



A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES
Week 55: The Trumpet Judgements, Part 7
June 25, 2023
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Review:

- A. Last week, we concluded our study of the 5th Trumpet Judgment.
- B. I know for many of you, last week's lesson was an especially provocative one for many of you. The lesson introduced some new ideas that perhaps you had not previously considered.
- C. We explored what the Bible might have to say about "who" the antichrist is:
 1. That is not a statement which goes against what **2 Thessalonians 2:3** which says: "the *man of lawlessness*" cannot be revealed until the restrainer is taken out of the way.
 2. The Bible still gives us clues to carefully consider about the identity of the antichrist.
 3. Towards the end of our lesson, we looked at our passage in **Revelation 9:11**, and we compared that against some of the things that are said about the antichrist in **Revelation 17:9-11**
 4. From those passages, and other Biblical texts, we explored some reasonable assumptions based on the description that the antichrist is one: "*who once was, now is not, and yet will come (again).*"
 5. Given the fact that the Bible makes the clear case that the antichrist will be known in Greek as "*Apollyon*," and that he will, in some manner, "*come up out of the Abyss*," we narrowed down our assumptions.
 6. As I shared last week, I think the Bible makes the strongest case that the antichrist will be some form of the return of Nimrod, who is first introduced to us in **Genesis Ch. 10**. I'm not dogmatic on this, but if I was a betting man.....
 7. Nimrod was the first globalist leader, and he expressed open hatred of God.
 8. He desired to destroy God, to unite the world under a one-world occultic system, and to return earth to the days when fallen angels co-inhabited with mankind. These are all the qualities of the leadership of modern day globalists, particularly those who subscribe to Masonic / occultic beliefs.
 9. Notably, and probably through some sort of occultic ritual, we learned that Nimrod "*began to be a Gibborim*" (this is a Hebrew word sometimes used to describe a physical "giant").
 10. In other words, he changed. He became something different than what he started out being.
 11. He constructed what became the original Babylon. He oversaw the design of the Tower of Babel which was probably a ziggurat or pyramid structure.

12. When God confused the languages of the people and scattered them all over the face of the earth, each group began to construct ziggurats wherever they went. They wanted to continue the vision of Nimrod.
 13. Also, each group referred to Nimrod in their new language and lore. The records are clear that Nimrod is one and the same with legendary 'gods' of other cultures. Some examples are:
 - a. **Osiris** – Egypt
 - b. **Gilgamesh** – Mesopotamia
 - c. **Molech** – early Canaan
 - d. **Marduk** – Babylon
 - e. **Tammuz** – Phoenicia
 - f. **(and of course, "Apollo")** – Greek (AKA 'Apollyon')
 14. So, it would appear that Nimrod will physically return in the future. In some way, he will be one and the same with the antichrist.
 15. This is why **Revelation 17:8** says, the unsaved masses of that future time: *"....they will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come (again)."*
 16. Layered over all these things we learned, we also took note of the fact that the Bible seems to suggest the antichrist, at some point, will suffer a mortal wound. He will die.
 17. However, the Bible also seems to suggest he will come back to life again. Remember, Satan is the ultimate counterfeiter. He desires to imitate Jesus Christ, and what Jesus Christ did, in order to deceive people.
 18. It could be at this transition point that the antichrist, being in one form before his death, returns to life via a Satanic process, like Nimrod of the past, he BECOMES something very different, an entity that is entirely unredeemable, at that juncture.
 19. That is not an unreasonable conjecture based upon the full counsel of God's Word, and it is likely why the antichrist is tossed directly into the Lake of Fire upon the Lord's return.
- I. **This week we begin to study another very cryptic judgment, and the text for that is found in **Revelation 9:13-21**.** This is the 6th Trumpet Judgement, otherwise known as the "second woe" from the angel's announcement in **Revelation 8:13**.
- I. **LET'S ESTABLISH SOME ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT WHAT WE JUST READ:**
- A. **Timing:** I am guessing this is about 2 to 2 ½ years into The Tribulation (just a guess based upon the flow of the book of **Revelation**).
 1. We are not yet at the halfway point of the seven years, but we are almost there.
 2. We can surmise that the 5th Trumpet Judgment might last 5 months based upon the description of it in **Revelation 9:5**
 3. Is there an overlap with the 5th Trumpet Judgement before? That's doubtful given what **Revelation 9:12** says. I think it's most likely that ALL the judgments of The Tribulation are sequential.

