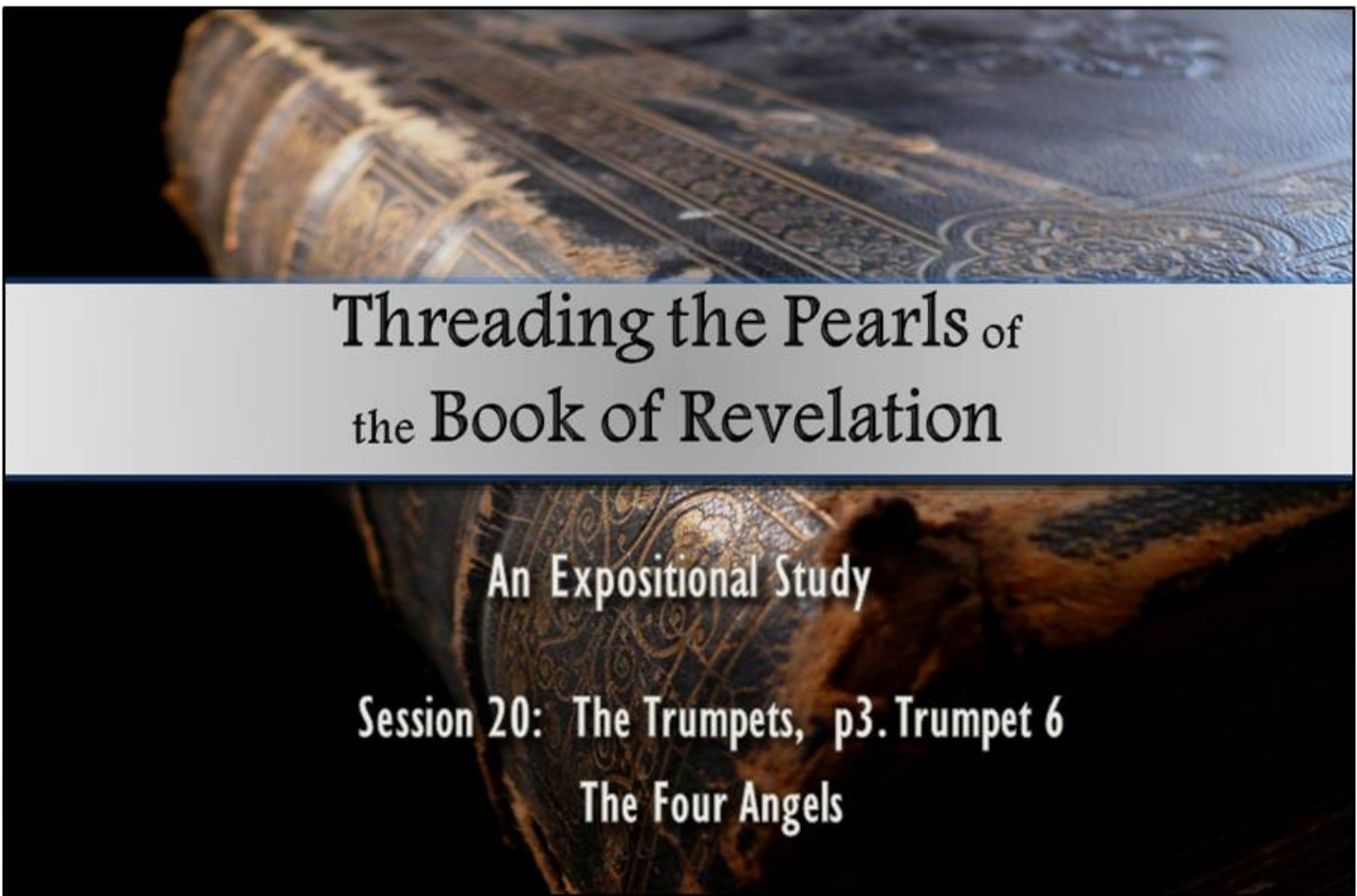




T H R E A D I N G T H E P E A R L S . o r g



Threading the Pearls of the Book of Revelation

An Expository Study

Session 20: The Trumpets, p3. Trumpet 6
The Four Angels

REVELATION 9:13 — 9:21

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..."*Release the four angels* who are bound at the great river Euphrates." ¹⁵So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

