

Passage: Revelation 9:1-21

Title: The 5th & 6th Trumpet of the Tribulation

Summary: Man will say if God would only give me a sign I would follow Him, yet in the passage we will see that even a sign won't change a person's heart. Some will say they have this reason or that reason for not following God, but we will see why a man or woman truly refuses to follow God. A powerful passage for the seeker, the skeptic, and the believer.

Revelation 9:1–21 (NKJV) ¹ Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. ² And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. ³ Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴ They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵ And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. ⁶ In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. ⁷ The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. ⁸ They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. ⁹ And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. ¹⁰ They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months. ¹¹ And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. ¹² One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things. ¹³ Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is 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 and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. ¹⁶ Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Every Word will Pass / Tough Road / Can be Heavy - But Blessing Promised

Every Word of this Bible will come to pass, including Chapters 8-9, which are some tough road to travel, hard ground to plow, some of the toughest in all the Bible as we read of more calamity and destruction (chapter 16 will be equally as tough), with no relief in sight. The study of this book can be heavy, it can be hard, but God does promise a blessing to all who read it. As we study verse-by-verse, there is a time of laughter and joy, singing and praise, but to be a balanced Christian, a time for sadness and sorrow for these things will come to pass on this earth. In each area, God promises a blessing:

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Not to scare us but prepare us!

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7+ year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

3 Woes / Supernatural – Demonic / Have not seen anything Yet

Trumpet 5, 6, & 7 are also called the 3 woes, and that I believe is because up to this point as bad as things were, they were natural activity of man and earth, but this 5th Trumpet now starts supernatural activity which is the demonic. The 3 woes are as if the angels are saying as bad as it has been up to this point, you have not seen anything yet. So, some tough road to travel, we pick up here for the 5th and 6th trumpet of God:

The 5th and 6th trumpets are the first judgments aimed directly at humans. The trumpet judgments are directly from the spiritual realm. And the 5th-7th judgments constitute the 3 “woes” of Rev. 8:13.

- Time may have elapsed as 9:4 makes mention of green grass again (see 8:7).

- Revelation 9 gives a deeper glimpse of the spiritual realm and of hell in particular.
- Take special note of the metaphorical language (“like” and “as”) of this chapter.

Why?

I think in many ways we don't see it at first as what is happening in Revelation, but one of the things the Lord is doing is “disposing” the land (the earth). We have talked about the scroll, and the title deed which Jesus purchased backed after the Adam-Bomb in the garden, and Adam forfeited the earth to the devil. But, one of the things that is happen as well is the “disposing” of the land, where the Lord is driving out the squatters, those who are posing the land, but they have no legal right or entitlement to the land. God in His grace is giving them opportunity to repent, but they will not; God is giving them a chance to bow the knee and say this is your property, please let me stay on as your bonds slave, but they will not. What we read here in Revelation is not something new, for we saw it in the Old Testament when the children of Israel left Egypt, and came to the land that was promised to Israel (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob); the Lord gave the inhabitant 400 years to repent, which they did not, the Lord gave them 40 years to warning that He was coming to take the land (as the children wandered the wilderness), yet they still would not say “here is your land, you rightly own it”, and then the Lord comes and begins to drive them out, slowly, in grace still opportunity to repent and surrender (remember Jericho), but still they will not. Interestingly to me.... And it is debatable on the exact time, but when I taught the Book of Joshua, I placed the timeline of the whole period of Joshua taking the land at..... 7 years (yeah that aligns with 7-year Tribulation). Here is something else, and I again say debatable, but Israel took the land after 7 years, and then Judges ruled for 400-450 years, and then Kings for about 400-450 years, and then into captivity, but when they possessed the land again (with existed in sovereignty and not like when under Roman Empire), in the times of Persian Empire and Grecian empire (beginning of Alexander the Great), was about 100-200 years. So there you have a 1,000 year reign in the land (and interestingly the Millennial (1,000 year) kingdom. Israel couldn't be the Kingdom it was called to be for those thousand years, because they had fallible kings, but in the Millennial Kingdom they will because Jesus will be the King in Jerusalem this time. So the Millennial Kingdom will be “how it was supposed to be”, as too the whole earth, as the lion lays down with the lamb, and men will know war no more Just interesting, but the main point is..... disposing the land to take ownership and set up the Kingdom in Israel, and He will rule the earth for a 1,000 years the way it was intended to.

