

The Woe Trumpets

Rev. 9

9/16/20

This section brings our study to the darkest chapter in the history of our planet. The Child of God is not asked to prepare for this event but rather is told the Church is not subject to this tribulation. I Thess. 5:9: "For God hath not appointed us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ". The terrible truth for those who are left behind is that they will endure this time.

V1-12. The 5th trumpet sounds. A "star" falls from heaven to the earth. There is a difference to note about this "star" from what we saw previously. This "star" acts with intelligence and uses a key which is something an inanimate star could not do. Job 38:7 is an Old Testament passage that in the original describes angels as stars. This angel is not a "fallen angel" or Satan as some believe. We find in Rev. 20: 1-3 that this same angel comes down from Heaven, having the "Key" of the "Bottomless Pit", and a great chain in his hand, and binds Satan, and casts him into the "Pit". This makes it clear that the "Star Angel" is not Satan. The angel here comes from heaven and unlocks the pit and then locks it back up.

"Bottomless pit": There is a description of this pit in Jude 6 which declares "and the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." We are told who has the keys of hell and death in Rev. 1:18, it is Jesus. More evidence of these imprisoned fallen angels is found in II Pet. 2:4 "For it God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment." Yet another passage sheds light into this pit. Luke 8:30-31: "And Jesus asked him, saying, 'What is thy name?' and he said, Legion, because many devils were entered into him. And they besought Him that He would not command them to go out into the deep." Legion means a "chosen" group. During the time of Jesus walking on this earth the Roman legion was a group of specialized soldiers which could number up to 6,000 men. This is a specialized group of demons.

The effect of these shut up demons being unleashed upon the earth is an appearance as of smoke coming out of a furnace. It darkens the sky and from that "smoke" John sees these creatures come forth. While they are described as "locust" because of their actions in fight perhaps there are significant details to indicate they are very unique subjects being turned loose upon a Christ rejecting society. John uses the likeness of a horse, man, woman, lion, and scorpion to describe these demons. Locust feed upon green vegetation but these demons are to prey upon mankind. Some believe the language supports demon possession to all afflicted by these creatures. These "scorpion locust" demons will afflict everyone who has not the seal of God in their forehead. Just like the effect of a regular scorpion their work will last five

months. The sting of a scorpion is very painful to the point that many who are stung desire death rather than the pain. This is the description given here that the world's affected people will seek death rather than the effects of these demons.

Joel 2:1-11 Rd. This prophecy is about this specific invasion of demons.

Prov. 30:27 informs us that ordinary locusts have no king. We find that these "scorpion locusts" have one.

"Abaddon": destroyer. Prov. 22:6; Psa. 88:11; Prov. 15:11. While Satan has many names given him in Scripture this is not one of them. This "head demon" is in the "pit" with all the other demons. He will command the torment allowed upon all who are not "sealed" by God. For five agonizing months the Christ rejecting population of this earth will be tormented extensively to the point of seeking to end their life but will not be able to do so. Please remember what we already been shown is happening on this earth with the other seals that have been opened. We will continue to see the ramped up afflictions befalling mankind during this Tribulation Period.

V12. There will be two more "woe trumpets" to come. We will look at the 6th in this chapter but will not examine the 7th until we get to chapter 11 beginning at verse 15. Again after this trumpet before us there will be a "break" to further explain God's program.

V13-19. The 6th trumpet is sounded. We now are told that John hears a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God. These are typified in the Tabernacle at the mercy seat. The voice is Jesus who is the one who has opened the seals and is instructing the movements of judgment upon mankind. There are four demons (fallen angels) that are bound in the region of the Euphrates River. While we are not here specifically told why they are there but we have quite a bit of story line from this region of earth. The Garden of Eden was somewhere in this section. The sin of man began here. The first murder happened here. Here is where Noah built the ark. To this area were the Israelites brought during the Babylonian captivity. Babylon is the fountainhead of idolatry. This will be the final surge of sin during the Tribulation Period. This is where the East and West of cultures meet. There will be a collection of the East colonies coming against Israel at the end of the Tribulation. This seems to be a prelude to them. The group we now are to deal with are again a collection of demons who will overrun the world for a specific time. The language given us here is indicating the very hour of them being turned loose. Acts 15:18: "Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world."