[REV 9:14-15]



REVELATION 9

13 And the sixth angel sounded the trumpet: and I heard a voice from the four horns of the great altar, which is before the eyes of God,

The sixth angel sounded his trumpet

JUDG 7:18-20, When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also *blow the trumpets on every side of the whole camp*, and say, 'The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!' "¹⁹So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outpost of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just as they had posted the watch; and they blew the trumpets and broke the pitchers that were in their hands...

I heard a voice coming from the horns

EXO 19:19, when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and *God answered him by voice*;

1KING 1:49-52, So all the guests who were with Adonijah were afraid, and arose, and each one went his way. ⁵⁰Now Adonijah was afraid of Solomon; so he arose, and went and took hold of the horns of the altar. ⁵¹And it was told Solomon, saying, "Indeed Adonijah is afraid of King Solomon; for look, he has taken hold of the horns of the altar, saying, 'Let King Solomon swear to me today that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.' " ⁵²Then Solomon said, "If he proves himself a worthy man, not one hair of him shall fall to the earth; but *if wickedness is found in him, he shall die*".

The horns of the golden altar

JER 17:1-6, "The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron; With the point of a diamond it is engraved On the tablet of their heart, And *on the horns of your altars*, ²While their children remember Their altars and their wooden images By the green trees on the high hills. ³O My mountain in the field, I will give as plunder your wealth, all your treasures, And your high places of sin within all your borders...

Before* God

* NOTE — 'est ante oculos Dei' Before the "eyes of God" in Latin and Douay Rheims translations:

AMOS 9:8-10, "Behold, *the eyes of the Lord God are on the sinful kingdom*, And I will destroy it from the face of the earth; Yet I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob," Says the Lord. ⁹"For surely I will command, And will sift the house of Israel among all nations, As grain is sifted in a sieve; Yet not the smallest grain shall fall to the ground. ¹⁰All the sinners of My people shall die by the sword, Who say, 'The calamity shall not overtake nor confront us'.

CONSIDER THIS —

Who is speaking?

REV 9:13-14, the sixth angel sounded: And I heard *a voice from the four horns* of the golden altar which is before God, ¹⁴saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."



REVELATION 9

14 Saying to the sixth angel, who had the trumpet: Loose the four angels, who are bound in the great river Euphrates.

[The voice] said to the sixth angel

2CHR 32:19-21, they spoke against the God of Jerusalem, as against the gods of the people of the earth—the work of men's hands. ²⁰Now because of this King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz, prayed and cried out to heaven. ²¹Then *the Lord sent an angel who cut down every mighty man of valor*, leader, and captain in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned shamefaced to his own land. And when he had gone into the temple of his god, some of his own offspring struck him down with the sword there.

Angel who had the trumpet

REV 8:2, I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were *given seven trumpets*.

Release the four angels

1CHR 21:14-19, the Lord sent a plague upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell. ¹⁵And *God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it*. As he was destroying, the Lord looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of the Lord stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. ¹⁶Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the Lord standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. So David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces...

Bound at the great river Euphrates

GEN 2:14-15, The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. *The fourth river is the Euphrates*. ¹⁵Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it;

JER 13:1-11, ...⁴"Take the sash that you acquired, which is around your waist, and arise, go to the Euphrates, and hide it there in a hole in the rock." ⁵So I went and hid it by the Euphrates, as the Lord commanded me. ⁶Now it came to pass after many days that the Lord said to me, "Arise, go to the Euphrates, and take from there the sash which I commanded you to hide there." ⁷Then I went to the Euphrates and dug, and I took the sash from the place where I had hidden it; and there was the sash, ruined. It was profitable for nothing. ⁸Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ⁹"Thus says the Lord: *'In this manner I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem...*

DEUT 11:24-25, Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, *from the river, the River Euphrates*, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory. ²⁵"No man shall be able to stand against you; the Lord your God will put the dread of you and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, just as He has said to you.