Deuteronomy 18:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.

Numbers 33:53 (NKJV) ⁵³ you shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land and dwell in it, for I have given you the land to possess.

Joshua 23:5 (NKJV) ⁵ And the LORD your God will expel them from before you and drive them out of your sight. So you shall possess their land, as the LORD your God promised you.

Isaiah 2:4 (NKJV) ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

5th Trumpet

(Revelation 9:1 NKJV) Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.

9:1 – “star” – Speaks of a personage...“him” in v. 1 and “the angel” of v. 11.

- Isa. 14:13 – “above the stars of God.”
- Luke 10:18 – “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”
- “fallen” – Greek aorist tense. Completed in the past and accomplished by the subject.
- The star caused him or itself to fall to the earth.
- “was given the key” – This angel has no power to move outside the permission of God.

None other than Satan / Luke 10 – Isaiah 14

I believe this is none other than Satan because the verb tense here is past tense, it has already happened. Jesus told us in Luke 10 that He saw Satan fall from heaven, and Isaiah tells us the same:

(Luke 10:17 NKJV) Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."

(Luke 10:18 NKJV) And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."

(Luke 10:19 NKJV) "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

(Luke 10:20 NKJV) "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

(Isaiah 14:12 NKJV) "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!"

(Isaiah 14:13 NKJV) For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;

(Isaiah 14:14 NKJV) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

(Isaiah 14:15 NKJV) Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

Key Given / Powers Limited / God Filter

Notice the key had to be given to him; he could not loose them on his own. Satan's powers are limited to God's allowance; all things he does must go through the God filter first.

(Revelation 9:2 NKJV) And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

(Revelation 9:3 NKJV) Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

9:2 – “bottomless pit” – (Greek “abussos”) Lit. “the shaft or hole to the abyss.” (Rev. 9:11; 11:7; 17:8; and 20:1-3)

- 1 Pet. 3:19, 2 Pet. 2:4, and Jude 6 speak of angels being held in a compartment of Hades until the day that Hades is sent into Gehenna. (Rev. 20:14)
- Jewish rabbis teach that the abyss is actually in the center of the earth, as it would be the only place without a bottom.
- The demon called “Legion” in the man of Gadara asked not to be tormented in the abyss before the set time. (Luke 8:28-31)
- “smoke” – The first time in Scripture smoke is seen is found in Gen. 19:28.
- “sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke” – Here we see smoke from a spiritual realm directly impacting the physical universe.

9:3 – “locusts” – Spiritual beings of some sort left out of the pit.

- Joel 1:4-2:11 seems to scan down to these locusts.
- Solomon spoke of physical locusts in Prov. 30:27, that they do not have a king. But these spiritual locusts from the pit have a king, Abaddon/Apollyon (Rev. 9:11). - “as the scorpions” – These are not actual scorpions.

The Unbreakable Comb

A salesman was demonstrating unbreakable combs in a department store. He was impressing the people who stopped by to look by putting the comb through all sorts of torture and stress. Finally to impress even the skeptics in the crowd, he bent the comb completely in half, and it snapped with a loud crack. Without missing a beat, he bravely held up both halves of the 'unbreakable' comb for everyone to see and said, "And this, ladies and gentlemen, is what an unbreakable comb looks like on the inside."

A little levity to lighten the study. But so fitting in that so many people want to explain away what is being said here, rather than just reading it for what it says. God will do exactly as He says He will do, and this means exactly what it says. God's ways are just. Some want to water it down because they say how could a God of love do and allow this. Other will skip over it because they don't want to address it. Others water it down because.... Amazingly they don't want to make a sinner feel uncomfortable. What we read it real, and it will really happen. It has happened before (Israel taking Promised Land), and it will happen again as we are reading here today.