- B. **Population:** There are perhaps 3-4 billion or so people that have already died in the previous judgements, based upon the various guesses of scholars. If so, then this judgment could potentially kill another billion.
- C. **World conditions:** The globe is a complete mess in every way by this point:
 1. Environmental disaster.
 2. Extreme spiritual deception.
 3. No conventional laws or systems of restraint (lawlessness and murder abounds).
 4. Lots of blame on Christians / Jews, they are actively being hunted down and killed.
 5. Complete and willful denial of truth. It does not matter that obvious truth is present; people will CHOOSE to believe anything BUT the truth.
- D. **Extreme sinfulness (Cf. vss. 20-21):**
 1. NOTE: Description is comprehensive violation of the entire Law of God (Note the plural form of 'thefts' which suggests several different violations of the Ten Commandments).
 2. NOTE: (**Cf. Luke 17:26** - "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man.") **Cf. Gen. 6:5:**

"The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

3. NOTE: This is very similar language to **Daniel 8:23**, which describes the time of the end and the rise of the antichrist, that era of time we are studying now, and it says of the sin of this time:

"...when the rebellion has reached its full measure, an insolent king, skilled in intrigue, will come to the throne."

4. Concerning this future point during The Tribulation, sin will once again "*reach its full measure.*" Like a cup already full of water, it cannot take another drop.
5. These are the only two points in history, one past, and one future, when sin is described as having reached this point of maximum expression. In other words, it cannot get any worse!
6. NOTE: We live in rough times, but not times that are described like this!

II. THERE IS THE VOICE FROM THE ALTAR (**Cf. vs. 13**) – What is this voice?

NOTE: We first discussed this altar in **Revelation 6:9** ('Martyrs under the altar' – meaning beneath it and around it) and then in **Revelation 8:3** ("*angel given incense to offer {on the altar} with the prayers of the saints*")

- A. The voice is, more likely than not, the voice of God. What is commanded requires the highest authority, to release of the four bound angels.

NOTE: The voice seems to signify a cry for the judgment of sin.

- B. We are not told whose voice it is, but there is a strong case for the intention of the voice stating the time for mercy has come to an end (**see the command of vs. 14**)
 - 1. "Mercy:" withholding what is due, as opposed to 'grace:' giving what is not due.
 - 2. Historically, fugitives would clasp the horns of the altar and ask for mercy (**Cf. 1 Kings 1:50-51**: Adonijah was David's oldest living son at the time of Solomon's coronation. He was perceived as being treasonous.)
- C. What is the implication of this? If sinners will not come to the altar and ask for mercy and forgiveness, then judgment is due upon them. It is time for God's punishment instead!
- D. Remember, God says in **Genesis 6:3**, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever." There is, in these judgments of **Revelation**, a clear END to God's mercy.
- E. When this 6th Trumpet Judgment occurs, it seems the indications are that the time for mercy will have passed, and that the altar of mercy will then become an altar of judgment.

III. THE GREAT RIVER EUPHRATES

NOTE: As there was a location before for the imprisonment of fallen angels (the Abyss), so there is another location now where four more fallen angels are also bound. The river Euphrates. QUESTION: What is significant about the Euphrates river?

