

The world of the occult holds a strong fascination for many people. Millions are involved in occult or mysterious practices. Some people declare that they can communicate with the dead. Many have been confronted by beings who appear to act, dress and talk like a friend or a loved one who has died. Who are the spirits of spiritism? Are ghosts real? Are there demons?

The seven trumpets of Revelation warn of attacks and reprisals from deceptive demons. In our last seminar we surveyed the warnings of the fifth, sixth and seventh trumpets. In this seminar we will examine these messages in greater detail. They warn of the attacks of evil powers, portray the destruction of evil and promise protection for God's people.

WARNING—DEMONS ON THE ATTACK

The FIFTH TRUMPET: Destruction by Demons on the Rampage



Q1 The sounding of the fifth trumpet warns of coming attacks. Who is the enemy? Revelation 9:1

A

The "star that had fallen" is Satan. Satan was once a beautiful, sinless being. However, he led many of the angels of heaven into rebellion. By their choice and rebellion they have become evil beings. Jesus Christ spoke of "the devil and his angels." Matthew 25:41. They are "evil spirits," (Mark 1:27) "spiritual forces of evil," (Ephesians 6:12) "deceiving spirits and... demons," (1 Timothy 4:1) angels that "sinned," (2 Peter 2:4) or "angels... who abandoned their own home." (Jude 6.)



Q2 What is Satan given? Revelation 9:1

A

The word Abyss or abussos occurs in nine

verses in the New Testament and seven of these are in Revelation. (Luke 8:31; Romans 10:7; Revelation 9:1,2,11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1,3.) It is the abode of demons and the place of death and the grave. (Luke 8:31 and Romans 10:7.) In the Septuagint the word used for "deep" in Genesis 1:2 is abussos. The varied usages suggest a common understanding. The Abyss is planet earth, which Satan and the evil spirits claim as their own. The fifth trumpet warns that just before Jesus Christ returns, evil spirits will be unrestricted in their attacks on the wicked. Of course, once Jesus Christ comes Satan will be chained in the Abyss.



Q3 What happens when Satan opens the Abyss of the demons? Revelation 9:2,3

A 1.

2.

Satan's purpose is to darken the light from the gospel of Jesus Christ and thus darken the minds of people. (See Acts 26:17,18.) When all the evil spirits are unrestricted, this world will experience it's darkest time. The locusts that descend from the

smoke and darkness are symbolic. Literal locusts are destroyed, not hatched, by literal smoke. In Joel's prophecy the plague of locusts represent the attacking armies of the wicked. (Joel 1:4; 2:1-11. Compare Exodus 10:12-15.)



Q4 What power is given to the cloud of demons? Revelation 9:3 (Compare Revelation 9:5.)

A

Scorpions are symbolic of false prophets and teachers. (Ezekiel 2:6.) They also represent demons. (Luke 10:18-20.) Since locust do not normally sting the symbolism may portray *DECEPTION*.

Q5 WHO are tormented by these evil powers and false teachers?
Revelation 9:4

A

Just before Jesus Christ returns there will only be two groups of people: (1) those who have the seal of God, (Revelation 7:1-4; 14:1; 2 Timothy 2:19) and (2) those who have rejected the seal of God for the mark of the beast. (Revelation 13:11-17; 14:6-12.) The false teachers and prophets, under the leading of Satan and the demons, torment those who do not have the seal of God.



Q6 Is this demonic power unlimited?
Revelation 9:5-10

A

A plague of literal locusts usually lasted for five months from April to September. So these symbolic locusts, these demon possessed false teachers and prophets will come to their end in due time. However, the confusion, anguish and heartache that they cause in their attack is so intense that many people prefer death to living. (See Revelation 9:6. Compare Jeremiah 8:2,3.)



Q7 What do these evil powers look like?
Revelation 9:7,8

A

They are like horses or evil messengers ready for war, they have the appearance of being in authority for they wear "something like crowns," and they work through human agents for "their faces resembled human faces." (Revelation 9:7.) Although they look attractive, they are *SEDUCTIVE* and *DESTRUCTIVE*. (See Song of Solomon 7:5; Joel 1:6 and 1 Peter 5:8.)



