

Revelation: The Time is Near

Four Angels Bound

Revelation 9:13-21

Revelation Review:

- John on Patmos, revealed Jesus in glory
- **The end of the world (as we know it) - The Great Tribulation**
- **Judgment on the nations and those who follow satan**
- **A last ditch effort to get the world to repent**
- **As bad as this is, hell is worse.** This is 7 years, hell is forever.

Previously:

- **1st four seals broken**
- **Four horsemen:**
 - 1 - white horse, rider bow and crown
 - 2 - fiery red horse, rider large sword
 - 3 - black horse, pair of scales
 - 4 - pale green, corpse color
- **Fifth seal: martyrs** slain for the word of God and their testimony - white robe, wait a little while longer until the number is complete
- **Sixth seal: signs in heaven (sky):** great earthquake, sun like sackcloth, moon like blood, stars of heaven fall, sky recedes like scroll
- **Everyone hides but doesn't repent...**they want the mountains to fall on them instead. But Death won't save them.
- **Seventh Seal: Silence in heaven for half an hour**
- **The first five trumpets**
 - 1 - hail and fire mixed w blood
 - 2 - great mountain burning w fire thrown into the sea
 - 3 - great star falling from heaven, wormwood
 - 4 - 1/3 sun, moon, stars dimmed
 - 5 - star fallen from heaven, key, pit opened, "locusts", torment, "king of locusts - name is Destroyer"
 - One woe past, still two more

**The physical world is connected to the spiritual
It's not conspiracy...it's spiritual war raging**

2Co 10:3-6 NKJV - For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Eph 6:12-13 NKJV - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual [hosts] of wickedness in the heavenly [places]. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

[pray]

Revelation 9:13-15

Sixth angel blows a trumpet - a voice from the altar

In tabernacle was the altar of incense

Blood put on the horns

Incense represents the prayers of the saints

Rev 5:8 NKJV - Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Your prayers have a heavenly physicality to them as well as earthly consequence

They are important to God, all of heaven, and all of creation

In one way, it is a part of your priesthood, to offer prayer to God

Four angels bound for all time from the Great River Euphrates

I believe they've physically been restrained there since Adam & Eve kicked out.

I don't believe it's this angel

Gen 3:24 NKJV - So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

But there's a precedent there. From even before the flood. I know that the topography changed, but I think somehow the area is the same. The middle east has been a hot bed of world affairs since the dawn of time and will be through the very end.

Euphrates also ancient Babylon (system still at play today and will be destroyed as we'll see in Rev)

Border of ancient Roman Empire, interesting play with Roman Catholicism and end-times Europe and world system and AC

V15 is chilling

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.

Prepared (interesting definition)

- to make ready, prepare
- to make the necessary preparations, get everything ready
- drawn from the oriental custom of sending on before kings on their journeys persons to level the roads and make them passable
- to prepare the minds of men to give the Messiah a fit reception and secure his blessings

For that very moment in time, in all of history.

God knew from the very beginning where everything would end up

Yet he still gave the rainbow after the flood

Still sent the Messiah

Still gave time to repent

Talk about longsuffering

Their purpose? To kill a third of mankind (a third of who's left at least)

Whatever the actual number left of people, 1:3 is unthinkable. Almost as much as the black plague killed in Europe over 4 years, potentially 40-60%. But this is 33% in a matter of hours, days, weeks at most...

Are they good angels set aside? Sounds to me like they were fallen and locked up, prevented, until this time. They would have immediately done the same thing. Their will was set. But, it could go either way - and either way God uses it to fulfill his final purpose.

Listen to this description in Joel. Same army? May or may not be, but all throughout scripture we see that even one angel can wipe out huge swaths of even the strongest human army.

Read Joel 2:1-11

For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible;

Who can endure it?

Make no mistake, no one will be able to stand in the day of God's wrath. That anyone survives for seven years is nothing less than his mercy.

:16-19

200 million horsemen

Number could be taken literally or figuratively as in uncountable...
But to me, John reiterates that he heard the number so I'm going with literal.