CONSIDER THIS —

When were the angels bound?

DEUT 11:23-25, the Lord will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves. ²⁴"Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory. ²⁵"*No man shall be able to stand against you*; the Lord your God will put the dread of you and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, just as He has said to you.



REVELATION 9

15 And the four angels were loosed, who were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year: for to kill the third part of men.

The four angels... kept ready for this very hour

EXO 9:13-14, the Lord said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me, ¹⁴"for *at this time I will send all My plagues to your very heart*, and on your servants and on your people, that you may know that there is none like Me in all the earth;

JER 10:17-22, Gather up your wares from the land, O inhabitant of the fortress! ¹⁸For thus says the Lord: "Behold, *I will throw out at this time The inhabitants of the land*, And will distress them, That they may find it so" ..

This very hour and day and month and year

GEN 1:14-15, God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and *for days and years*; ¹⁵"and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so;

ACTS 1:7, He said to them, "*It is not for you to know times or seasons* which the Father has put in His own authority.

The four angels... were released to kill

ISA 37:36, the *angel of the Lord went out, and killed* in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses-all dead.

Kill a third of mankind

EZE 5:1-15, son of man, take a sharp sword, take it as a barber's razor, and pass it over your head and your beard; then take scales to weigh and divide the hair. ²"You shall burn with fire one-third in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are finished; then you shall take one-third and strike around it with the sword, and one-third you shall scatter in the wind: I will draw out a sword after them. ³"You shall also take a small number of them and bind them in the edge of your garment. ⁴"Then take some of them again and throw them into the midst of the fire, and burn them in the fire. From there a fire will go out into all the house of Israel. ⁵"Thus says the Lord God: 'This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the midst of the nations and the countries all around her... ⁸"therefore thus says the Lord God: 'Indeed I, even I, am against you and will execute judgments in your midst in the sight of the nations. ⁹"And I will do among you what I have never done, and the like of which I will never do again, because of all your abominations. ¹⁰"Therefore fathers shall eat their sons in your midst, and sons shall eat their fathers; and I will execute judgments among you, and all of you who remain I will scatter to all the winds. ¹¹'as I live,' says the Lord God, 'surely, because you have defiled My sanctuary with all your detestable things and with all your abominations, therefore I will also diminish you; My eye will not spare, nor will I have any pity. ¹²'One-third of you shall die of the pestilence, and be consumed with famine in your midst; and *one-third shall fall by the sword* all around you; and I will scatter another third to all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them. ¹³"Thus shall My anger be spent, and I will cause My fury to rest upon them, and I will be avenged; and they shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it in My zeal, when I have spent My fury upon them...

CONSIDER THIS —

Ezekiel is given God's message of thirds:

EZE 5:1-2, ...take a sharp sword, take it as a barber's razor, and pass it over your head and your beard; then take scales to weigh and divide the hair. ²"You shall burn with fire one-third in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are finished; then you shall take one-third and strike around it with the sword, and one-third you shall scatter in the wind: I will draw out a sword after them.



REVELATION 9

16 And the number of the army of horsemen was twenty thousand times ten thousand. And I heard the number of them.

The number of mounted troops

JOEL 2:4, *Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like swift steeds, so they run.*

Twice ten thousand times ten thousand*

* NOTE — ‘Two hundred million’ in NIV and other translations;

ISAM 8:11-12, he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. ¹²"*He will appoint captains over his thousands* and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.

