



Building Wholehearted Disciples of Jesus

The Great Tribulation

Revelation 9

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Series: Apocalypse, The Book of Revelation

The Great Tribulation: Terrorism on Steroids

What did God do this week in your life? Let's take a moment to share anything exciting or encouraging that happened this week.

- The Great Tribulation will be terrorism on steroids. God will be giving the world one more chance to repent.
- It will be a time of the greatest fear, greatest immorality, greatest rebellion the world has ever known — Satan and demons will be unleashed across the globe in unprecedented numbers.
- Simultaneously, God will be moving in such powerful ways that the world will be aghast, confounded and running to Christ.
- We've looked at the opening of seven seals, God has raised up 144k Jewish Billy Grahams and a massive revival is breaking out in Israel.
- Now we are looking at the blaring of seven trumpets. With each trumpet there is another demonic judgment upon the earth.
- This is a very difficult part of the book of Revelation.
- We have looked at the four horseman of the Apocalypse, and we thought that was horrific, where one-fourth of the world have been killed.
- One-third of the shipping and the living things have been killed. One-third of the light is extinguished. The temperatures are plummeting. Oxygen is depleted.
- God is giving the people of the earth an opportunity to repent! His lovingkindness and mercy is being poured out through these judgments.

2 Peter 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.

Revelation 9:1-6

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

- Satan is released to open the bottomless pit and demons are released upon the earth to torment people.
- Notice Three Principles of the Sovereignty of God:
 - 1) Satan doesn't have the key to the bottomless pit! That was taken away from Satan in the three days while Jesus was dead. He marched into paradise and took the keys of sin and death away from Satan.

Revelation 1:8

I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

- 2) God has to give Satan the keys for God's purposes. God always gives keys that open doors that He wants open!
- 3) God gives power to the released demons but there is a limit to their power. They can't touch Jesus disciples. Those who have the mark of God.

Ephesians 1:13

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel

of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

- If you are a Jesus disciple, you have the mark of the Spirit upon you.

Revelation 9:7-12

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. 8 They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. 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. 10 They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months. 11 And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. 12 One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

- This is terrorism on steroids—these flying scorpions/locusts are flying all over the earth and stinging people for five months!
- Ex. Anyone ever had a nasty bee sting? Hornet stings? Imagine bee and hornet stings several times a day for five months.
- Apollyon means “destruction” and Abaddon means “Destroyer.”
- This is Satan’s ways. He is always out to destroy your life through the destruction of everything meaningful in your life.
- He and his demons come to “steal, kill, and destroy.” That is his very nature.
- When you disobey God, choosing your way instead of His way, your selfish desires over God’s loving desires, you are setting up your life to be in the realm of the Destroyer.
- God’s warning us today! He’s about to show us the five key ways that demons destroy your life.

Revelation 9:13

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

- This is an altar of incense where the prayers of the saints are being lifted up to the Lord.
- The prayer of all the saints is here ... those prayers of “Why?” that we have all prayed.
 - o Why did my child die? When these others have given their children up for abortion, why me?
 - o Why is this injustice?
 - o Why did I lose my job? I have been faithful to You.
 - o God is hearing these prayers and it is a consolation of God toward us.
 - o He is about release His justice.

Revelation 9:14-15

saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” 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” hour, day, month, and year ... this definite article marks a special moment in time. These are four demons.
- This is at the Euphrates, that special river where Eden once lied before the fall of man.
- It was in the area of the Euphrates where it all began:
 - o Where Adam and Eve rebelled against God
 - o Where Cain killed Abel

- o Where Noah built an Ark
- o After the flood, where the Tower of Babel was built
- o Joshua 24, “our fathers worshipped idols” on the other side of the Euphrates
- o From this area where God raised up the Syrians and Babylonians to punish Israel
- o It is where David’s kingdom ended
- o It is kind of a spiritual and geographic ending place, a divide
- o On the other side of the Euphrates idolatry is rampant: with over 2700 “gods” in India alone
- Note that they are “bound” and then “released.” God is in control.
- God in His sovereignty has a perfect day and hour over the tribulation period.
 - o Things are not out of control...God is guiding all of this.
 - o God is in control of your life too.
 - o Sometimes we look at the world and it seems out of control: Washington! Iraq! Middle East.
- Sometimes we look at our lives and it feels it is out of control.
- **And that is why you are here ... God brought you here for a new work he wants to accomplish in your lives!**
 - o A God of grace and mercy has brought you here.
 - o God wants to heal you.
 - o God wants you to leave the past behind.

- o God has a plan for your life.

