

Revelation- Class 7 (Revelation 9-10)
“When All Hell Breaks Loose”

Recap:

In case you missed several of our classes

The Church is caught up in Heaven and it's a majestic view

Two weeks ago, we discussed Jesus opening the seals

The deed of the Earth that ushered the 4-Horsemen

And last week, we introduced the Trumpet Judgments

Believed to be separate judgements from the seals

Before a trumpet would sound Jesus sealed 144,000 Jewish evangelists to proclaim the Gospel giving them a protection of all that would take place with the judgements.

We were able to read the result of their ministry

Revelation 7:9a, “a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...”

A summary of the first four trumpet judgements: **THINK ABOUT ECOSYSTEMS**

1. Rev. 8:7b, “And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up”

- With a famine already in place, this will impact the food shortage
- The grass burned up, also could be wheat,
 - destroying grain production
 - Loss of food for animals
- Trees being burnt
 - This will impact wildlife, being displaced
 - Air and water pollution (trouble breathing)
 - Soil erosion- mud slides and loss of vegetation
- This will impact quality of life and food supply



2. Rev 8:9, “a third of the sea became blood. ⁹A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.”

- The stench of blood, dead fish, human bodies, etc.
- Impacting the fishing industry (food shortage)
- Less Breathable air



“Around 50% of the oxygen we breath is present in the atmosphere thanks to phytoplankton (photosynthetic organisms that live in the surface oceans). People often think that trees are the reason we have breathable air, but without phytoplankton oxygen would decrease about 50%!”¹

3. Revelation 8:11 (ESV), “A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.”

- This will impact food shortage as well as wildlife will die.
- This one will cause much death and chaos because



“More than 99 percent of Earth's water is unusable by humans and many other living things - only about 0.3 percent of our fresh water is found in the surface water of lakes, rivers, and swamps.”²

2/3rd's of the freshwater on Earth is made up in Polar icecaps and glaciers.
Less than 1% of Earth is freshwater and 1/3 will become bitter.

4. Revelation 8:12 (ESV), “¹² The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.

The light from the sun and moon will impact the climate of the Earth
Impacting crops, weather, and even human vitamin D.

And the cliff hanger we had was the final verse in chapter 8,
An angel flying crying out, According to the Message paraphrase



¹ <https://undertheblog.org/2015/02/19/what-would-happen-if-the-ocean-died/>

² <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/earths-fresh-water/>

Rev. 8:13 (MSG) “Doom! Doom! Doom to everyone left on earth! There are three more Angels about to blow their trumpets. Doom is on its way!”

In other translations instead of doom, it’s woe!

Woe is an expression of **PAIN** and **ANGER**

Be in the shoes of the person going through this

- Governments are collapsed
- Hospitals are overcrowded
- Lacking resources and supplies
- You are starving
- Not safe from humans or wild beasts
- Not knowing if you’ll burn, be able to breathe,
- Everyone is out for themselves.



The first four trumpets will have impacted the ecosystems

But the next three trumpets will impact humanity directly

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:1 (ESV), “And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit.”

There are a couple of perspectives of who this star is.

1. Satan- known as the Fallen Star from Isaiah 14:12
2. It’s an unnamed angel
3. It’s a demon named Abaddon

A key was given...

- The idea here is that God had given the key
- At a specific time... not chaotic...
BUT IN FULL CONTROL OF GOD.
- By giving this key to be used
it would further God’s purposes.



The bottomless pit...

- In the Greek it paints the picture that is limitless... boundless... immeasurable.
- It’s a demonic prison that holds a unique demon
- This pit will also imprison Satan for 1,000 years.

There is little recorded as to WHAT demons would be imprisoned

Since there are demons recorded in scripture as impacting the world

You remember how people were possessed in the Gospels

- The demoniac- casted into pigs, Matt. 8
- Mary Magdalene delivered from demonic possession- Lk. 8:2
- Jesus gave authority to the disciples to dispel Demons Matt. 10
- Jesus warned about the influx of Demons

Matthew 12:43-45 (ESV), ⁴³ “When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. ⁴⁴ Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. ⁴⁵ Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation.”

