

**Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church  
 Bible Sharing Program 2023-24  
 Session #8: The Fifth & Sixth Trumpets – Woes that strike  
 “only those people who did not have the seal of God on  
 their foreheads” (Rev 9)**

CSB = Ignatius Catholic Study Bible  
 CCSS = Cath Commentary on Sacred Scriptures  
 BSP04 = 2004-05 BSP notes SN = Special notes  
 NAB = New American Bible  
 CSSN = Catholic Scripture Study notes  
 LS = Dr. Hahn’s Lamb’s Supper

<p><b>A</b></p>	<p><b><u>Overview</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The misfortunes brought about by the fifth and sixth trumpets strike only “those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads” (9:4); meaning those who are unwilling to repent and follow Jesus.</li> <li>• John recalls God’s prophecies of Egypt’s punishment, and those of Ezekiel, and Joel in anticipation of the absolute horror that will come on Judgment Day.</li> <li>• Jesus’ apocalyptic teachings foretell the cruelty of destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans; the destruction of the Temple epitomizes the Last Day. John’s prophecy about the Last Judgment is rooted in Jesus’ apocalyptic teachings; both employ the destruction of the Temple as the backdrop.</li> </ul>	<p>CCSS p 165</p> <p>CSSN B5/1 Mt 24</p>	<p>Ezk 9:4</p> <p>Ex 8:20-12:36 Ezk 9:4, Joel 2:4-9</p>
<p><b>B</b></p>	<p><b><u>The Fifth Trumpet – A Star Fallen from the Sky to the Earth</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The star that had fallen from the sky represents a fallen angel, probably Satan.</li> <li>• “It was given the key for the passage to the abyss” – The teachings about the Temple according to Jewish traditions. This concept is probably related to Jesus who has given the key to Peter and named him “the rock”. God gives the angel the key for the passage to the abyss =&gt; represents that evil power will destroy the Temple.</li> </ul>	<p>9:1-2</p> <p>9:1 CCSS, 12:7-9, Lk 10:18</p> <p>CSSN B5/2, CSB, Mt 16:18-19; 1:18 20:1</p>	<p>Is 14:12</p>
<p><b>C</b></p>	<p><b><u>Scorpion-Like Locusts</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plague of the locusts before the Last Day only targets those who refuse to follow Christ: “only those who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads”.</li> <li>• This description has fulfilled what the OT has prophesized. Like the punishments in OT, the harm is often tempered: “they were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any</li> </ul>	<p>9:3-12</p> <p>9:4 CCSS, CSB Lk 21:18</p> <p>CCSS 9:20-21</p>	<p>Ezk 9:4</p> <p>Ex 8:20-12:36 Joel 1:2 – 2:12</p>

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	<p>plant or any tree”; allowing humanity a final opportunity of repentance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “The appearance of the locusts was like that of horses ready for battle. On their heads they wore what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces, and they had hair like women’s hair. Their teeth were like lions’ teeth, and they had chests like iron breastplates”. Such terrifying imagery partly comes from Joel who describes the locusts as a powerful and terrifying army.</li> <li>• “On their heads they wore what looked like crowns of gold”: this indicates their claim to defeat and rule is, in fact, sanctioned by God; the ruler’s name, “Abaddon” or “Apollyon”, represents the destructive power of this army.</li> <li>• All these perfectly describe the invasion and destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 66 and 70 AD by the Roman army following the revolt in Judea. Abaddon is allowed to “torment them for five months”; this refers to the Roman troops stationing in the region of the river Euphrates before crossing the river to invade the Israelites, commencing the five months of cruel ravaging of Palestine.</li> <li>• Peter refers to Joel’s prophecy of “the day of the Lord” in his first public preaching to persuade the Jews living in Jerusalem to, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”, so as to avoid the impending catastrophes.</li> </ul>	<p>9:7-9 CCSS</p> <p>9:11 CCSS</p> <p>9:10 CSSN B5/2-3</p> <p>CSSN B5/1 Acts 2:14-40</p>	
<p><b>D</b></p>	<p><b><u>The Sixth Trumpet – The Release of the Four Angels to “Kill a Third of the Human Race”</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The four angels are probably “fallen angels” because they have to be “released” and their intention is evil: “to kill a third of the human race”. “The number of cavalry troops were two hundred millions”, representing the immense troop stationed by the great river Euphrates (see C5).</li> </ul>	<p>9:13-21</p> <p>9:13-16 CCSS</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before the Last Day, God uses the immense army of demonic troops as a last-ditch effort to bring the inhabitants of the earth to their senses – repentance. However, those who were not harmed had yet to repent. Satan, “released” on the Last Day, will rule for a thousand years, before the Last Judgment; therefore this is the same time period during which the holy people of God are being oppressed.</li> </ul>	20:7-9	
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