Q8 Who is the king over these deceptive evil powers and false teachers?
Revelation 9:11

A

The leader of all false teachers, false prophets and demons is the fallen star, Satan the "Destroyer." (Also see footnotes for Job 26:6; 28:22; Proverbs 15:11; 27:20; Psalm 88:11,12.) The awful truth is, Satan does not care for his own. His loyal supporters are tormented by the very demons, and false teachings, to whom they have given their allegiance.

The SIXTH TRUMPET: Destruction by the Evil Angels of Death...



Q9 Who is the angel with the sixth trumpet told to release? Revelation 9:13,14

A

These *FOUR ANGELS* are not God's messengers for their intent is evil and they are released from the "great river Euphrates." The "four" denotes universality.

The "*GREAT RIVER EUPHRATES*" is symbolic of the multitudes controlled by the evil woman Babylon. (Revelation 17:15.) In Old Testament times the literal river Euphrates, beside which the literal city of Babylon was situated, became a prominent symbol of evil. (Deuteronomy 1:7; Joshua 24:2,3; Jeremiah 46:6-10; 47:2; Isaiah 11:15.) The Abyss and the Euphrates are both referring to the evil world. Now that God's people have been sealed, and the door of mercy has been closed, these evil angels and demons are unrestricted. (Compare Revelation 7:1-3.)



Q10 **What do the evil beings that are released from "the great river Euphrates" look like?** Revelation 9:15-19

A

They appear as horses or evil messengers, with the character-traits of both lions and snakes. Satan is referred to as a "roaring lion" (1 Peter 5:8) and the "ancient serpent." (Revelation 12:9.) Satan's horses and horsemen are seen as an awful army of "two hundred thousand thousand" (Revelation 9:16 KJV) evil troops. (Compare Revelation 16:12-14.)



Q11 **These evil angels have been held back until the very hour of the sounding of the sixth trumpet. (Compare 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12.) Once released, who do they attack?** Revelation 9:15,18

A

When Satan takes control there is total disarray, destruction and death. The devastation comes from the "mouths" of Satan's agents. (Revelation 9:17-19.) Under the sixth plague the "evil spirits" of destruction come "out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth

of the false prophet." Revelation 16:13. "They are the spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle of the great day of God Almighty." Revelation 16:14. It is almost impossible for us to comprehend this scene of terrible misery, violence and bloodshed.



Q12 **Satan's deceptions are so complete that even the horror of death fails to bring a change. Of what evils do those who have surrendered to Satan refuse to repent?** Revelation 9:20,21

A

1

2

3

4

5

6

SATAN'S METHODS:

In previous seminars we have noted the methods and "schemes" that the devil uses to possess and destroy people. He uses (1) accusation, (Revelation 12:10) (2) persecution, (Revelation 12:12,13,17) and (3) suffering and affliction (Revelation 2:9,10) to discourage and overpower people. However, Satan's most dangerous weapon of attack is deception. (See Revelation 12:9. Compare Matthew 24:23,24.) Jesus Christ said of Satan, "He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." John 8:44.

Those who are deceived by false prophets and teachers to follow Satan's lies will not enter the kingdom of God. (See Revelation 22:15; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:11.) Satan's first lie to Eve was, "You will not surely die." Genesis 3:4. This was followed by further lies. Satan said, "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened." Genesis 3:5. Satan has placed the notion in the minds of people that truth can be found outside of God and His commands, and that truth can only be known by being involved in sin. Satan went so far as to say to Eve, "You will be like God, knowing good

and evil." Genesis 3:5. However, true love is always revealed in loyalty and obedience. Those who blatantly disobey the commandments of God will not enter the kingdom of God. (See Revelation 21:27; 22:14,15; 1John 2:3,4.)

SATAN KEEPS HIS LIES ALIVE: Through the ages Satan has worked hard to make people believe these lies. He has gone to great lengths to give credibility to his claims. He has assaulted the human senses with such a barrage of so-called evidence that the majority of people believe at least one of his lies, if not all. Satan's first lies are still used to deceive. False teachers and false prophets still declare that:

- 1 The *DEAD ARE NOT DEAD*: The belief that something connected with ourselves survives at death is a basic concept of Eastern religions and the world of the occult. This lie has also crept into the Christian church. Closely related to this concept is the idea that those who have died can return to communicate with those who are alive. This is accepted by spiritists and many occultists. Tragically, this deception based on Satan's first lie, is also accepted by some within the Christian church.
- 2 The *COMMANDMENTS OF GOD ARE NOT TO BE FOLLOWED*: Satan promotes the idea that we can decide what is right and what is wrong without any reference to the Word of God or the ten commandments of God. However, to disregard a portion of God's Word or even one of His commandments, by suggesting it is not important, is to suggest that we are better than God at "knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:5.) There are those who believe that we are gods in the making. Tragically, there are many within Christendom who disregard the ten commandments.

