

NEITHER REPENTED THEY

REVELATION 9:13-21

Text: Revelation 9:21

Revelation 9:21

²¹ Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

Introduction:

The images depicted in this chapter make it one of the most disturbing passages in the entire Bible. As we continue to look at the events of **chapter 9**, we come to the sixth trumpet judgment. When that trumpet sounds a voice is heard to speak from between the horns of the golden altar. The mention of this altar reminds us of the golden altar of incense that was in the tabernacle and the temple. The golden altar was where incense was burned as an offering to God. It was the place of prayer; the place of intercession. It was a place of mercy, where prayers could be offered to the Lord.

In these verses, the place of mercy has become a place of judgment. When people reject the grace, mercy and love of God, they are left with nothing but His wrath and judgment. That is what we are going to see in

these verses. The world has rejected grace and they are given judgment.

This will be a time when the world is again at war.

Notice:

1. IT'S A TIME OF DEMONIC ACTIVITY

Revelation 9:14-15

¹⁴Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. ¹⁵ And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

We do not know why these angels were chained to begin with. We do not know how long they have been chained. But, we know that when they are let loose on the world, terrible death and destruction follows with them. We are not given much information about these angels, but there are a few truths mentioned here that are important.

A. The Place Mentioned – The Euphrates River

This river is one of the most prominent rivers in the Bible. This river was the place of many firsts.

- It ran through the Garden of Eden.
- It was here where God created man.

- The first sin
- The first apostasy
- The first murder took place
- The first rebellion against God's Word all occurred here

The ancient city of Babylon sprang to life along the banks of the this river

Babylon was the birthplace of:

- False religion
- Demon worship and idolatry

Many of the false religions practiced in our world today can trace their origins all the way back to Babylon.

This was the home of Nimrod. He was the father of many vile and ungodly worship practices.

Genesis 10:8-10

⁸ And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. ⁹ He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. ¹⁰ And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

B. The Plan That is Mentioned (vs. 15)

Revelation 9:15

¹⁵ And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

These angels have been kept bound until a specific period of time. God is going to use them for His Own purposes as He judges the earth.

The words, “***were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year***”, tells us that God has a plan! As we read this book, it may appear that things are spinning out of control. But the opposite is true! God is in control and He is working out His will according to a highly detailed, specific timetable. He knows what He is doing and He can be trusted to do right, **Gen. 18:25**.

Genesis 18:25

²⁵ That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

C. The Purpose Mentioned – To slay 1/3 of men

2. A TIME OF DESTRUCTIVE ACTIVITY

Revelation 9:16-19

¹⁶ And the number of the army of the horsemen *were* two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. ¹⁷ And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having

breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses *were* as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. ¹⁸ By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. ¹⁹ For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails *were* like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

A. The Size of this Army

Revelation 9:16

¹⁶ And the number of the army of the horsemen *were* two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

The size of this army is 200,000,000 soldiers.

Someone calculated an army this large could line up in formation 1 mile wide and 87 miles long.

B. The Symbolism of this Army

Revelation 9:17-19

¹⁷ And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses *were* as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. ¹⁸ By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. ¹⁹ For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails *were* like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

Some have asked the question whether or not this army is human or demonic. I believe that we are

looking at a human army that is demonically controlled.

Notice some details about this army.

1. The language used in its description.

- Breastplate of fire, jacinth, brimstone.

These are all associated or the color of fire.

- Their horses breathe fire, smoke and brimstone.

Again reminding us of what Hell is like.

These soldiers come with the colors of Hell, the smell of Hell, the weapons of Hell, and the energy of Hell.

3. A TIME OF DEPRAVED ACTIVITY

Revelation 9:20-21

²⁰ And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: ²¹ Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

We are told very clearly that these demons unleash a vast army upon the earth. One-third of all the people living on the earth will be killed. You would think that death and destruction on that scale would cause

mankind to look within his heart, acknowledge his sins and turn in repentance toward God.

Those who survive continue on in the sins, refusing to repent. Every human carries within his heart the seeds of evil and he or she is capable of committing any sin that can be imagined. Lest we think better of ourselves than we should, the same capacity to plummet into the depths of evil dwells in our hearts as well.

A. Man is depraved in his worship.

Given all the sin and chaos during the Tribulation, you might think that it would be a time empty of religious activity.

As we will learn from this verse, the Tribulation will be a time of intense religious activity. But, no religion can save. It takes faith in the shed blood of Jesus to accomplish that!

Man is a religious creature. Every culture, whether it is primitive or advanced, has some involvement with worship. Even the atheist worships. He just directs his worship toward himself.

This verse tells us that this time will be a time when people will worship demons and material things.

There is an increase in our day in the interest of the occult. Witchcraft is becoming more popular than ever. No doubt all of this is leading toward the day that mankind will worship demons.

Involvement with the occult begins with:

Entertainment

People learn about it and begin to dabble in it. Then it moves into:

Enlightenment

People then begin to seek answers and help for their problems in the world of the occult. It then moves them to:

Enslavement

People get trapped in the system and are unable to get free.

It will also be a time man will worship his own creation, idols of gold and silver, brass, stone and wood.

B. Man is Depraved in His Works

Revelation 9:21

²¹ Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

1. Murder

It's hard to imagine a civilization being more murderous than our own.

2. Sorceries

The word "**sorceries**" comes from the word "**pharmakeia**". We get the modern word "**pharmacy**" from it.

Certainly there are two possible applications for the use of this word in this verse.

First, as we have already seen, the Tribulation will see a marked increase in satanic worship.

Second, there will also be a rise in drug abuse. We are seeing this take place right before our eyes. The marijuana of the 1960's and 70's has been replaced with the crack and meth of this generation. Hardly a week passes without our hearing of a drug bust or a drug related arrest. Our world is busy seeking an escape hatch from its problems through the use of mind-altering drugs.

3. Fornication

Perversion will increase as we move into the last days. Other parts of the world are confronted with even

more perversions than we are here. It will increase as the days go by.

4. Theft

The personal rights and property of others will have no meaning at all. We are already seeing this trend in our society, as a segment of our population believes that it is their right to take what they want when they want from whomever they can get it from. This attitude will become increasingly evident in the last days and will reach terrible proportions during the Tribulation. As food, water, medicine clothing and shelter become increasingly scarce; men will take what they want.

Close:

The Bible paints a bleak picture of the events of the Tribulation Period. There will be death and violence on throughout the world. Yet, in the midst of it all, men will continue to harden their hearts to the Gospel of Christ and will continue to plunge into the fires of Hell.

That is why we should do everything in our power to reach people with the Gospel.

In closing here's the invitation.

First, if you have never been saved, this could be your future. Come to Jesus and be saved. Then you can miss the Tribulation and make Heaven your home.

Second, if you are saved, but you haven't been living it like you should, this is the day to get things settled between you and the Lord.

Third, if you would like to do more and be used more to reach men for Him, He is looking for laborers for His harvest. Come and sign up today.

Fourth, if you know people who will be left here and you want to come and pray for them, this altar is open.