

Revelation – 101

9/21/25 – PM (Week 7)

Chapters 9-10 The Trumpet Judgments Continue / The “little book”

Review chapters 7-8

- Chapter 7 is “parenthetical”. It is inserted between the sixth seal and the opening of the seventh seal. John gives more information about the saved of the tribulation, first mentioned in Chapter 6:9-11.
- John sees the 144,000 – these are 12,000 men from each of the 12 tribes of Israel, who are sealed (protected / preserved) by God and go throughout the world preaching and evangelizing. They are all men (Rev. 14:1-5). They are all virgins (Rev. 14:4) - **These men are not married, assuring that they have no wives or children that could be targeted for persecution during their ministry.*
- These 144,000 “Apostle Pauls” fulfill the prophecy of Matthew 24:14, and a “a great multitude which no man could number” respond to their message and are killed during the tribulation. The tribulation saints are the “souls under the altar” in heaven, and they are awaiting the avenging of their blood and their resurrected bodies which will come after the tribulation. They are servants in the temple of the Lord. (They are not Christians. They are not the Bride of Christ.)
- Chapter 8 begins with the seventh seal being opened, followed by silence in Heaven for about ½ an hour. The seventh seal reveals the seven trumpet judgments. The first four trumpets correspond with the first four seals (the Antichrist and the four horses in chapter 6).
 - The first trumpet = hail and fire cast upon the earth. 1/3rd of all forests and all green grass burns.
 - The second trumpet = a great mountain burning with fire (volcano?) cast into the sea (salt water). A 1/3rd part of the sea becomes blood,

- a 1/3rd part of sea creatures die, and a third part of the ships are destroyed (commerce / trade shortages; economic problems).
 - The third trumpet = “a great star” (meteor / asteroid) falls from heaven, striking the earth. It is called “Wormwood” and a 1/3rd part of fresh water becomes poison, killing those who drink it.
 - The fourth trumpet = a 1/3rd part of the sun, the moon, and the stars are darkened.
 - John sees an angel warning the inhabitants of the earth about the last three trumpets and their related judgments. The angel calls them “woes”, which is from the Greek word meaning “an exclamation of grief”. Darker and worse tribulation is coming to the earth.
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I. Chapter 9 – The 5th and 6th Trumpets

a. The 5th Trumpet (Rev. 9:1-12)

- i. Verses 1-2. John sees a star fall from heaven. (Many translations change the word “fall” to “fallen”. This is incorrect as it changes the tense and description of the star as something that had happened in the past. Remember – John is seeing into the future.) This star is not a meteor or asteroid as in previous chapters. This star is a personage – “to HIM was given the key” / “And HE opened”.

1. Most agree that this is Satan or one of his most powerful devils, coming to earth to open this pit. (*Satan is not permanently cast out of heaven until chapter 12). This pit is where multitudes of fallen angels (demons or evil spirits) are being held (Jude vs.6). Notice he is **given** the key. He does not have it, because Jesus said HE does in Revelation 1:18 (read).
2. Where is the bottomless pit? Well we know that it is on the earth, because that’s where the star (Satan or demon) fell to in verse 1. Most believe it is the core or

the sphere in the center of the earth. A sphere, being round, does not have a bottom = "bottomless".

ii. Verses 3-11 – "the locusts" – locusts in the Bible were always a form of judgment / destruction and a plague on the earth.

1. Their orders – vs. 3-5

- a. They were given power to hurt as scorpions (vs. 3)
- b. They are under specific orders and have limited power (vs. 4 – "it was commanded them").

2. Their purpose – vs. 5-6, 10

- a. To hurt (torment), but not to kill, the people of earth. They have no power against the 144,000 (who have been sealed by God – vs. 4)

3. Their description – vs. 7-10

- a. "shapes like unto horses prepared unto battle"
 - i. Crowns on their heads "as it were" crowns of gold.
 - ii. Faces "like" the faces of men / hair "as" the hair of women / teeth "as" the teeth of lions.
 - iii. Breastplates "as" of iron, and the sound of their wings "was as" the sound of chariots of many horses.
 - iv. Tails "like unto" scorpions and there were stings in their tails.

4. Their identity

- a. Simplest answer = a unique and hideous, venomous creature specifically created for the tribulation judgment empowered or possessed by the demons loosed from the pit.
- b. More agreed answer = The demons themselves, who have taken on a form / body with the characteristics described.

- c. Some believe that because John uses “as and like” so many times in their description, that he might be witnessing some type of weaponry, drones, etc. of the Anti-Christ’s military.

5. Their impact – vs. 5-6

- a. To torment men for 5 months (no clear answer as to that time frame).
- b. Men will wish to die from their torment, but God won’t let them.