There are demons on the earth... **AND**

There are demons in this prison of immeasurable depth

Revelation 9:2 (ESV), ² He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft.”

Remember at this time a third of the sun and moonlight will be darkened by a third
 Now you can imagine how much darker it might be in the middle of the day
 As smoke and....



Revelation 9:3-6 (ESV), ³ Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. ⁴ They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵ They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone. ⁶ And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.”

It's believed that these are not natural locusts that we have (or like in Exodus)

But these are demons by the swarms, released to torture humankind.

The only ones who won't be stung or tormented will be the 144,000.

These demons were given a **PERIOD OF TIME** and **PURPOSE** by God
And the purpose was to bring a rebellious humanity to repentance
For five months, these people will be tormented
and people will seek death and not find it....

“They will long to die, but death will flee from them.”

These people are already facing... All hope is lost.

- The earth people loved is no more
- Economic turmoil
- Peace is taken away from the earth (massive warfare)
 - Nuclear war? EMP’s? Chemical Warfare? (wearing masks!)
- Apocalyptic catastrophe’s that change eco systems
 - Earthquakes, tsunamis, tornados, fires, volcano’s.
- The smell of decaying bodies of humans, animals, and sea creatures
- Food and clean water are sparse
- The world is literally on fire making it hard to breathe
- Darkness during the day
- Now... foul smoke from the pit of hell
- Demonic torment
 - 5 months... tormented for 5 months or the sting lasts for 5 months?
 - Side thought: 5 is the number of grace

With so much torment, pain, confusion, anger, and so on

People may seek death... other translations say ***lust for death***...

Meaning that there is a deep desire, intensity to kill themselves

A couple of thoughts....

1. Death will flee: will people actually attempt to kill themselves and it constantly not work? You could imagine the extremes of people trying to end their lives and yet still live? Not only experiencing the pain of the sting but also the pain of their suicidal attempt.
2. Demons will keep them from killing themselves
 - a. We see in the Gospels how demons are able to possess unbelievers

Mark 9:20-22, “Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

Luke 8:27-29, "And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness."

Can you imagine, that as a person is to the point of ending their life
A demon possess' them and keeps them from committing the act?
Not to save their lives, but to prolong the torment...

Revelation 9:7-10, "7 In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces, 8 their hair like women's hair, and their teeth like lions' teeth; 9 they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle. 10 They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails."



John does his best to describe what these Locusts look like
You will see how he uses the word "like" because that's the best he can describe
With the vocab and understanding of the world that he had...
but the thought of why locusts? If these are demons why describe them as that?
God has used locusts to bring about judgement throughout the Old Testament³

³ [Exodus 10:4-14](#), [Deuteronomy 28:38](#), [1 Kings 8:37](#), [2 Chronicles 7:13](#), [Joel 1:4](#), and [Amos 4:9](#).

Naturally locusts don't have a leader, but these symbolic ones do.

Revelation 9:11 (ESV), ¹¹ They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.



Not everyone is agreed whether this is Satan Himself, as the king of the locusts

Here's why:

Satan is allowed access to a portion of heaven as we see in Job

Revelation 12:10, "And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God."

Ephesians 6:12 (ESV), ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

ABADDON is used in the Old Testament to describe the place of eternal punishment

Proverbs 27:20, "Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the eyes of man."

Job 26:6, "Sheol is naked before God, and Abaddon has no covering."

APOLLYON comes from the Greek "I destroy"

Satan leads an organized Demonic forces (not chaotic but strategic)

Abaddon is under him and is king over the demons from the bottomless pit.

Before you start fearing them remember...