I heard their number

EXO 30:11-14, the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ¹²"When you take the census of the children of Israel for their number, then *every man shall give a ransom for himself to the Lord*, when you number them, that there may be no plague among them when you number them. ¹³"This is what everyone among those who are numbered shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (a shekel is twenty gerahs). The half-shekel shall be an offering to the Lord. ¹⁴"Everyone included among those who are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering to the Lord;

1CHR 21:1-4, Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel. ²So David said to Joab and to the leaders of the people, "Go, number Israel from Beersheba to Dan, and *bring the number of them to me that I may know it*"...

CONSIDER THIS —

Interesting how Jeremiah describes riders on horses coming against these two daughters:

JER 6:23, ...they ride on horses, As men of war set in array against you, *O daughter of Zion*;

JER 50:42, They shall ride on horses, Set in array, like a man for the battle, Against you, *O daughter of Babylon*...



REVELATION 9

17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: and they that sat on them, had breastplates of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone, and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions: and from their mouths proceeded fire, and smoke, and brimstone.

I saw in my vision

ACTS 2:17-18, it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, *Your young men shall see visions* [ὀράσεις], Your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy;

GEN 46:2-4, *God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night*, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am." ³So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there. ⁴"I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes";

EZE 8:1-4, And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I sat in my house with the elders of Judah sitting before me, that the hand of the Lord God fell upon me there. ²Then I looked, and there was a likeness, like the appearance of fire—from the appearance of His waist and downward, fire; and from His waist and upward, like the appearance of brightness, like the color of amber. ³He stretched out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my hair; and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven, and *brought me in visions of God to Jerusalem*, to the door of the north gate of the inner court, where the seat of the image of jealousy was, which provokes to jealousy. ⁴And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the vision that I saw in the plain.

The horses and riders

JER 6:22-30, Thus says the Lord: "Behold, a people comes from the north country, And a great nation will be raised from the farthest parts of the earth. ²³They will lay hold on bow and spear; They are cruel and have no mercy; Their voice roars like the sea; And *they ride on horses, As men of war* set in array against you, O daughter of Zion"...;

JER 50:41-45, "Behold, a people shall come from the north, And a great nation and many kings Shall be raised up from the ends of the earth. ⁴²They shall hold the bow and the lance; They are cruel and shall not show mercy. Their voice shall roar like the sea; *They shall ride on horses, Set in array, like a man for the battle*, Against you, O daughter of Babylon...

Breastplates were fiery red

PSM 7:11-13, God is a just judge, And God is angry with the wicked every day. ¹²If he does not turn back, He will sharpen His sword; He bends His bow and makes it ready. ¹³He also prepares for Himself instruments of death; *He makes His arrows into fiery shafts*.

Breastplates were... dark blue

JER 10:6-9, Inasmuch as there is none like You, O Lord (You are great, and Your name is great in might), ⁷Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For this is Your rightful due. For among all the wise men of the nations, And in all their kingdoms, There is none like You. ⁸But they are altogether dull-hearted and foolish; A wooden idol is a worthless doctrine. ⁹Silver is beaten into plates; It is brought from Tarshish, And gold from Uphaz, The work of the craftsman And of the hands of the metalsmith; *Blue and purple are their clothing*; They are all the work of skillful men.

CONSIDER THIS —

Four angels prepared for this hour

PSM 7:11-13, God is a just judge, And God is angry with the wicked every day... ¹³He also *prepares for Himself instruments of death*; He makes His arrows into fiery shafts.

Breastplates were... yellow as sulfur

DEUT 29:23-29, *'The whole land is brimstone, salt, and burning; it is not sown, nor does it bear, nor does any grass grow there, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the Lord overthrew in His anger and His wrath'...*

Heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions

ISA 5:25-30, the anger of the Lord is aroused against His people; He has stretched out His hand against them And stricken them, And the hills trembled. Their carcasses were as refuse in the midst of the streets. For all this His anger is not turned away, But His hand is stretched out still... ²⁸Their horses' hooves will seem like flint, And their wheels like a whirlwind. ²⁹*Their roaring will be like a lion, They will roar like young lions*; Yes, they will roar And lay hold of the prey; They will carry it away safely, And no one will deliver...

