In the first four trumpet judgments (Rev. 8), God unleashed plagues upon the four realms of nature – earth, sea, water, sky. In the next two trumpets (Rev. 9), God unleashes Satan to wreak havoc upon the unbelieving world.

**The Fifth Trumpet – Demonic Oppression**

The fifth trumpet judgment refers to demonic oppression unleashed by God upon the unbelieving world during the tribulation of these last days.

1. The fifth trumpet based upon two Old Testament backgrounds – The *eighth* Egyptian plague (Ex. 10:13-15) and the invading *army* on the day of the LORD’s judgment (Joel 2:1-11).

2. The fallen star (9:1) and the demon king Abaddon/Apollyon (9:11) are one and the same – *Satan* (cf. Is. 14:12-15; Luke 10:18).

3. *Jesus* unleashes Satan and grants him authority to release his demonic forces from the abyss (9:1; cf. 1:18). He is sovereign over evil.

4. Only the *unbelievers* are given over to the torment of demons. They cannot harm the sealed *saints* of God (9:4).

5. The devastation wrought by these demons is *horrifying* (9:6). Like locusts, they devour without mercy.


- Jesus has granted to His followers authority to tread upon demons, which means that we can proclaim the gospel in the *authority* of Christ and under sovereign *protection* of the Holy Spirit.
- This is no grounds for *boasting*, but rather for risk-taking *missions*.

**Delivered Over to Satan (1 Corinthians 5:3-5)**

- In the gathered, assembled, Spirit-filled congregation of blood-bought saints there is *protection* from the darkness. The darkness is *dangerous*, therefore abide in the *light*.
- It is far better to be *disciplined* in love within the church (Heb. 12:11), then to be *devoured* outside the gates.