

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

by
William D. Barrick

The Bereans Adult Bible Fellowship
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Mission Statement

This study of the Book of Revelation gives special attention to the testimony it provides concerning our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev 19:10; cp. 1:2), leading us to worship and serve Him in everything.

- I. What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II. What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- III. What will take place after these things (Rev 4–22).
 - A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)
 - B. The Seven Trumpets (8:2–11:19)
 1. Preparation for the Seven Trumpet Judgments (8:2–6)
 2. The First Four Trumpet Judgments (8:7–12)
 3. The Last Three Trumpet Judgments—**Three Woes** (8:13–11:19)
 - a. Introduction to the Woes (8:13)
 - b. **Fifth Trumpet**—Fiery Locusts from the Pit (9:1–12)
 - ✓ As with the 7 seals, the final 3 trumpets are distinct from the first 4, episodes or visions intervene between the 6th and the 7th, and the 7th concludes the six and incorporates the next series within its compass.
 - The identity of the **Star** (v. 1; cp. 6:13 and 8:10; see Job 38:7)
 - ✓ “Abyss”: 7x in Revelation (9:1, 2, 11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1, 3); only 2x elsewhere (Luke 8:31; Rom 10:7) = where God imprisons demonic spirits.
 - ✓ See verse 11: “the angel of the abyss (bottomless pit)”
 - Called the “Destroyer.”
 - Is Satan an “angel”?
 - Cf. Ezekiel 28:12–16
 - Luke 10:18
 - Revelation 12:4–9; 20:1–3
 - Greek *angelos* is literally a “sent one” or “messenger”
 - **Smoke** (v. 2): Literal or the locusts looked like smoke.
 - **Locusts** (vv. 3–11)
 - ✓ Compare Joel 1–2 and its invasion of locusts.
 - Cf. Exodus 10:12–20 and parallel to the 8th plague on Egypt.
 - ✓ Demons who take the form of these unusual locusts?
 - ✓ Cf. Luke 8:30–33 (swine).
 - ✓ Not to hurt vegetation (v. 4a).
 - ✓ Exemption for God’s servants (v. 4b)—similar to some of the plagues on Egypt that excluded Israel from the effects (Exod 8:22–23; 9:4; 10:23).
 - ✓ Torment (v. 5): 5 months of torment to the unsealed (cf. Rev 7:3).
 - Normal life span for locusts (May–September).
 - Verse 6: People will seek death (mass suicide attempts—cf. 6:16), but shall not find it.

- ✓ Consider the characteristics of these locusts (vv. 7–11):
 - Battle horses
 - Crowns of gold
 - Human faces
 - Hair of women
 - Teeth of lions
 - Breastplates of iron
 - Sound of chariots
 - Tails stinging like scorpions
 - They have a “king,” so they are not a leaderless mob (cf. Prov 30:27).
- This is the *First Woe* (9:12; cf. 8:13)
- c. **Sixth Trumpet**—Loosing of the Four Angels Bound in the Euphrates (9:13–21)
 - **Voice** out of the golden altar (v. 13). Whose voice?
 - **Four angels:** kept in the Euphrates (v. 14) till the God-appointed time for the purpose of accomplishing His judgment. They appear to be evil angels reserved somewhere for judgment (2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6).
 - 1/3 of mankind slain (vv. 15 and 18).
 - ✓ 1/4 have already perished by this point in time (6:8). This judgment falls upon the remaining 3/4, leaving only 1/2 of the original population.
 - 200 million horsemen (a number John “heard,” v. 16): evidently under the power of the four angels. The angels were the ultimate source of the killing, the horsemen were the intermediate source, and the fire, smoke, and brimstone were the direct agents (cf. vv. 15–19).
 - ✓ Description of the horses: perhaps demons (cp. 2 Kgs 2:11; 6:13–17; Rev 19:14). Cp. Revelation 16:12–16.
 - ✓ 3 plagues: fire, smoke, and brimstone—from the mouths of the horses (vv. 17 and 19).
 - The unrepentant actions and attitude of mankind (vv. 20–21)
 - ✓ The demon worship and idolatry of this period of mankind’s history is a matter of great importance to a proper view of the character of those times.

See 1 Timothy 4:1; Revelation 13; 1 Corinthians 10:20

- This is the *Second Woe* (cf. 11:14)

Questions for Discussion

- a. Why will God slay so many people in the future judgments?
- b. Why won’t people repent in view of such awesome events and judgments?

Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

- ▶ The wrath of Jesus Christ brings these judgments (cp. 6:16–17).
- ▶ Head and hair like white wool or snow (1:14a)—Daniel 7:9.
- ▶ Eyes like a flame of fire (1:14b)—Daniel 10:6; Revelation 19:12.
- ▶ Feet like burnished bronze (1:15a)—Ezekiel 1:7.
- ▶ Sharp two-edged sword out of His mouth (1:16b)—Isaiah 49:2; Hebrews 4:12–13; Revelation 19:15.
- ▶ These judgments come upon those who are not in Christ Jesus—they rejected Him.