- A. We should not 'spiritualize' this river. It is one of the greatest rivers of boundaries in the Bible. It is significant in several ways:
 - 1. Starts in Turkey, goes through Syria, and basically cuts Iraq in two parts before it empties in the Persian Gulf
 - 2. Used extensively now for irrigation and the generation of hydroelectric power.
 - 3. Supported the development of the ancient Mesopotamian culture; Babylon was on its banks.
 - 4. Formed one of the boundaries of the Garden of Eden (**Cf. Genesis 2:14**)
 - 5. Will form the easternmost boundary of the full land of Israel in The Millennial Kingdom according to God's promise to Abram, which he was called before becoming 'Abraham' (**Cf. Genesis 15:18**)

NOTE: Some of the greatest events of Biblical history have taken place near / on the Euphrates River

- 6. The first sin of mankind in the Garden of Eden.
- 7. It was near the Euphrates that the first lie on earth was told, and the first murder was committed.
- 8. The Tower of Babel was erected near there in defiance against God.
- 9. Nimrod built Babylon here (**Cf. Genesis 10:10**), and it is where idolatry and the seeds of all false religions first gained root.
- 10. Babylon is where captive Israel was taken, and the Euphrates is used in scripture as a symbol of Israel's enemies.
- 11. Later on in **Revelation**, the Euphrates will be dried up in the 6th Bowl Judgment (**Cf. Revelation 16:12**) to aid access for the kings of the east.

IV. THE FOUR BOUND ANGELS (Cf. vss. 14&15)

NOTE: We have seen imprisoned angels before (Cf. 5th Trumpet Judgment), but now we see four more specific angels which are 'bound' or restrained in some manner. This is our first intro to them.

- A. **They are evil, and they are especially malevolent. That is why they are bound!**
 - B. The Greek word for "bound" (deō) is used 2X in Revelation. The other verse where this word appears is **Revelation 20:2**, which describes Satan being bounded for 1000 years.
 - 1. 'Bound,' in this case, is associated with 'imprisonment against will.'
 - 2. It is slightly different than imprisoned, perhaps imprisoned angels can still move about within the terms of their incarceration. But 'bound' is yet another degree of restrictiveness.
 - C. The binding of these four angels is interesting to note because there are only four of them. For some reason – we are not told – these four angels are **ESPECIALLY** powerful and wicked and there are no limits to the precautions given here.
 - D. Obviously, they want to wreak havoc and destruction on mankind, so God has restrained them in this manner.
 - 1. These powerful angels are pent up awaiting their eventual release, after which point they will rush out upon an unsuspecting world to unleash a murderous "hell on earth."
 - 2. In the previous Trumpet Judgment, mankind desired death, but "*death will elude them.*" Here, however, 1/3 of mankind is killed. They will get death.
 - a. **NOTE:** This passage is worded in clear contrast to **Revelation 6:8** where "*power was given over a fourth of the earth to kill.*"
 - b. In that prior passage, as we learned, one quarter of the earth's population is empowered to kill, but here, the text is clear that 1/3 of the earth's population ARE killed.
 - 3. We do not know why these angels hate mankind so much, but again – as we have learned already, man is made in the image of God, and God has a great love for the world. (Cf. **John 3:16**)
 - 4. **NOTE:** These are NOT the same four angels of **Revelation 7:1-3** (Their locations and purpose are very different). Some commentators suggest this erroneous angle.
 - 5. They are also NOT: Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria. They are four fallen angels.
 - E. **They too are a prescriptive element of God's judgment:**
- NOTE: We saw this same prescriptive element in the previous Trumpet Judgment.**
- F. These four angels have been kept bound for a precise time (Cf. vs. 15)
 - 1. The time stamp is odd – very specific (Why?)
 - 2. Not an indication of how long these angels will be in action, but rather an issue of 'When do they start?'

3. IMPORTANT: While there is a reason that these four angels were bound, it does not take greater importance than the fact: 'they were prepared...'
 4. God's providence remains through the sins of men and angels, nothing can alter God's intentions.
 5. This should serve to remind us that God remains in complete control (NOTE: It is assumed that *Revelation* will be read, heard, and 'taken to heart' [*Cf. Rev. 1:3*] – likely never more than by those who have to endure the Tribulation)
- G. Easy to imagine that things have spiraled out of control. This serves as a reminder that God is working all things out according to His exact plan.
- H. **These four angels have been given a clear purpose:**
1. To kill a third of mankind (we are back to 1/3 of something again...)
 2. Their loosing precipitates the unleashing of a large force or army (which presumably, helps to carry out their purpose).