This is called the Book of Revelation, it is meant to reveal Jesus Christ, God. Who He is, what He thinks of us, what He wants us to do, what we can boldly ask of Him, and what we need to be on guard of. Yeah, sound familiar, it is the Lord's prayers, and in it we say Lord let your Kingdom come.

Matthew 6:9-15 (NKJV) ⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. ¹⁴ "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Located in Pasadena?

So there is a shaft somewhere on this earth, and it leads to the bottomless pit. I do not know where it is located, but there are days I think it is located right here in Pasadena, and there is a crack in the lid.

First thought this Helicopter / Tanks not in Pit – Have no King / Face Value

For many years I thought this was John trying to explain 20th century technology with 1st century vocabulary. I thought this was a description of a helicopter, a tank, some high-tech military weapon, but just taking it for face value, none of those things (tanks, choppers, etc) are stored in the bottomless pit, none of them have a king over them, and war machines cannot discriminate against destroying grass or not. These are not real locust because all the symbolism does not describe a real locust, and real locust would destroy the grass, and God slipped into the Scriptures a couple thousand years ago that locust do not have a king over them – just to clarify to us that these are not locust, but something supernatural: *(Revelation 9:11 NKJV)* And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

(Proverbs 30:27 NKJV) The locusts have no king, Yet they all advance in ranks;

Scriptures Speaks of Them – Days Noah / Preached at Death / Delivered Chains / Proper Estate

This Scriptures is speaking of demonic beings. Jesus told us about them, as does other places in the Scriptures:

(1 Peter 3:18 NKJV) For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

(1 Peter 3:19 NKJV) by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,

(1 Peter 3:20 NKJV) who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

(2 Peter 2:4 NKJV) For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

(2 Peter 2:5 NKJV) and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;

(Jude 1:6 NKJV) And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

May be Demonic Beings of Noah's Day / It will be Hell on Earth

These demonic beings may very well be the same demonic beings that plagued the earth in the Days of Noah, and the Lord bound them for a time, and now is allowing them to be released in that Day (the Day of the Tribulation). Whether it is or not remains to be seen, but literally, when these demons are loosed, it will literally be that all hell is let loose on the earth.

(Revelation 9:4 NKJV) They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

(Revelation 9:5 NKJV) And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.

Revelation 9:6 NKJV) In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

9:4 – “not to harm the grass” – Going against the nature of a true, physical locust.

- These locusts have intelligence. They know who to get and who to stay away from.

- “the seal of God on their foreheads” – From Rev. 7:3.

- God is beginning to make a distinction between believers and earth-dwellers.

9:5 – “not given authority” – Their power is God given and under His sovereignty. - “for five months” – Five months is the lifespan of the typical locust.

- Five months was also the duration of the rising flood waters in the days of Noah. (Gen. 7:24-8:1)

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- “as the torment of a scorpion” – Not actual scorpion stings, but even worse, these stings last (or the people are repeatedly struck) for a total of 5 months.

- Those struck by scorpions say it feels like the entire nervous system is on fire. And the scorpion of the Middle East is said to produce the most painful sting known to man.

- Psalm 22 speaks of Jesus being encircled by the “bulls of Bashan” while on the cross. That may speak of spiritual creatures much like this and may indicate that Jesus took this bit of hell on the cross for us as well.

9:6 – “seek death and will not find it” – Much like hell itself.

- God will not allow the spirit to disconnect from the body under any conditions. The people could possibly remain alive without limbs, gunshot wounds through the chest or head, or paralyzed as a result of failed suicide attempts.

- This is worse than the judgment at the Flood (Gen. 6). At least there they could drown.

- This is harsh and merciful at the same time. Harsh that they must go through the pain with no possibility of release. Merciful that God is giving them as many opportunities to turn as possible. (God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked – Ezek. 18:23.)