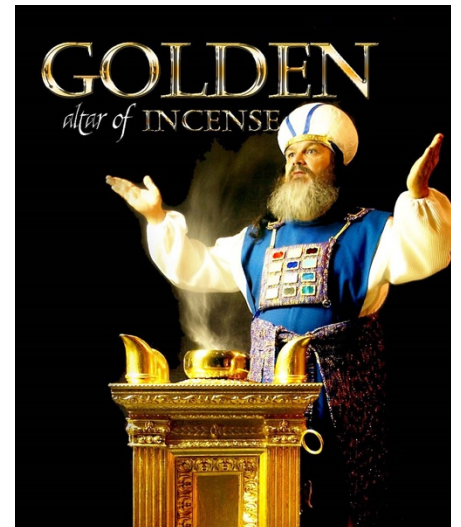
Demons hate you, will attack you, not because you are you
But because you are made in the image of God.

For Christians, Satan is a **lion** who may roar
but who has been de-fanged **AT THE CROSS**

Colossians 2:15, "Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."

Revelation 9:12-15 (ESV), "¹² The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still to come. ¹³ Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, ¹⁴ 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, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind."

The place of the voice is located at the altar of incense
a place representing the prayers of the saints (believers)
Here is the repeated theme
PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE plays a large role in the judgements



We see it:

- Revelation 5:8- Describes when Jesus took the scroll the elders had the bowls of incense
 - "which are the prayers of God's people."
- Revelation 8:2-5- The angel took a golden censor of prayer and threw it at the earth.
- Now, the voice is located where prayers rise up to God...

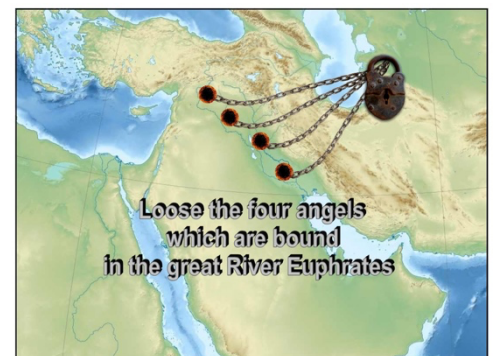
"Release the four angels who are bound..."

Because these angels are bound... they are considered demons
The Greek describes that these angels were bound in the past until now

"God's control over demonic forces is complete- they are bound or loosed **AT HIS COMMAND.**"

The Great River Euphrates...

These angels were connected with the Euphrates River
because the Euphrates was a landmark of ancient Babylon.
It was the frontier of Israel's land as fully promised by God ⁴



⁴ Genesis 15:17-21

The Euphrates is also associated with:

- the first sin (Genesis 2:10-14),
- the first murder (Genesis 4:16)
- the first organized revolt against God (Genesis 11:1-9)
- the first war confederation (Genesis 14:1)
- and the first dictatorship (Genesis 10:8-10).⁵

Revelation 9:16 (NLT) “¹⁶ I heard the size of their army, which was 200 million mounted troops.

A demonic army rises “**twice ten thousand times ten thousand;...**” = 200 Million

According to one study:⁶

| Country | Total Personnel ∨ |
|---------------|-------------------|
| North Korea | 7,769,000 |
| South Korea | 6,712,500 |
| Vietnam | 5,522,000 |
| India | 5,137,500 |
| China | 4,015,000 |
| Russia | 3,708,000 |
| Ukraine | 2,122,000 |
| Brazil | 2,101,500 |
| United States | 2,072,950 |
| Taiwan | 1,831,800 |

Is a 200-million person army literal? Could be
or it could be symbolic with the meaning, the foe is great!

Revelation 9:17-19 (NLT), “¹⁷ And in my vision, I saw the horses and the riders sitting on them. The riders wore armor that was fiery red and dark blue and yellow. The horses had heads like lions, and fire and smoke and burning sulfur billowed from their mouths. ¹⁸ One-third of all the people on earth were killed by these three plagues—by the fire and smoke and burning sulfur that came from the mouths of the horses. ¹⁹ Their power was in their mouths and in their tails. For their tails had heads like snakes, with the power to injure people.

