



**Big Idea: Resist the devil, for he torments those who let him in.**

### **1.) Warnings of final judgment are both PHYSICAL and SPIRITUAL**

- The first four trumpets (like the first four seals) are judgments God expresses through the physical creation, and these last three trumpets (like the last three seals) concentrate upon spiritual activity, both on earth and in the heavenly realms.
- The term *"those who dwell on the earth"* refers to unbelievers.

### **2.) Satan's demonic hordes are TORMENTING the world (v. 1-3).**

#### **-- This falling star is an image of SATAN**

- Parallels to Luke 10:17
- Parallels to Revelation 20:1-3
- He is given names which mean "destroyer."

#### **-- The locusts are symbolic of a DEMONIC horde (v. 2-4).**

- They spread the darkness of deception (v. 2).
- They come up out of the pit of Satan (v. 3).
- They are told *"not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree"* (v. 4).
- They belong to Satan and are sent forth by him (v. 11).

### **3.) Demons have terrible POWER on earth (v. 7-9).**

- They are battle ready (v. 7a).
- They have the allure of power, riches, and glory (v. 7b).
- They appear attractive and even righteous (v. 7c-8, 2 Corinthians 11:13-14).

- Like locusts, this demonic horde is terrifying, tough, powerful, and enormous in number (v. 8b-9).

#### 4.) The power of demons is **LIMITED** (v. 1-4)

##### -- Satan operates only with the **PERMISSION** of God.

- The power that Satan has to release darkness on earth is granted to him by God (v. 1, 3).
- God permits demonic activity to warn the earth of coming judgment and to magnify the glory of His holiness.

##### -- Satan cannot afflict **BELIEVERS** directly.

- “Five months” is indicative of a judgment that is restrained (Revelation 20:1-3).
- The locusts are given permission only to harm those who “do not have the seal of God on their foreheads (v. 4, Rev. 7:3, Eph. 1:13).
- Satan and His army of demons are forbidden by God to harm believers directly.

#### 5.) Satan torments his **OWN** (v. 5-6).

- This may very well be the cruelest irony at work in the world.
- Bondage to God sets us free from Satan’s torment, yet seeking freedom from God invites the worst kind of slavery.
- Satan, it turns out, is not a **FRIEND** to anyone... ever.
- **If you play with the devil, you will get burned (v. 5-6).**
  - It is foolish to waste your life pursuing things that Satan uses to destroy.
  - To follow in the way of Satan is to court fear and despair.

### Application

#### 1.) Fear **NOT**

- If you are united by Christ, you cannot be undone by Satan (v. 4, 1 John 4:3-4).

#### 2.) **RESIST** the devil.

- Scripture clearly warns us to be alert and resist the devil (1 Peter 5:8-9, James 4:7, Ephesians 4:27).
- Even though demons cannot torment God's people directly, they can certainly **DECEIVING** us into harming ourselves.

-- Scripture warns us vehemently to be on guard against Satan and his schemes (Ephesians 6:10-13).