Eerie Scene / Out of the Darkness – Can’t Prepare / Find Shelter – they Find You

What an eerie scene we see here, picture what it will be like to be living at this time. Man would look at the smoke rising and stand in wonderment of what is happening, then out of the smoke would emerge these torturous creatures. Man would be panic stricken trying to find shelter, but they will still find you, no relief would come. I imagine how gut wrenching it would be to hear the swarm approaching, being able to hear them, but not see them because of the smoke or night skies, and then to be stung by them without being able to mentally prepare for the sting. That is torment.....

Death takes a Holiday / Gun not Fire / Gun Does Fire / Imagine Paralyzes – Biting Continues

So terrible and fearful will be this day, that men would seek death, yet it will not come. Some how God will prevent them from taking their life. I do not know if that means that the gun won’t fire, that pills won’t work, that the rope will break, that the fall will have no effect, I do not know. Or could it be that the gun does fire and the person survives and has to live with the consequences. That the fall paralyzes but doesn’t kill, that the pills rot the body but doesn’t take the life. Imagine open wounds, paralyzes, and these demonic being still keep tormenting. That is torment.....

Where is the Grace / 5 Month Fact-finding Tour / Still not Repent

How could a God of love allow this, where is His grace? His grace and love can be found right here. God will allow man to have a 5 month fact-finding tour of what hell is going to be like. How miserable these 5 months will be, yet for all that refuse to repent will spend eternity in a torment that is worse than what we read here:

(Isaiah 66:24 NKJV) "And they shall go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

(Matthew 22:13 NKJV) "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

(Revelation 9:6 NKJV) In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

That is torment.....yet God revealed Himself to us that we should escape this torment – Praise Him.

Notice –Were Like

As we read the next, doesn't say was, but says like, John is trying to best describe what he is seeing using symbolism.

(Revelation 9:7 NKJV) The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.

(Revelation 9:8 NKJV) They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

(Revelation 9:9 NKJV) And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle.

(Revelation 9:10 NKJV) They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.

9:7-10 – “like...” - Note all the figurative language, making a distinction between what is stated clearly and what is described through metaphorical language.

- These locusts are not Apache helicopters coming out of the center of the earth.

9:10 – “five months” – The lifespan of a common locust. It seems that at the end of the 5 month stint these locusts return to the abyss. (They are spiritual beings, so they would not die.)

Frightful Description / Not Present Day Demons / Imagine Prisoners let Free Today

What a frightful description of these demonic beings. These are the worst demons, these are not the demons that are presently at work today amongst us, be thankful for that. Could you imagine letting all the prisoners out of the prisons today, imagine how frightful life would be with murders and rapist running loose in every neighborhood. How would you sleep at night, how could you leave your kids to go to work, every step looking over your shoulder. As terrifying as that sounds, nothing compared to what these demons would be like.

Can't Say it is Natural – Must be Supernatural / Beyond Human Reasoning

Up to this point in the Tribulation people could have said all this is just freak nature, but now no man can say anything other than admitting that there is something supernatural going on here, something beyond human reasoning. Man will be face to face with God, and have to make a decision for Him or against Him.

Scorpion Stings – fire to Nervous System / Enjoy Football Today – What a Different Day

I read an article that when a person is stung by a scorpion, rarely is it fatal, but it makes the person violently ill, and they say a person's whole nervous system feels like it is on fire. This is what it will be like at this time, and death will bring no escape, it will be a fearful and horrible time on the very same earth that we enjoy today. We enjoy watching football, going to the restaurant, Sunday drives, boating, but the world will be a whole different place at this time.

(Revelation 9:11 NKJV) And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

9:11 – “Abaddon” – The Hebrew word is used 6 times in the OT and every time is translated “destruction.”
- “Apollyon” – means “destroyer.”
- It is in the nature of Satan to “steal, kill, and destroy” (John 10:10) and he does so with ferocity and insanity. We see that clearly in his dealings with Job.

