

Revelation 9

Sunday, 5-24-20

Memorial Day, 2020

Moment of silence to remember the fallen...

Prayer for the Military

Last week Brother Jerry Mongello taught through Revelation Chapter 8, which begins with silence in heaven for half an hour; A testimony to the solemn weight of what is to follow.

He discussed the golden censer, the offering of incense with the prayers of the saints, and the censer being filled with fire from the altar of Heaven and cast to earth, producing noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake, and THEN the angels with the 7 trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

We saw the first four trumpets sound.

1st Trumpet- Hail and fire, mingled with blood, a third of the trees and all green grass burnt up.

2nd Trumpet- Something like a great mountain burning with fire thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. A third of the sea life died, and a third of the ships on the sea were destroyed. (current number of merchant ships exceed 50,000)

3rd Trumpet- A great burning star called Wormwood fell from heaven and polluted a third of the fresh waters, and many men died from the poisoned waters.

4th Trumpet- A third of the sun, moon, and stars were struck, so that a third of them were darkened; A third of the day did not shine, and likewise a third of the night... (third of the time...)

Chapter 8 ends with an angel flying through heaven proclaiming with a loud voice " "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!".

Now before we begin Chapter 9, some Big Picture review,

Jesus's outline,

1. Write the things which were.
2. Write the things which are...
3. Write the things which will take place after these things....

We discussed the Daniel 9 key to understanding end times prophecy; Seventy weeks are determined for Daniel's people and Daniel's city Jerusalem.

Sixty-Nine were completed at the Crucifixion, one remains to be completed.

Daniel 9 tells us the Prince who is to come will enforce the covenant, which ushers in the Seventieth Week.

In Revelation Chapter 6 the Lamb opens the first Seal sending out a rider on a white horse, with a crown, carrying a "bow" (covenant?). THIS IS THE OFFICIAL BEGINNING OF THE SEVENTIETH WEEK OF DANIEL which encompasses "The things which must take place after this!"

The Seventieth week in big picture terms is a seven-year period of judgment and wrath upon the world who has rejected God and His Messiah.

It is divided into Seven Seals, Seven Trumpets, and Seven Bowls of judgment. It is brought to an end when the King of Kings and Lord of Lords returns physically to earth, judges the survivors, separates the sheep from the goats, and sets up His kingdom- breaking the power of the anti-christ and his kingdom without hand.

That is the Big Picture:

Seven years during which there are.

1. Seven Seal
2. Seven Trumpets
3. Seven Bowls

Within the time period of (seven years) Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls are "Intermissions" and details!

Rebuilt engine analogy...

"I rebuilt an engine" - Big Picture

"I changed the cam, put in xxx pistons, rods, bearings, etc., ported the heads, set the ring gap, etc."
DETAILS!!!

If I told that story some could ask, "Did you put the cam in after you rebuilt the engine? Did the rings, rods, bearings come before or after "I rebuilt an engine"?"

NO! I rebuilt the engine was the project, or Big Picture, the rest is details of the project.

So remember, the big picture of Revelation Phase 3 "things which must take place after these things" is Seven years of judgment containing Seven Seals, Seven Trumpets, and Seven Bowls, culminating with the Return of Jesus, **BOOTS ON THE GROUND**, to establish His Kingdom in His Land, in His holy City Jerusalem, ruling and reigning over the earth from His Capitol.

Now to Chapter 9

Rev 9:1 Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. Him; personal pronoun- this is an individual not like the previous stars we have seen which were things...

Rev 9:2 And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So, the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

Pit of the abyss- mentioned 7 times in Revelation as the place where some of the demonic horde is imprisoned. It is the place of the most severe torment and isolation.

It is the place where the Beast comes from in Chapter 17, and where Satan is bound and chained for 1000 years in Chapter 20.

Peter mentions this place:

2Pe 2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.

2Pe 2:5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly.

As does Jude:

Jud 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day.

Jud 1:7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Bottomless pit- by nature, the center of a sphere or circle...

It is at the center of the Earth!

The fallen star was cast to earth, opened the pit and the sun and air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. In the following verse what is released from the pit comes out upon the earth....

Rev 9:3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Big Picture- Where do they come from??? The Pit! They come up out of the earth, out of the bottomless pit, onto the surface.

Details- to follow (description and actions)

Why is this important?

Because many attempts to use the details of their description to describe modern man-made objects which John would not have recognized, I/e., Apache helicopters, Jets, etc., etc.,

The problem with this approach is that the details do not take precedence over the big picture.

They come from the pit, they are NOT helicopters, jets, blimps, drones, or any other man-made thing, they are otherworldly, extradimensional, physical, satanic forces.

Just like John, we will struggle with their description because we have never seen anything like this. Our brains cannot comprehend something like this. This is the literal meaning of "beyond imagination". We are given a description, but the reality will be beyond what men can bear.

Rev 9:4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

Unlike the previous judgments which affected the heavens and the sky, sea, fresh water, food supply ("Mother Earth"), this horde is only to attack people.

But not all people! Only those who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. The 144,000 sealed ministers of Christ will not be touched by this plague.

Remember

Plagues of Egypt- God's people spared

Trials of Job- Satan could not touch him without God's permission

Daniel- The lions could not eat him

Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah- the fire could not burn them

Noah and family- the flood could not drown them

Lot and family- the destruction could not take them

We could go on, but you get the point; GOD IS IN CONTROL!

Rev 9:5 And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. Scorpion stings are VERY painful! The pain lasts for quite a while. Fortunately, scorpions are nocturnal and do not actively go after people. They only sting when threatened or when hunting. The best part, they do not fly!!!

Rev 9:6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

Think that one through. The stings will be so terrible that people will want to die, but not even suicide will be an option...

Rev 9:7 The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.

Rev 9:8 They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

Rev 9:9 And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle.

Rev 9:10 They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.

These locusts have great strength and resolve like horses going into battle.

They are hairy with terrible teeth.

They are armored and can fly!!

They travel in great hordes.

They have terrible stinging tails like scorpions.

And they are intelligent and have a king!

Rev 9:11 And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon (destroying angel), but in Greek he has the name Apollyon (the destroyer- Satan).

And this is just the fifth trumpet and first "woe"!

Rev 9:12 One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

Rev 9:13 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar, which is before God,

Rev 9:14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

Rev 9:15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

The previous plague (locusts) did not kill but caused great pain for five months. Men wished to die, but not to repent!

Even in judgment God is merciful. The biggest picture of all is this:

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Now, after torment to the point of death but refusing to repent, men will get what they wished for but could not have for five months...

Rev 9:16 Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

Two hundred million!!! The US has just over 2.2M active and paramilitary forces. Let that sink in

Like the plague of locusts in the fourth trumpet, I do not believe the Bible is using symbolic language to describe modern conventional forces here:

Rev 9:17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.

Rev 9:18 By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.

Rev 9:19 For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

And with this plague a third of mankind is killed. The death they asked for has come.

Rev 9:20 But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

Rev 9:21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.