Out of their mouths came fire

ISA 9:18-21, For wickedness burns as the fire; It shall devour the briers and thorns, And kindle in the thickets of the forest; *They shall mount up like rising smoke.* ¹⁹Through the wrath of the Lord of hosts The land is burned up, And the people shall be as fuel for the fire; No man shall spare his brother...

Out of their mouths came... smoke

ACTS 2:19, I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire *and vapor of smoke.*

Out of their mouths came... sulfur

JOB 18:15-18, They dwell in his tent who are none of his; *Brimstone is scattered on his dwelling.* ¹⁶His roots are dried out below, And his branch withers above. ¹⁷The memory of him perishes from the earth, And he has no name among the renowned. ¹⁸He is driven from light into darkness, And chased out of the world.





REVELATION 9

18 And by these three plagues was slain the third part of men, by the fire and by the smoke and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

A third of mankind was killed

EZE 5:12-17, '*One-third of you shall die of the pestilence, and be consumed with famine in your midst; and one-third shall fall by the sword all around you; and I will scatter another third to all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.* ¹³Thus shall My anger be spent, and I will cause My fury to rest upon them, and I will be avenged; and they shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it in My zeal, when I have spent My fury upon them. ¹⁴Moreover I will make you a waste and a reproach among the nations that are all around you, in the sight of all who pass by. ¹⁵So it shall be a reproach, a taunt, a lesson, and an astonishment to the nations that are all around you, when I execute judgments among you in anger and in fury and in furious rebukes. I, the Lord, have spoken. ¹⁶When I send against them the terrible arrows of famine which shall be for destruction, which I will send to destroy you, I will increase the famine upon you and cut off your supply of bread. ¹⁷So I will send against you famine and wild beasts, and they will bereave you. Pestilence and blood shall pass through you, and I will bring the sword against you. I, the Lord, have spoken.'"

Three plagues of fire, smoke, and sulfur

DEUT 28:45-62, "Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you... ⁵⁸"If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD, ⁵⁹"then *the Lord will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues-great and prolonged plagues-and serious and prolonged sicknesses.* ⁶⁰"Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. ⁶¹"Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in this Book of the Law, will the Lord bring upon you until you are destroyed. ⁶²"You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of the Lord your God.

Plagues... that came out of the horses mouths

EXO 32:35, the Lord *plagued the people because of what they did* with the calf which Aaron made.

CONSIDER THIS —

God's word is clear:

DEUT 28:45, all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, *because* you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.



REVELATION 9

19 For the power of the horses is in their mouths, and in their tails. For, their tails are like to serpents, and have heads: and with them they hurt.

Power of the horses was in their mouths

JOEL 2:6-10, *Before them the people writhe in pain; All faces are drained of color. ⁷They run like mighty men, They climb the wall like men of war; Every one marches in formation, And they do not break ranks. ⁸They do not push one another; Every one marches in his own column. Though they lunge between the weapons, They are not cut down. ⁹They 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. ¹⁰The earth quakes before them, The heavens tremble; The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars diminish their brightness.*

Power of the horses was... in their tails

JOEL 2:3-5, *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. ⁴Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like swift steeds, so they run. ⁵With 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.*

[The horses'] tails were like snakes

EXO 4:2-5, *the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A rod." ³And He said, "Cast it on the ground." So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. ⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, "*Reach out your hand and take it by the tail*" (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand)...*

[The horses'] tails... having heads

ISA 9:11-16, ...¹³the people do not turn to Him who strikes them, Nor do they seek the Lord of hosts. ¹⁴Therefore the Lord will cut off head and tail from Israel, Palm branch and bulrush in one day. ¹⁵The elder and honorable, he is the head; *The prophet who teaches lies, he is the tail.* ¹⁶For the leaders of this people cause them to err, And those who are led by them are destroyed;