Apollyon – Destroyer / Wants to Destroy Them then – and You Now

One of the many names of the Devil, Abaddon is the Hebrew name, and Apollyon is the Greek, and both names means “destroyer” and just as we see his desire here is to destroy mankind, for he would if God had not said you cannot kill them, so is his desire today. His desire is to destroy your life, your marriage, your kids, for that is his very being, a destroyer.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ 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.

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

How much worse can it get, yet it will, still 2 more woes to go!

6th Trumpet

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

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

9:13 – “altar” – The altar of incense (Rev. 6:10; 8:2-4) is associated again with the prayers of the saints.

9:14 – “Euphrates” – This river was a busy place in the OT – Adam/Eve, Noah, tower of Babel, Abraham’s family, Assyria/Babylon, and the reach of the Davidic Israelite empire.

Demonic Angels – for they Bound

These are not Holy angels, but demonic angels because holy angels need not be bound for they are obedient to God. So here we see more demonic activity. Scary days upon the earth.

(Revelation 9:15 NKJV) 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.

9:15 – “prepared for the hour” – This is a specific and chosen time period.

- “hour and day and month and year” – Some scholars believe this is speaking of a time duration of 13+ months.

- “bound...prepared...released” – These are fallen angels under God’s control and will fulfill God’s purposes.

- “to kill” – These creatures have the power to kill, unlike the creatures under the 5th trumpet. - “kill a third” – In addition to the 1/4 that died by the fourth seal.

- The total now killed in the first 3 1/2 period of the Tribulation is over 1/2 of the total population of the earth at the beginning of the Tribulation.

Prepared for this Very Moment / God in Control / And in Control of Your Life

These angels were prepared for this very moment, they had been waiting for this very moment, yet they could not act until God said they could. God is in total control, and is sovereign. You can apply that to your life and your world, God is on control, and is sovereign in all that will ever happen in your life.

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

(Revelation 9:17 NKJV) 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 9:18 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 9:19 NKJV) 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.

9:16 – “horsemen” – John doesn’t tell us where these come from, but somehow they are connected with the 4 angels.

- The Bible speaks of an authority structure in the demonic realm where principalities, powers, and rulers are over the fallen angels.

- “200 hundred million” – These are demonic creatures and not the present standing army of any current world power including the Chinese.

9:17 – “vision” – Lit. “sight or appearance.” (Rev. 4:3)

- “like” – Note again the difference between the symbolic and literal language.

- “heads of the horses were like the heads of lions” – Perhaps similar to the fabled centaurs.

9:18 – “By these three” – The power to kill seems to rest in the horses alone (and not on the riders thereof). And the power comes from what they spew from their mouths.

9:19 – “they do harm” – The serpent-tails may not kill, but they can strike.

Demonic or Human

I really do not know if this 200 million man army is demonic or human, whatever the case may be it appears that they will be led by and energized by these demonic angels. Interesting today, China has stated publicly that they have a 200 million man army. Whatever they may be, they are frightful. Imagine the USA is 300 million people total. Imagine the fear that would grip your heart seeing 200 million soldiers marching on your country. It is estimated that the forces would be 1 mile wide and 80 miles long, imagine them marching into your city.

Resultant the Same / Half World Dead

I think it not that important for us to determine precisely if these are hordes of demons, or masses of men, for the resultant will be the same, massive loss of life. In chapter 6 a ¼ of the world had died, and now another 1/3 (33%), in totality that is half of the world. There are 6 billion in the world today, say 1 billion are raptured, then that leaves 5 billion, and now at this point 2.5 billion are dead, and the world has seen the loss of 3.5 billion.....yet man still refuses to repent.

Joel – Day of the Lord

What we have read is prophesied in Joel chapter 2. Revelation 9 is the rewording of Joel 2, as they both speak of the same event. It is as frightful as Joel describes. Notice, it starts with the blowing of the trumpet. There is the call for repentance there too:

(Joel 2:1 NKJV) Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand:

(Joel 2:2 NKJV) A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations.