Commentary: The total size of all armies – on both sides – at the height of the Second World War was only 70 million.

While it could be a physical army led by the four angels released - *the four winds, four directions, north south east west - all over the earth*

Their description could also be taken as a description of yet future technology

They could also be a demonic army of that number. It could be both a demonic army leading a physical army where both the demonic and physical descriptions are horrific in their own rights.

Remember, these descriptions we're seeing horrific creations. Horrific events unfold.
It blows my mind that Hollywood won't do a sober take on Revelation as described. It'd be horrific. Maybe because it'd bring too many people to repentance to actually think about it and know that this is coming.

Riders - with blue/red/yellow breastplates

Horses - lions heads, tails like serpents with heads on them (intelligent tails)

Blue, red and yellow...Russia and Chinese? Symbolic there? Flag colors of the new world order? Even the US flag with the yellow fringe border would be described as such.

Three plagues...fire, smoke, brimstone

Again, picture of the fires of hell, volcanic, poisonous air, fire, heat

People seem to be excited about an invasion of another species from "outer space"
If they only knew what they were asking for...the demonic invasion is coming, and it won't just be one wave.

With the tails, do harm (another interesting definition)

absolutely

to act unjustly or wickedly, to sin,

to be a criminal, to have violated the laws in some way

to do wrong

to do hurt

transitively

to do some wrong or sin in some respect

to wrong some one, act wickedly towards him

to hurt, damage, harm

This army will not follow the Geneva Convention.

There will be no rules of warfare, other than they will kill people all over the earth brutally, awfully, painfully, cruelly.

It is only just because it is part of the consequence of rebellion and rejection of the only way of Salvation.

The world is awful. Sin is horrendous. I think we forget.

The world plays it up as fun. As a party in hell. We fail to realize the significance of it. The holiness and perfection of God and what he truly provides - life.

That anything other than that is utmost horror apart from him - it's only by his grace we haven't yet received the full death of sin unleashed in the garden.

I love reading, studying, thinking, teaching and talking about Revelation. But there is something deeply sobering about going through it this time. Maybe because we're so close I can taste it.

Maybe it's no coincidence as to what happens to John in the next chapter:

Rev 10:9-10 NKJV - So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth." Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.

:20-21

The rest of mankind - the two thirds left from this woe, when the population had already been reduced.

DID. NOT. REPENT.

They doubled-down. They hardened even more.

Remember Pharaoh anyone?

Those watching Noah build?

Those during the church age rejecting?

the works of their hands,

The things they built, aspired to do and did. The things they made.

that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

People worship demons. Don't be fooled. Yes, idols themselves are but a hunk of wood (isaiah) cut down to build a fire and to worship

But there are demonic forces at play behind them. Even if just to distract the person if not actually in and the object of the worship. Look at the idols of the world, are they not mostly grotesque?

And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries[fn] or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

St. Louis University student confronts those standing up for babies on campus
'You can see all my pictures, see how pretty I am, see how good of a life I have.'

'I will enjoy my life and I will keep killing f* babies.'

<https://citizenfreepress.com/breaking/i-will-enjoy-my-life-and-i-will-keep-on-killing-f-ing-babies/>

SNL skit...her story, how she happily did it to keep her career going

Sorceries pharmakeia

- the use or the administering of drugs
- poisoning
- sorcery, magical arts, often found in connection with idolatry and fostered by it
- metaph. the deceptions and seductions of idolatry

Is it any wonder that all sorts of drugs are being used in our time? That they are not only being used but being legalized, accepted, exalted?

Is it any wonder that our time is also more spiritually dark, young people confused and involved in horrid things and believing what is evil is good?

Make no mistake - "recreational" drug use is spiritually connected.

Even the church and so-called Christians are caught up in it.

It will only grow worse and more apparent and even when the whole world falls apart, many billions have died and many millions more with each wave...**they will not repent.**

God is making it clear that what is happening to those left on earth and what will continue to happen is not only just, but necessary. They will not repent. In some sense, God is *revealing* who they really are, what they're really about, through the fires of these judgments. That what they will receive is due and just and holy and necessary.