ISA 19:14-17, *The Lord has mingled a perverse spirit in her midst; And they have caused Egypt to err in all her work, As a drunken man staggers in his vomit. ¹⁵Neither will there be any work for Egypt, Which the head or tail, Palm branch or bulrush, may do. ¹⁶In that day Egypt will be like women, and will be afraid and fear because of the waving of the hand of the Lord of hosts, which He waves over it...*

[The horses'] tails having heads... inflict injury

DEUT 28:13-15, ...¹⁵"it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that *all these curses will come upon you and overtake you;* DEUT 28:42-44, "Locusts shall consume all your trees and the produce of your land. ⁴³"The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower. ⁴⁴"He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and *you shall be the tail.*

CONSIDER THIS —

Heads and tails

ISA 9:13-16, *the people do not turn to Him who strikes them, Nor do they seek the Lord of hosts. ¹⁴Therefore the Lord will cut off head and tail from Israel, Palm branch and bulrush in one day. ¹⁵The elder and honorable, *he is the head*; The prophet who teaches lies, *he is the tail.* ¹⁶For the leaders of this people cause them to err, And those who are led by them are destroyed.*



REVELATION 9

20 And the rest of the men, who were not slain by these plagues, did not do penance from the works of their hands, that they should not adore devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and wood, which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

The rest of mankind

JOB 12:10-14, *In whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?...*;

MIC 7:1-6, ...²The faithful man has perished from the earth, And there is no one upright among men. They all lie in wait for blood; Every man hunts his brother with a net. ³That they may successfully do evil with both hands-The prince asks for gifts, The judge seeks a bribe, And the great man utters his evil desire; So they scheme together. ⁴*The best of them is like a brier; The most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge*; The day of your watchman and your punishment comes; Now shall be their perplexity. ⁵Do not trust in a friend; Do not put your confidence in a companion; Guard the doors of your mouth From her who lies in your bosom...

Not killed by these plagues

PSM 106:24-29, ...They did not believe His word, ²⁵But complained in their tents, And did not heed the voice of the Lord... ²⁹Thus they provoked Him to anger with their deeds, And *the plague broke out among them*.

Did not repent

AMOS 4:9-13, ...¹⁰I sent among you a plague after the manner of Egypt; Your young men I killed with a sword, Along with your captive horses; I made the stench of your camps come up into your nostrils; Yet you have not returned to Me," Says the Lord. ¹¹"I overthrew some of you, As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, And you were like a firebrand plucked from the burning; *Yet you have not returned to Me*," Says the Lord...;

EZE 4:5-11, ...⁶they have not walked in My statutes.' ⁷Therefore thus says the Lord God: '*Because you have multiplied disobedience* more than the nations that are all

around you, have not walked in My statutes nor kept My judgments, nor even done according to the judgments of the nations that are all around you'- ⁸"therefore thus says the Lord God: 'Indeed I, even I, am against you and will execute judgments in your midst in the sight of the nations. ⁹And I will do among you what I have never done, and the like of which I will never do again, because of all your abominations...

The work of their hands

JER 16:16-21, ...²⁰*Will a man make gods for himself, Which are not gods?* ²¹"Therefore behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know My hand and My might; And they shall know that My name is the Lord; ISA 2:6-9, ...⁸Their land is also full of idols; *They worship the work of their own hands*, That which their own fingers have made. ⁹People bow down, And each man humbles himself; Therefore do not forgive them.

They did not stop worshipping demons

2KING 1:2-4, ...³the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?' ⁴"Now therefore, thus says the Lord: '*You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone up, but you shall surely die.*' " So Elijah departed;

2TIM 3:1-7, know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, *lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God*, ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. And

CONSIDER THIS —

Even after the locusts...

AMOS 4:9, ...The locust devoured them; *Yet you have not returned to Me*," Says the Lord.

from such people turn away!...

They did not stop worshipping... idols

PSM 106:35-40, they mingled with the Gentiles And learned their works; ³⁶*They served their idols*, Which became a snare to them. ³⁷They even sacrificed their sons And their daughters to demons, ³⁸And shed innocent blood, The blood of their sons and daughters, Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; And the land was polluted with blood...

Idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood

DAN 5:23, you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And *you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know*; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.

Idols... cannot see

EZE 14:7-8, anyone of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who separates himself from Me and sets up his idols in his heart and *puts before him what causes him to stumble* into iniquity, then comes to a prophet to inquire of him concerning Me, I the Lord will answer him by Myself...

Idols... cannot hear

ZECH 10:2, *the idols speak delusion*; The diviners envision lies, And tell false dreams; They comfort in vain. Therefore the people wend their way like sheep; They are in trouble because there is no shepherd.

Idols... cannot walk

JER 10:14-15, Everyone is dull-hearted, without knowledge; Every metalsmith is put to shame by an image; *For his molded image is falsehood, And there is no breath in them.* ¹⁵They are futile, a work of errors; In the time of their punishment they shall perish.





REVELATION 9

21 Neither did they penance from their murders, nor from their sorceries, nor from their fornication, nor from their thefts.

They [did not] repent

JER 7:1-7, ...⁵"if you *thoroughly amend your ways and your doings*, if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor, ⁶"if you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, or walk after other gods to your hurt, ⁷"then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.

Murders

NUM 35:15-19, ...¹⁸*the murderer shall surely be put to death.*
¹⁹"The avenger of blood himself shall put the murderer to death; when he meets him, he shall put him to death.

Magic arts

EZE 13:17-23, ...¹⁸"Thus says the Lord God: "Woe to the women who sew magic charms on their sleeves and make veils for the heads of people of every height to hunt souls! Will you hunt the souls of My people, and keep yourselves alive?
¹⁹"And will you profane Me among My people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, killing people who should not die, and keeping people alive who should not live, by your lying to My people who listen to lies?" ²⁰"Therefore thus says the Lord God: "Behold, *I am against your magic charms by which you hunt souls* there like birds. I will tear them from your arms, and let the souls go, the souls you hunt like birds...;

DEUT 18:10-12, "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, *or one who practices witchcraft*, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, ¹¹"or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.

Sexual immorality

ROM 1:18-25, the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness... ²¹because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man-and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. ²⁴*Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves*, ²⁵who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Thefts

MATH 15:17-20, Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated?
¹⁸"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. ¹⁹"For *out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.* ²⁰"These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man";

EXO 22:2-3, "If the thief is found breaking in, and he is struck so that he dies, *there shall be no guilt for his bloodshed.* ³"If the sun has risen on him, there shall be guilt for his bloodshed. He should make full restitution; if he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft.

CONSIDER THIS —

The same is still true today:

ROM 1:21-22, although they knew God, they did *not glorify Him as God*, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools.



GROUP DISCUSSION

REV 9:14-15, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." ¹⁵So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

⊕ **1. Why might the angels have been bound at the Euphrates?**

(see also GEN 2:10-15, GEN 3:22-24, GEN 15:18, JER 13:7-15 & JER 46:10)

REV 9:7-10, 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. ⁸They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. ⁹And 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. ¹⁰They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails...

REV 9:16-17, Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. ¹⁷And 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.

⊕ **2a. What distinguishes the locusts of REV 9:7 from the horsemen described in REV 9:16-17?**

JOEL 2:2-4, ...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. ³A 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. ⁴Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like swift steeds, so they run.

⊕ **2b. How is the army described in REV 9:17-19 similar to the army of which Joel prophesied?**

REV 9:17-18, out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. ¹⁸By these three plagues *a third of mankind was killed*-by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.

⊕ **3. The four angels were released to kill a third of mankind; could these plagues be an additional third?**

ISA 5:26-29, He will lift up a banner to *the nations from afar*, And will whistle to them from the end of the earth; Surely they shall come with speed, swiftly... ²⁹Their roaring will be like a lion, They will roar like young lions; Yes, they will roar And lay hold of the prey; They will carry it away safely, And no one will deliver.

⊕ **4. How might this prophecy from Isaiah also describe this coming army?**

NEXT SESSION —