(Joel 2:3 NKJV) A fire devours before them, And behind them a flame burns; The land is like the Garden of Eden before them, And behind them a desolate wilderness; Surely nothing shall escape them.

(Joel 2:4 NKJV) Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like swift steeds, so they run.

(Joel 2:5 NKJV) With a noise like chariots Over mountaintops they leap, Like the noise of a flaming fire that devours the stubble, Like a strong people set in battle array.

(Joel 2:6 NKJV) Before them the people writhe in pain; All faces are drained of color.

(Joel 2:7 NKJV) They run like mighty men, They climb the wall like men of war; Every one marches in formation, And they do not break ranks.

(Joel 2:8 NKJV) They do not push one another; Every one marches in his own column. Though they lunge between the weapons, They are not cut down.

(Joel 2:9 NKJV) They run to and fro in the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, They enter at the windows like a thief.

(Joel 2:10 NKJV) The earth quakes before them, The heavens tremble; The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars diminish their brightness.

(Joel 2:11 NKJV) The LORD gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?

Man Will Not Repent

(Revelation 9:20 NKJV) 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.

(Revelation 9:21 NKJV) And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

9:20 – “rest of mankind” – Does this mean that from here on out none get saved or will some repent later? It seems like some will refuse the mark of the beast. (Rev. 19)

- “repent” – (Greek “metanoeo”) Lit. “to change the mind, make a U-turn.”

- Repentance is a decision of surrender; the first and necessary step to salvation.

- The repeated state of non-repentance throughout Revelation – 9:20; 11:10; 16:11; 19:19.

- “did not repent” – In God’s eyes, to this point, repentance is still an option.

- The judgments of God do not generally bring people to repentance. People generally harden their hearts against His judgments. But it is the goodness of God that brings man to repentance (Rom. 2:4). Therefore in the day of grace, we stress the goodness of God above the judgments of God in order to see people come to Him in repentance.

- “they should not worship” – The list from v. 20 points to the first table of the Law.

- “worship demons” – They are worshipping the demons that are killing them. They want them, so God is turning them over and letting them have their hearts’ desire.

- “worship” – A great deal of “religion” will be practiced at this time, but it will be false religion.

People will worship the works of their hands, which could well include the buildings they construct, the machines they make, and the cities they build, as well as their idols. - “gold, silver” – Money and wealth.

9:21 – “murders...” – The list from v. 21 points to the second table of the Law.

- “sorceries” – (Greek “pharmakeia”) Lit. “drug use, abuse, and sales.” (Gal. 5:20)

- Drug use and abuse can open an individual to demonic, spiritual realms. - “sexual immorality” – (Greek “porneia”) Fornication, not just adultery.

- There will be no atheists and humanists at this point. There will be plenty of evidence of God and the spiritual realm all around them. It is just that they cannot give up their idols because they love their idols more than God and His light. (John 3:19-20)

Show me a Sign / Refuse to Repent / Alive and Well Today

People say show me a sign and I’ll believe, yet here people are given clear signs, yet still refuse to bow their knee to Jesus Christ. Notice what man refuses to repent of, and we will see they are strong and well in our day.

John 3:19 / Men love their Sin

Let me tell you why man won’t repent, forget the blame shifting, give me a sign, or how I was raised, or my church, it all comes down to men love darkness rather than light, and they refuse to come to the light lest their deeds be exposed. Men love their sin, and they do not want to turn from it. I enjoy street ministry in the drug areas and prostitution, because those people are so honest. They will say to me, I know the Bible, I was raised in a Christian family, I know I need to repent, and should, but to be honest, I love my sin and I am not ready to leave it. Where as, I go everywhere else and I get all these excuses of how they were raised, the hypocrites they have meet, etc, etc, and they just won’t admit, I love my sin, I love being on the throne of my life, and not answering to anyone. From the crack-house to the club-house, it is all the same, men love their sin and are not willing to give them up.