2 million demons are going to kill 1/3 of mankind. We have every reason to believe that the fire, brimstone, and smoke are literal just as it was with the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah. In Rev. 6:7,8 ¼ of the people left behind are killed, with the occurrence we are now seeing this makes ½ of the

population that has been killed by judgment from God. Remember there is still the White Throne Judgment ahead for all who have rejected the gift of God thru His Son's shed blood.

V20-21. We are shown the total depravity of fallen mankind. The dead and darkened heart of people will not seek the Lord. We were created to serve a master who should be our Creator. When we are away from God there is a void in our soul. Mankind attempts to fill that void with everything but what will work. We see this process finding its climax during the Tribulation Period.

This is going to take place to those who have refused the Gospel. II Thess. 2:11-12: "and for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

J. Vernon McGee: "Sorceries" is the Greek word "pharmakeion", from which we get our English word "pharmacy". Pharmacy means "drugs". What were called drugstores when I was a boy are today called pharmacies. The Great Tribulation will be a period when the use of drugs will not be controlled. Drugs play a large part in the lives of the unsaved and will serve several purposes. Drugs will enable them to bear the judgments of the Great Tribulation Period. I am sure that many a person will turn to drugs when he is stung or bitten by these unnatural creatures. Although they will not die, they will feel like they are going to die, and as a result they will take drugs to overcome the pain and help them endure the Great Tribulation.

Drugs will also figure largely in the religion of that day. There will be a regular drug culture and drug religion in the days of the Great Tribulation Period. What we are seeing today is very small in comparison to what it will be then. People will resort to everything that will deaden the pain or lift them out of the trouble of that time. Liquor will certainly be very prominent as it is even now. I want to share with you a statement by Dr. J.A. Seiss from his book "The Apocalypses" published about 1906. The reason I mention the date is that it seems that he wrote it yesterday or that maybe he was preparing it for tomorrow's edition of your local paper.

This is his comment on the word "sorceries" "We have only to think of the use of alcoholic stimulants, of opium, of tobacco, of the range of cosmetics and medicaments to increase love attractions, of resorts to the pharmacopoeia in connection with sensuality—of the magical agents and treatments alleged to come from the spirit-world for the benefit of people in this—of the thousand impositions in the way of medicines and remedial agents, encouraging mankind to reckless transgression with the hope of easily repairing the damages of nature's penalties—of the growing prevalence of crime induced by these things, setting loose and stimulating to activity the vilest passions, which are eating out the moral sense of society—for the beginning of that moral degeneracy to which the seer here alludes as characteristic of the period when the sixth trumpet is sounded."

You would think that he had written that for today, but in his day there was no great drug culture nor were drugs and alcohol as big a problem as they are today. Drugs are used today in practically every modern cult which uses sex as a drawing card.

We are told here that they were guilty not only of sorceries, of indulging in drunkenness and in drugs, but also of fornications which lead to thefts. It is alarming the way adultery is being practiced in the United States. It is promoted as an evidence of our liberty and of the tremendous advancement of civilization! It is interesting that, instead of playing the requiem, this crowd wants to sing and dance and say that the race is improving.

Sorceries and fornication and robbery are going to be increased and a greater emphasis place upon them. I believe the Antichrist will use all three of them to bring mankind into subjection to himself. Mankind will be easily lured in that day. Under the influence of drugs, he will accept anything. One of the reasons that our contemporary nightclubs push liquor is not only for the money that is in it, but it also makes their entertainers acceptable. A very inferior singer or comedian goes over well if you've had two cocktails, and if you've had three, then he is a star. Drugs and liquor will put Antichrist over. Paul wrote: "even him whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish: because they received not the love of truth, that they might be saved." II Thess. 2:9-10. The moment that your reject the Gospel and shut your heart to God, you are wide open for the big lie when it comes. This is the reason so many today fall for everything that comes along. Those today that are not standing for the Word of God are easy prey for the cults."