THE FATE OF DEMONS

The *SEVENTH TRUMPET*: Destruction of Demons...



Q13 **What will bring an end to Satan's lies and attacks?** Revelation 11:15-18

A

In contrast to the armies of evil, Jesus Christ, the rider on the white horse, leads His forces to put an end to evil. (Revelation 19:11-16.) Christ begins His reign at His second coming. Satan will be bound, and then at the end of the 1,000 years he, with all the wicked, will be destroyed. (Revelation 19:11-21:5.) Jesus Christ is more powerful than Satan or his evil angels. (Matthew 28:18.) Those who are deceived by Satan's lies will be destroyed.

PROTECTION AND REWARDS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE



Q14 **Who are protected from Satan's deceptions and torments?** Revelation 9:4

A

Q15 **The destruction of sin and the victorious reign of Jesus Christ is acknowledged with praise and worship. Those who are sealed are delivered. What does John see at the very centre of this heavenly judgement scene?** Revelation 11:19

A

Our attention is drawn to the throne of God and His holy law of the ten commandments. The ten commandments are revealed as the standard in the judgement. (Compare James 1:22-25; 2:8-12.) That which Satan, demons and people have trodden down now stands as a witness against them.

PROTECTION FROM THE LIES OF SATAN AND FALSE TEACHERS:

- 1 The *BIBLE*: The Bible exposes Satan's lies about death. We read, "For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing." Ecclesiastes 9:5. (Also see Psalm 6:5; 30:9; 88:10-12; 115:17,18.) Death is called a "sleep" (John 11:11-14.) and the dead cannot communicate with the living for "he who goes down to the grave does not return. He will never come to his house

again; his place will know him no more." Job 7:9,10. (Compare Ecclesiastes 9:10.) For information about life and death we should not try to contact those who have died, we should go to the Bible. (Isaiah 8:19,20.) Some of Satan's most deceptive and cruel lies and torments are based on his lies about death. Our defence against the devil's "schemes" is "the full armour of God" which includes "the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." (Ephesians 6:10-18.) It warns of the rise of "false Christs and false prophets" (Matthew 24:4,5,11,23,24; 1 John 4:1) and an increase of "counterfeit miracles" performed by Satan, deceiving spirits and demons. (2 Thessalonians 2:9,10; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 1 Timothy 4:1,2; Revelation 9:1-21; 13:13,14; 16:14; 19:20.)

2 The *SEAL OF GOD*: The person who is sealed

by the Holy Spirit and bears the name of Jesus Christ and the Father is protected for that person belongs to God through faith in Jesus Christ and chooses to honour and identify with the character of God by obeying the ten commandments.

3 The *TEN COMMANDMENTS*: In the Bible we are clearly told that God's "word is truth," (John 17:17) Jesus is "the truth," (John 14:6) and the ten commandments are "righteous." (Romans 7:12. Compare Nehemiah 9:13.) Those who claim to be inherently divine, or those who feel that they can disregard Bible counsel or the ten commandments because they do not think it important, are open to Satan's lies and torments for they are reflecting the attitude of Satan. (see Isaiah 14:14; Matthew 4:8-10.)

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response...

The seven trumpets warn of the sweeping plague of false teachings based on Satan's lies. When Satan has people believing his lies concerning death and the source of truth, he has full power to deceive. We cannot rely upon our experiences, feelings or wonderful events to determine our faith, for Satan will work to deceive by sensational experiences.

The seven trumpets warn of the malicious attacks of Satan upon those who give their allegiance to him. These attacks will be through human organisations, philosophies, ideologies and religions.

The trumpets warn of the ultimate judgement of all those who choose Satan's side. Our security and salvation is to be found in *SCRIPTURE* as the objective source of God's truth, faithfulness to our SAVIOUR Jesus Christ, and joyful obedience to the *STANDARD OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS*.



What do you think about Satan's lies concerning death and the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Bible?



What difference is your faith in Jesus, and your knowledge of the Bible and the ten commandments, making to your life?