John 3:16–18 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him

might be saved. ¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

(John 3:19 NKJV) "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

(John 3:20 NKJV) "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

(John 3:21 NKJV) "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

Worship of Demons / Anti-christ – Not have to Repent

worship of demons – As we will see in chapters to come that people actually will worship Satan and demons, very specifically people will worship the Anti-christ. People will love the anti-christ because he won't tell them to repent. Also, this sounds crazy, but today we see an increase of people being involved in occultic activities.

Worship of Idols / Whatever takes Priority

idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk – An idol is whatever takes priority over a person's relationship with the Lord. We tend to think of some unintelligent person lighting candles and bowing before an image, no, no idol worship is anything that takes priority over a person's relationship with the one True God. Today, even Christians all selling out for gold plagues over the door of their office saying Mr. Somebody, and the car as shiny as silver, the brass handrail at the nightclub where I am the greatest dancer and get so much attention (wow aren't you something), the house built on its solid concrete/stone foundation, and people are selling out to get more wood into their pockets, as money is printed on paper and paper comes from wood. People seeking first their stuff, at the cost of their relationship with the One who created them.

Become Who you Worship / Psalm 135

Man will become just like whatever they worship. Here is the good news, you worship Jesus, seek Him with all your heart mind and soul, you will become just like Him:

(Psalms 135:15 NKJV) The idols of the nations are silver and gold, The work of men's hands.

(Psalms 135:16 NKJV) They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see;

(Psalms 135:17 NKJV) They have ears, but they do not hear; Nor is there any breath in their mouths.

(Psalms 135:18 NKJV) Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.

Murders / Loaf of bread – Days Wage

murders – murders will be rampant at this time (except during 5 month period) because of the severe famine and economic hardship upon the land, for it will take a days wage just to buy a loaf of bread. I'm looking out for Number 1.

But today, and it will continue, murder in the womb. 65 million in America alone since 1973 (Row vs Wade). 73 million a year world-wide according to World Health Organization (WHO).

Sorceries / Drugs / Famine – Drugs still Flow / Opens influence of Satan

sorceries – from the word pharmakeia, where we get our word pharmacy, drugs. Amazing, the world will suffer famine, thirst for water, gasp for fresh air, but drugs will still flow. Hey take another toke man, it will make you feel good. People seek drugs to check out and relieve the situation, but what they don't know is that it opens them up to the influences of Satan, and he uses them to draw people further and further away from the Lord. Hey, know this, drugs is more than mind altering, it opens you up to spiritual influences, demonic influences at that.

Amazing, our government is legalizing and making taxes off of sorcery

Sexual Immorality / Don't be Deceived / Not present in Heaven – nor Hell

sexual immorality – Whether sex before marriage, adulterous relationship, or homosexual, Christians don't be deceived if you are living this lifestyle. God says you will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor 6), and God warned and commanded repentance when He spoke to the Churches there in Pergamos and Thyatira (Rev 2). You see none of these things will be in heaven, and the first thing you would be looking for in heaven would be these things (obviously not God), therefore He would not force you to a place that

was void of those things (Rev 21). Bad news for you, they won't be there in hell either, just these demonic locust. God warned strongly in the letters to the 7 churches:

*(1 Corinthians 6:9 NKJV) Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,
(1 Corinthians 6:10 NKJV) nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.*

Church of Pergamos - (Revelation 2:14 NKJV) "But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

*Church of Thyatira (Revelation 2:20 NKJV) "Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.
(Revelation 2:21 NKJV) "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.*

(Revelation 21:7 NKJV) "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

(Revelation 21:8 NKJV) "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

(Revelation 22:14 NKJV) Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

(Revelation 22:15 NKJV) But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

Man no Different Today / Will Justify – think Right before the Lord

Man won't be any different in this period today, as they are today, and I am sure that there will be many who are engaged in these things and think and justify that they are right before the Lord. I tell you, as wrong as they will be (and God clearly says they will not be in heaven), is as wrong as you are today. Don't be deceived, don't think you can say a few words with your mouth and continue to live this lifestyle, God will not be mocked. But Ray, don't you always say 1 drop of the precious blood of Jesus is enough to cleanse your sin, past – present – and future? All I will say is, Don't be Deceived.....

