

The **fifth trumpet** has sounded; demonic locusts **have tormented people for five months**

Now, with the sixth trumpet, things escalate dramatically. No longer is it only torment; now one-third of mankind will be killed v. 15

One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things Revelation 9:12 NKJV

Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Revelation 9:13 (NKJV)

saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." Revelation 9:14 (NKJV)

**I see three specific things:** It shows us that God's judgments **are ordered and on time and not random**

We also see that God's judgments are **connected to the prayers of His people**

And sadly, the **human heart** can be so hard that even the **most severe judgment** does not guarantee repentance, which makes me incredibly sad...

We live right now in what **Scripture calls the day of salvation, new covenant**

But the Bible also **speaks of a coming day of the Lord, a day of wrath**. God has already set it on His calendar

Using the phone illustration from last week, many of us set reminders on our phones. We might forget appointments, but the phone doesn't. God does not either...

In a far more serious way, God's **appointments of judgment are set**

Don't mistake God's patience for permission, just because judgment has not yet come, it does not mean it will never come

God's judgment is connected to the Prayers of the Saints. **Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God Revelation 9:13 (NKJV)**

This is not just any altar. It is the golden altar, the altar of incense

Back in **Revelation 8**

**Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he was to offer with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar before the throne. Revelation 8:3 NKJV**

And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. Revelation 8:4 NKJV

In both the **Tabernacle of Moses'** day and the **Temple of Solomon's** day, there was a **small golden altar** that was located just outside the Holy of Holies, [Exodus 27:2 & 30:2](#)

The golden altar was to be the place of prayer. It was where the priests would burn incense during prayer

Both of those "**golden altars**" were models of this one in heaven. The "**horns**" were the pointy things on the corners of the altar; they symbolize **authority, power, and completeness**

We first saw this altar back in **chapter six** when the cries were heard from those who had been martyred, crying out, "**How long until you avenge us?**" [Revelation 6:9-11 NKJV](#)

And now a voice comes from this altar, the **voice comes from God's presence**

The voice is not identified as an angel

However, the passage strongly suggests a divine command, the voice of God himself or a representative, heavenly voice issuing God's decree

It's not from Satan, demons, fallen angelic beings

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The command doesn't come from the battlefield; it comes from the altar

**Who are these angels and are they are fallen Angels**

**They are bound-** In Scripture, holy angels are never described as bound

Binding is consistently associated with judgment and restraint of evil

**They are released for Destruction-** when released, these angels are connected to A massive loss of life, warfare, judgment on humanity

Holy angels execute God's will, but they are not described as being imprisoned

To describe angels as “**bound**” indicates evil or fallen angels [2 Peter 2:4](#); [Jude 6](#)

They are **not free**; they are **being restrained and bound**

The prophet Daniel had an interesting experience in prayer

He had been praying and fasting for three weeks when an angelic visitor shows up and apologizes for taking so long to show up because he had been delayed

Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. 14 Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come.” Daniel 10:12–14 NKJV

Daniel is given an amazing prophecy into the end times, but when it gets delivered to him we get a peek into the spirit world

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“the great river Euphrates”

The Euphrates is a landmark river in the Middle East

It was the ancient boundary between East and West

The northeastern boundary of the land was promised to Abraham in [Genesis 15:18](#)

The region from Assyria to Babylon where Israel’s great enemies were located, and is mentioned in [Isaiah 7–8](#) [Jeremiah 46–50](#)

In [Revelation 16:12](#), its drying up prepares the way for “the kings from the east”

For John’s readers, “Euphrates” meant the **direction of danger**, the **staging ground of invading powers**

God is saying: At the very place that has long symbolized threat and invasion, **I have four angels bound, and at My command, they will be released**

**Today-** The Euphrates starts in the mountains of Turkey, runs through the nation of Syria, runs through Iraq, and ends up forming the border between Iraq and Iran when it empties into the Persian Gulf

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. Revelation 9:15 NKJV

Notice the language - They were prepared, prepared for **a specific hour, day, month, and year**

This is not random chaos. This is God **lifting the restraint** He Himself placed on evil beings, for a specific purpose, at a specific time, and it is part of His plan

There was a plan in place, and now it's being executed. **"to kill a third of mankind"**

In **Revelation 6:8** The fourth seal saw 1/4 of the population destroyed

If you take away 1/3 of what remains (3/4), you're left with 1/2 of what you started with

That means that approximately 3 1/2 billion have died

Grace, that means even when it looks like God's judgment is breaking loose, hell is not in charge. God is!

- Satan is not the ruler of history; God is, **don't forget it**
- Demons do not set the schedule; God does, **don't forget it**
- Evil is great, but it is on a divine leash, **don't forget it**

Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. Revelation 9:16 NKJV

John hears of an army of 200 million. Whether you understand this as a literal human army, a demonic host, or some combination, the emphasis **is on enormous**, overwhelming, destructive force

Clearly, he isn't guessing at the size of this army; he's told how big they are

Historically, it is estimated that there were only about 250,000,000 total people alive in John's day. This number would seem incredible to John

The world's population didn't reach 1 billion until 1870

Today, the world's population is around 8.3 billion, but... if you total up the world's armies of today (active and reserve), you come up with 38,000,000

How could we get to 200 million?

Some see this as another demonic horde, like the strange locusts

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. Revelation 9:17 NKJV

**Revelation 9** reminds us that no matter how loud the chaos grows, God has not surrendered His throne and His purpose has not been shaken

Darkness may make noise, but it does not make the rules. God remains sovereign, faithful, and fully in control

Grace, we were not created for fear, despair, or spiritual defeat

We were made for hope. We were made for freedom

We were made in the image of God, a life shaped, redeemed, and anchored in Christ

So stand firm. Walk in the light. Trust the God who holds the keys

You were not made for the darkness, you were Made for More.