Revelation 9:16

Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

- What horseman? What is this?
- The Bible does tell us that there are principalities and powers that are ruling in the spiritual heavenlies, what I call the fourth dimension.
- Fallen angels called “dominions” that have vast armies of demons under them. This is what we are seeing.
- We can’t see them in this three dimensional world, but this fourth dimension world is real.
- Ex. You may remember Elisha in Dothan surrounded by the Syrian Army and his servant wakes up and is full of terror, and Elisha asked the Lord to open the servant’s eyes, and the Lord opens his eyes and the sky were full of horses and chariots of fire, the Army of God.
- 200 million demons with four General Demons, but God is over all of them.

Revelation 9:17-19

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. 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. 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.

- There are a couple of different interpretations about this passage:
 - o Some say that this is speaking of the scenes in Ezekiel 38-39, but the weaponry is different.

- o Some say the 200 million are the locusts, but the locusts are not allowed to take life, and these demons are allowed to take one third of life.
- o These are Demons of Death, who have come to kill.
- o Some say these correlate with Rev. 16 and the coming of the “kings of the east,” which they think is China.
- o Because in 1965, May 24, page 35, article on Red China, China boasted of being able to man 200 million in an army.
- o Certainly they may be the Army from the East, but that is not what we are talking about yet.
- Satan is being unveiled and unmasked for what he is.
- Ex. You look at our music scene today and you see the heart and mind of our nation ...
 - o Karl Marx once said, “Give me the music and poetry of a nation and I will have their hearts and minds.” Give me their music.
 - o Satan was the worship leader in heaven, and he has masked himself in the music today.
 - o Music energizes our children into deviance.
 - o Just look at the album covers. Our kids have no idea what they are messing around with.
 - o Satan is deceiving them. He hates our children and young people.
 - o He is capturing their hearts, not by showing up in some red suit with horns and a tail. No, he is coming in the music of our day.
 - o The African American community is being ripped apart, torn asunder by the filth in Rap Music: of rape, murder, the killing of police, abuse of women.

- o Demons want our children dead! The music today is bombarding us with sex, violence, and death.
- o It was happening in my day too, but it has been turned up 1000 degrees from my time.
- **God is unmasking Satan...what we see hear is just what Satan wants to do to our lives and our children.**

Revelation 9:20-21

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

- Repentance is still a choice.
- The God of love is still wanting them to repent.
- But they don't repent. People hate God!! The earth hates God's ways.
- Man hates righteousness!! So God is giving the world what they wanted.
- We have the beginnings of hell on earth even now in America.

Satan's Strategies Unveiled: The Five Fastest Routes to Destruction

1) Idols

Tim Keller in his book, Counterfeit Gods, gives us a great definition for idolatry: It is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give.

An idol is whatever you look at and say, in your heart of hearts, "If I have that, then I'll feel my life has meaning, then I'll know I have value, then I'll feel significant and secure." It's about what you worship.

- Idols of gold and silver! We are the most materialistic culture the world has ever known.
 - Are you worshipping your home? Car?
- 2) Murder: America leads the free world in murder.
 - 3) Sorceries: pharmakoon, where we get the word pharmaceutical, drugs. America leads the free world in the use of drugs.
 - i. Are you smoking crack, pot, addicted to drugs?
 - ii. The Bible calls that idolatry
 - 4) Sexual immorality: Yes, we lead the free world in pornography and sexual immorality.
 - 5) Thefts: people stealing from others. This could be on your taxes, at your job, embezzlement, cheating your workers out of a just wage.

It is like God is saying, “Do you want to go to hell?” Well, let me give you a seven year “Fact Finding” journey on what hell will be like.

John 3:19

And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. NKJV

- God is completely just in his dealings with them, but they don’t want to follow the truth.
- By their own choice, these people instead of repentance choose hell and judgment.
- You can be saved today: you can be reborn. The Spirit says “come” and he may be drawing you toward his heart.

Turn to Rev. 22:17

And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

- o Free Gift...undeserving gift of God
- o You might say, “but you don’t know what I have done.” You’re right. I don’t. But He does.
- o I’m not saying this, Jesus is... “Come.”
- o “But, I’m not good enough,” that’s right, but you’re bad enough...come!
- o Come! The question is, “Do you thirst?” Are you thirsty?
- o You are trying to fill your emptiness with sex, drugs, bigger houses, bigger cars, more stuff. You are thirsty but you are filling your lives with those things that do not satisfy.
- o You don’t deserve it, you can’t earn it.
- o Anybody who thirsts!! You are thirsty...fill it with the Living Waters of Jesus.

The video you are about to watch was recorded by Reba McEntire because she felt she wanted to say something to our current situation in America, the divisions, the rioting, the hatred, listen to her words ...

Video Reba McEntire: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/159f4a12665a7171?projector=1>