Thefts / Days Wages

Thefts – again a days wage for a loaf of bread. Stealing is a demonstration of seeking first your kingdom, for it is all about you. For us today people justify cheating on taxes, under the table employment, office supplies, hooking unto some cable, whatever it may be, you are allowing demonic influences into your life, for Satan himself is known as the thief (John 10:10).

God Still offers Repentance

The amazing thing is that God still offers them an opportunity for repentance. How gracious is God that He says these things you have done and are doing, if you turn from them, and unto Me, I will forgive you, wipe them from My memory, and receive you unto Me, and you and I will fellowship together, and you shall be with Me in heaven.....yet man will not repent.

Jesus Endured the Torment

Jesus endured the torment of the cross to release us from this torment that will come upon the earth, and is a foreshadow of what hell will be like. Chapter 9 is horrible, yet if you will look and see, you will see that chapter 9 magnifies the cross, displays what a God of love and mercy He is, that He still offers repentance, and provided the way through His own body and blood.

Conclusion

Promise in Joel – Years Restored

Here is something just as wonderful to leave you with. Back to Joel, look at verse 25, look at the promise given – I will restore the years lost. Do what the Scriptures tell you to do, and He promises to not only forgive you, but promises to restore what has been destroyed by the locusts of disobedience. Call out and see what the Lord will do. He can make you white as snow again, if you seek Him with all your heart, He can make you a virgin again, He can restore family relationships that have been destroyed, He can multiply the years loss by drugs and alcohol and make your remaining years more fruitful than all the years you have lived to this point. People often say what is the use now, I've already messed up, but God says I can still give you a wonderful and abundant life, come now He says:

*(Joel 2:25 NKJV) "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.
(Joel 2:26 NKJV) You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame.*

Take advantage of the silence in heaven and you will be healed. Somehow in all the noises, lightening and thundering in heaven, God can hear our prayers, and bring hope, healing, help in our time of need. Precious saint, God heals through His word, He cleanses, He waters through His Word. He can restore all the years the locust has eaten in your life, in your marriage, in your relationship with that person. Can restore you from idolatry, abortion, immorality, the toll of years of drugs and alcohol.

Revelation 8:1 (NKJV) ¹ When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

Revelation 8:2–3 (NKJV) ² And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. ³ 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.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

God has something for you today, every last one of us, something new, something wonderful..... we need only to keep walking with Him, and being watered by His Word.

Something Beyond the Stars

See we keep time of day, hour, and seasons by looking unto the sky, the sun, the stars, and the moon. Everything we read and have been reading, continually has a person looking up, darkened sun, blood moon, and it is intentional. For in time of writing a person's time piece was the sun and the moon. Sunrise time to get up, sunset time to call it a day. New moon, full moon, spoke of harvest time and Jewish Feasts (Passover, Tabernacles, etc). The point, God did this so man would look up, not just for time of day and season.... But that man would look up and say, there is something more beyond this earth, there is a Creator beyond these stars, and He knows me, He sees me, and someday I will see Him..... And "do I know Him?"

Psalms 19:title–5 (NKJV) To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. ² Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. ³ *There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard.* ⁴ Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, ⁵ Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, And rejoices like a strong man to run its race.

If You Were to Die Tonight - The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Personal

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Problem

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Penalty

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

Provision

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Profession

Romans 10:13 (NKJV) ¹³ For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Recognize

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Repent

Acts 3:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Receive

Romans 10:9 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Like Ruth – Let's Walk

Like Ruth we studied last week, Lets make this our prayer today, all of us, as unto the Lord..... Lord where You go I will go, where You lodge I will lodge, where You die (as in I lay my life down to You), and I pick up my cross to follow You.

Ruth 1:15–18 (NKJV) ¹⁵ And she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶ But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. ¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me." ¹⁸ When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need