6. Their king – vs. 11

- a. The angel of the bottomless pit
 - i. Hebrew name = “Abaddon” (destroyer)
 - ii. Greek name = “Apollyon” (destroyer)
- b. Could be Satan, though not likely
- c. More likely one of the chief “fallen angels”
 - i. Vs. 12 says that “one woe is past”.

iii. Verses 13-21 – the sixth trumpet sounds.

- 1. John hears a voice from the golden altar (vs. 13-14) saying to loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. These are apparently more of the fallen angels, as they have been “bound”.
- 2. These angels were connected with the Euphrates River because the Euphrates was a landmark of ancient Babylon (coming chapters). It was also the boundary of the old Roman Empire, which will be revived under the Antichrist (coming chapters).
 - a. An army unleashed (vs. 15-19)
 - i. A time and purpose given – vs. 15
 - 1. Again, no explanation of the time
 - 2. Purpose is to destroy 1/3rd of men
 - ii. The number of the army is 200 million.

1. China (population 1.3 billion) has boasted in the past of raising an army of 200 million.
2. The description of the soldiers and horses (vs. 16-19).
 - a. John sees “breastplates of fire and of jacinth and brimstone” on the soldiers.
 - b. The horse’s heads were “as the heads of lions”. Power in their mouths, tails like unto serpents. They killed by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone which came from their mouths.
 - c. It is very possible that John is seeing modern weapons of war (tanks, flame-throwers, and other mechanized warfare), and is describing it in first century language.
3. The results of this army (vs. 18-19)
 - a. By these was the 1/3rd part of men killed.
 - b. Even after these plagues (locusts and army of death), men “repented not” (vs. 20-21).
 - c. The purpose of these judgments is to bring men to repentance and trust in God. Those who do become martyrs and the tribulation saints, but millions will defy and reject God, with hardened hearts and unrepentance.

II. Chapter 10 – “a little book”

a. Chapter 10 begins another parenthetical section which runs through most of the next four chapters (with the exception of ch. 11:14-19, which is the seventh trumpet). Parenthetical sections do not advance the narrative, but give us important information that contributes to the total prophecy, i.e. “the big picture”. John stops here in his narrative to insert important information between the sixth and seventh trumpet. Most believe this is about the half-way point (3 ½ years) of the tribulation, and most of the tribulation saints have been martyred by this time. The second half is going to be much worse.

- i. Vs. 1 – “another mighty angel” = of the same kind. This angel is simply “another” of the same kind that John has been seeing (Ch. 5:1-2, Ch. 7:1-3, Ch. 8:1-3). Because of his power and appearance, some have speculated that this is Jesus. It is not Jesus, though he had a divine, “mighty” appearance. John mistook angels for Jesus twice (Rev. 19:10; Rev. 22:8-9).
- ii. Vs. 2 – He had in his hand “a little book open”. He set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth. *This phrase is mentioned three times in this chapter. This speaks to the message John is about to receive as being for the entire planet earth.
- iii. Vs. 3-4 – The angel cries with a loud voice and seven thunders respond. John is about to write what he heard, but a voice from heaven tells him not to. Some of the mysteries of God remain secret. The number 7 here speaks of the completeness of God’s prophetic program.
- iv. Vs. 5-7 – The angel’s message
 1. Second reference to his standing (earth and sea)
 2. Hand to heaven is as swearing an oath (“raise your right hand”) – speaks of authority.
 3. He swears by Jesus Christ, vs. 6, (John 1:1-3 / Colossians 1:15-17) that there should be “time no longer”.

- a. NOT that time will end, but that there will be no more delay. Time is up for the gentile world. The time of the gentiles is coming to an end.
 - b. When the 7th trumpet begins to sound (Rev. 11:15), “the mystery of God shall be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.” (vs. 7). ALL the prophecies concerning God, His Son, the earth, Satan, mankind, and creation, are about to end.
 - v. Vs. 8-11 – “the little book”
 - 1. John hears a voice again telling him to take the book from the angel (3rd time that “standing on the sea and the earth” is mentioned.) – vs. 8
 - 2. The angel tells him to take it and eat it – explaining that it will be sweet as honey in his mouth, but bitter in his belly. – vs. 9-10
 - a. As strange as this seems, we have several references in the Old Testament to the prophets consuming the word of God before warning of judgment. Ezekiel 2:8-10 (read) – “lamentations, and mourning, and WOE” / Ezekiel 3:1-4, 14 / Jeremiah 15:15-18 / Jeremiah 20:7-9.
 - b. John (as a prophet) is about to describe judgment on Jerusalem in chapter 11. Before that happens, God instructs John to “eat” the words of the book, because he must “prophecy again” (vs. 11).
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NEXT WEEK: Chapters 11-12 – The Two Witnesses / The 7th Trumpet / The Wonders Appear in Heaven.