The picture of this army is massive and horrific
It could be an army of just demons...
it could be an army of possessed people

The result was killing a third of humankind.

If a fourth was killed – Revelation 6:8 (2 Billion)
1/3rd of 6 billion= 2 Billion



⁵ <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-9/>

⁶ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/military-size-by-country>

Each soldier would just need to kill thirty people
We may have 4 Billion killed during the tribulation at this time **HALF THE POPULATION.**

What is the response with so much blood, torture, pain? **DEMONIC ACTIVITY?**

Revelation 9:20-21 (ESV), “²⁰ The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, ²¹ nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.”

John lists five specific sins not repented of

1. Works of their Hands (reference to idolatry)

- a. When someone worships and idol they are actually worshipping a demon
- b. 1 Corinthians 10:20 (ESV), “²⁰ No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.”**

We see more references in the Old Testament
when Israel and their neighbors fell into pagan worship which was actually demon worship

Deuteronomy 32:17, “They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded.”

**Psalm 106:37
They sacrificed their sons
and their daughters to the demons;**

The idea is that demons will impersonate those false gods
And hold those idolaters captive.

“False religions are not void of the supernatural; they are full of it-because they are the best opportunities for demons to capture souls. They are the fortresses of 2nd Corinthians 10:4-5 which must be assaulted with the truth if souls are to be delivered.”⁷

2. Murders

As a result of worshipping demons murder will ensue.
Since there is no line of morality, people will imitate the demonic
And lust for blood.

⁷ John MacArthur, *New Testament Commentary: Revelation 1-11*. Pg. 273

3. Sorceries (pharmekia)

Many commentators relate this to drug usage

Since its effect can make people feel in a higher spiritual state.

This word also can refer to poisons, amulets, charms, seances, witchcraft, incantations.

Magic, spells, contacting mediums.⁸

4. Immorality (porneia)

Rape, adultery, fornication, etc.

5. Thefts

People stealing from the scarcity of resources available.

they still seek to the control the situation

Revelation 10...

Revelation 10:1-2 (ESV), "Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. ² He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land,"



Can you imagine this massive angel who sets his foot on the sea and on the land
Commentators state that this is a posture of authority over the land and the sea

"He has his feet on both land and sea "to show that he had the command of each, and that his power was universal, all things being under his feet." (Clarke)

⁸ Ibid.

Revelation 10:3-4 (ESV), “³ and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded. ⁴ And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down.”

The voice of seven thunder is a reference to the voice of God
This messenger will speak with authority and power of God
And he was about to write down what was uttered
Only to be told.... “that’s off the record.”

Why?! was it too much for John to write down?
Was it a surprise that God wants to add in the end?
We don’t know the reason why... and trust that there was a purpose for it.

Revelation 10:5-7... The massive angel talks with John and reassures him that the end is at hand
And the mystery of God would be fulfilled

*Possibly, the mystery also regards the great question “Why does God allow Satan and man to rebel and go their own way?” The idea may be that this question, this unanswered **mystery**, is coming to an end under rule of Jesus. God is beginning the end, the resolution of all things, the gathering together (resolution, summing up) of all things in one in Jesus ([Ephesians 1:10](#)).*

Revelation 10:8-9 (ESV), “⁸ Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, “Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.” ⁹ So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, “Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.”

One perspective is that John is invited to partake in eating the scroll
He wasn’t forced to eat the scroll.

Revelation 10:10-11 (ESV), “¹⁰ And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter. ¹¹ And I was told, “You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.”

The word of God is good... great... profound!
And there are portions of it that may feel bitter
we love grace, mercy, love!
But the judgement that continues to the ultimate judgement.

Land the Plane:

to not be desensitized to the tactics of the enemy
Freshness of the Gospel in your life... the power of the Cross.