

The Sixth Trumpet of Woe (Message #22)

Revelation 9: 13-21

Tonight we continue in [Chp.9](#) dealing with the 6th trumpet, the 2nd of the three woes yet to come spoken of in [Chp.8](#). It is hard to imagine the severity of God's judgment that will be poured out upon the earth at this time.

In our last study we found the bottomless pit was opened, releasing a destructive demonic force. This continues for 5 months, but when that judgment is over the 6th trumpet sounds and things get worse.

It's interesting that John heard a voice from between the horns of the golden altar, [V.13](#). This reminds us of the golden altar of incense found in the Tabernacle. The high priest would offer incense on the golden altar each morning unto God. This was a place of prayer and intercession for the people and mercy from God. Now the altar has become a place of divine judgment.

We serve a loving, merciful, long-suffering God, but when His mercies are denied there is nothing left but wrath and judgment. The world refuses to believe that God will judge sin, but that is exactly what He has done in the past and He will again! Let's consider the events that follow [The Sixth Trumpet of Woe](#).

I. The Release of Fallen Angels (14-15) – [The angel who blew the trumpet is instructed to loose the angels which are bound](#). These are different than the angels we encountered holding the four winds in [Chp.7](#). Those were holy angels of God, but these are bound revealing their evil nature. They have been bound of God to be released during the Tribulation. There are a few things we can learn about these angels. Notice:

A. Their Location (14) – [Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates](#). They are [bound in the great river Euphrates](#). It was a river of prominence in the Bible and remains so today, running through the middle of Iraq. It was there that God created the Garden of Eden. Man was created there and committed the 1st sin. Cain slew Abel there. Noah and the flood were in that region. It was there that the first apostasy sprang up against God as Nimrod conspired to build the tower of Babel. The Babylonian captivity was there and the final conflict between God and the forces of evil will take place there.

B. Their Preparation (15a) – *And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year.* These four angels have been bound of God until a specific moment in time. At that moment during the Tribulation they will be released upon the earth.

- We have considered much that is difficult to imagine. It may appear to unbelievers that the world is spinning out of control, that God is unaware and has lost His power. The exact opposite is proven in this text. God is in sovereign control of every detail of this world. He has bound these angels and they will be loosed at His command. This is just a portion of His plan to judge the sin of this world.

C. Their Intention (15b) – *for to slay the third part of men.* These fallen angels are released for a specific purpose, *to slay the third part of men.* In 6:8 we saw the pale horse of death kill $\frac{1}{4}$ of the world's population. This doesn't include the many that died from the bitter waters of Wormwood in 8:11, but now $\frac{1}{3}$ of the remaining population will be killed.

- Death had taken a 5 month holiday in the preceding verses, but now it is back with a vengeance. Consider nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ of the world's population dead by the time the 6th trumpet judgment is over. No doubt every home on the earth will be faced with death among its members.

I. The Release of Fallen Angels (14-15)

II. The Raid of a Fierce Army (16-19) – The release of the fallen angels brings an invasion of a fierce army. This army will march under the influence of the angels and the forces of hell.
Notice:

A. Their Abundance (16) – *And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.* John saw a cavalry of 200 million men. An army of that size would've been unimaginable in John's day, but it is a reality in ours. Many scholars believe this army will come from the Orient, likely Communist China.

- A 2,000 census revealed that China's population included over 363 million men between the ages of 15 and 49, an age range that would accommodate warfare. Each year nearly another 11 million reach the age to fight in combat. For those who question the accuracy of the Bible, it is possible in our day to see an army of 200 million men. It has been calculated that they could march 1 mile wide and 87 miles long!

B. Their Appearance (17, 19) – 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. This army is seen wearing breastplates of fire, jacinth, and brimstone. As the army approached, they appeared to be engulfed in flame. Their armor looked red, blue, and yellow, all colors of fire. This army is marching under the colors and banner of hell.

- Their breastplates make a statement about their relationship to evil. This will likely be a human army controlled by Satan. John uses symbolic language to describe them. Remember he is from the 1st century trying to describe events that haven't yet happened in the 21st century.
- Their horse's heads **were as the heads of lions** – probably describing their fierce looking nature; **fire, smoke, and brimstone out of their mouths** – possibly the firing of munitions from modern warfare equipment.
- **v.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.** This possibly refers to tanks, helicopters, or other vehicles firing missiles and warheads from each end of their craft. One thing is certain; the earth has never seen or experienced an attack like this one!

C. Their Atrocity (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.** Clearly this army isn't on a peace keeping mission or trying to restore order. Their purpose and goal is to kill 1/3 of mankind.

- Countless millions will fall at the hands of this army. I praise the Lord that I'll be around the throne praising the Lamb when this destruction and death comes upon the earth.

I. The Release of Fallen Angels (14-15)

II. The Raid of a Fierce Army (16-19)

III. The Rebellion of Foolish Apostates (20-21) – After all this death and carnage, those left upon the earth still refuse to repent. They are determined to live a life of rebellion, indulging in sinful lusts. Notice:

A. Their Rebellion Against the Lord (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: These have denied the True and Living God, but are busy worshipping idols. This time will be marked by satanic worship and worship of material goods.

▪ Many in our day are caught up in this type of activity. People don't like to hear it or admit it, but if we aren't worshipping and serving the Lord we are worshipping and serving ourselves or Satan. We cannot have it both ways. Joshua said, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Man will worship something. In the Tribulation it will be anything but the Lord.

B. The Rebellion Among their Lives (21) – Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts. Their failure to repent also involved their sinful acts and pleasures. The moral condition of man will continue a downward spiral in the Tribulation. They will indulge in:

1. Murder – We live in a murderous society today, but that will only increase during the Tribulation. We have seen it on a massive scale in recent years, Oklahoma City, Columbine, the 9-11 attacks, and Virginia Tech. Imagine how it will be without the influence of the church and spirit filled Christians.

2. Sorceries – There will certainly be an increase in sorcery and witchcraft involving satanic worship. Here the root word is *pharmakeia* from which we get our word pharmacy. It literally means the use or administering of drugs. Think of the drug addiction our world faces today. This will get worse during the Tribulation.

3. Fornication – This is the Greek word *porneia* from which we get our word pornography. It refers to all kinds of illicit sexual activity. This industry brings in billions of dollars per year in our society. Our world is driven by sex through magazines, movies, advertising, TV, and the internet. Everywhere we look we see the influence of man's desire for sexual promiscuity. The Tribulation will see this on a larger scale.

4. Theft – Consider the hardships that the Tribulation will bring – lack of food, pure drinking water, financial difficulties, etc... Men will rob and steal whatever they find that they need. It is increasingly evident in our day, but will only worsen as judgment falls and life becomes difficult.

Once again we've considered a grim picture. Sadly, much of the attitude revealed by men in the end times is prevalent in our society today. America is raising a generation that is completely foreign to the ways of God. When God is rejected and removed from society, men are left to their sinful ways.

It is apparent that the world grows more wicked with each passing year. Things that weren't even spoken of in private a few years ago are being carried out in public places today. As bad as it is now, it will only get worse. We have seen nothing to compare with the wickedness to come. If you are saved, warn others of the wrath to come. If you are lost, I would encourage you to come and find salvation while there is still time!