Times, and Expositor of Prophecy, Aug. 1, 1840.

At the very time specified, Turkey, through her ambassadors, accepted the protection of the allied powers of Europe, and thus placed herself under the control of Christian nations. The event exactly fulfilled the prediction. (See Appendix.) When it became known, multitudes were convinced of the correctness of the principles of prophetic interpretation adopted by Miller and his associates, and a wonderful impetus was given to the advent movement. Men of learning and position united with Miller, both in preaching and in publishing his views, and from 1840 to 1844 the work rapidly extended. *The Great Controversy*, p. 334, 335