

## 22. The Message of the Sixth Trumpet

In our last three topics, we saw the results of the first five trumpet judgments that will come on the earth during the tribulation. In this topic, we will see what happens when the sixth angel sounds his trumpet. The earlier judgments affected the earth and the heavens, or caused great pain to the people of the earth. This judgment will be directed at the people of the earth as one third of the population of the world will be killed.

Revelation 9:13-15 says, “Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, ‘Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.’ 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.” Here, we see what will happen when the sixth angel sounds his trumpet.

We see that John heard a voice that came from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God. We were introduced to that altar in Revelation 8:3-4, when we read: “Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand.” In this verse, we see that this altar is the place where incense is burned with the prayers of all of the saints. Here, we see that this altar has four horns and that a voice comes from the four horns. In the Old Testament, the altar of incense in the tabernacle and later, in the temple, had four horns on the four corners of the altar.

The voice that spoke from the golden altar told the angel who blew the sixth trumpet to release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates. The Euphrates River flows through the middle of the modern country of Iraq. The ancient city of Babylon which was known for “The Hanging Gardens of Babylon”, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, was located on the banks of this river. The Old Testament prophet, Daniel, was taken as a captive to this city as a young man where he served under the rule of King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel later read the handwriting on the wall of the palace after Belshazzar became the king. That handwriting on the wall predicted the end of the Babylonian kingdom because of the sins of the leaders of Babylon. Daniel 5:30-31 says, “That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, *being* about sixty-two years old.” It is in that general area, these four angels are bound that will be released. These four angels and the judgment they will bring are bound until that time were prepared for this very hour, day, month and year. Their goal will be to destroy many people.

Like the demonic angels that came out of the bottomless pit when the fifth trumpet sounded, these demonic angels have also been bound until they are released for this very hour. We see that their goal is to go out and destroy one third of the people that are on the earth. They also have an army of demons that are released with them to help them destroy these people. Revelation 9:16-19 says, “Now the number of the army of the horsemen *was* two hundred million; I heard the number of them. 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. 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. 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.”

We see that this army of demons, that follow the four demonic leaders, numbers two hundred million. We see that the Lord also gave John a vision of the demonic horses and described the appearance of those who sat on them. These riders who sat on the horses had breastplates of three colors. The first color was fiery red. The second color was hyacinth blue. The third color was sulfur yellow. The demonic horses had heads that were like the heads of lions. It was what came out of the mouths of these horses with heads like lions that would kill one third of the people on the earth. We see that three things will come out of their mouths. Those three things are fire, smoke, and brimstone. Brimstone is melted rock. These three things are the things that usually come out of volcanoes. In the area of the Dead Sea, there is a yellowish sulfuric rock that when it turns to brimstone produces a gas that can cause suffocation.

However, instead of coming out of a volcano or rock catching fire in the area of the Dead Sea, we see that this fire, smoke, and brimstone will come out of the mouths of these demons. These demons will also have heads on their tails. This will make it possible for these demons to breathe out this fire, smoke, and brimstone in two directions at the same time. It is by this combination of fire, smoke, and brimstone that one-third of the population of the earth will be killed. John 10:10 says, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.” This is another example of the fact that the goal of Satan is always to steal, to kill, and to destroy. His desire is to destroy every person before that person repents of their sin of unbelief and comes to God through Christ. That is also the goal of these demons that will destroy one-third of the people on the earth.

These demons will have power in both their mouth and their tail. This power will be used to do harm to the people on the earth. Here, we see that the focus of these demons is the destruction of the people of the earth and so we do not read about any impact that these demons will have on the vegetation of the earth or any other thing. We go on to read how the remaining two thirds of the people will react when they see the destruction of one third of the people. Revelation 9:20-21 says, “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. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.” Here, we see that the rest of the people will not repent of their actions or their false worship.

We just saw, in the previous verses, that the demons will destroy one-third of the people of the earth. Here, we see that, instead of repenting because of the destruction by the demons, the people will choose to worship the demons. The Lord warned the early church, in 1 Corinthians 10:19-21, “What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not

want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons." Here, we see that people living today offer sacrifices to demons. We see that people will continue to worship the demons, even though they see that the goal of demons is to destroy.

We also see that during these judgments that the people will continue to worship idols of gold, silver, brass, stone and wood. That will be true even though such idols cannot see, hear or walk. God describes the idols of man in Psalm 115:4-8, where we read: "Their idols *are* silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; they have ears, but they do not hear; noses they have, but they do not smell; they have hands, but they do not handle; feet they have, but they do not walk; nor do they mutter through their throat. Those who make them are like them; *so is* everyone who trusts in them." These verses show us that those who make the idols are like the idols they make. Those idols cannot bring them to God.

Then, we are given some of their works that the people, in the tribulation, will not repent of in their rebellion against God. First, we read that they will not repent of their murders. In the time of Noah, Genesis 6:11 says, "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence." Here, we see that the earth will again be filled with violence during the time of the tribulation. Second, we see that the people will not repent of their sorceries. The word translated "sorceries" is the Greek word "pharmakeia" from which we get our English word "pharmacy". In the time of the New Testament, drugs were used to help a person get his or her mind into an altered state so he or she could practice witchcraft and other similar false religious practices. Third, we read that they did not repent of their sexual immorality. Throughout history, sexual immorality is one of the things Satan has used to destroy nations and peoples. Paul warned the church in Corinth, in 1 Corinthians 6:18, "Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body." Here, we see that Satan uses immorality to destroy the lives of individuals. We see this happening in our own society, but Satan will certainly use sexual immorality during the tribulation to destroy. Fourth, we see that the people will not repent of their thefts.

Here, we see that the rebellious did not repent of rebellious deeds. When we get to the bowl judgments we see a picture of the blasphemy of the rebellious against God. Revelation 16:9 says, "And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory." In this verse, we see that instead of repenting of their works, they will choose to blaspheme the name of God. We also see that they will refuse to repent and give God the glory. We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain why people will not repent of their evil deeds during the tribulation. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to explain these things.