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THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

"Don't Dabble with Demons"

9:12-21

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

Revelation 9:13 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 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

Revelation 9:15 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.

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

Revelation 9:17 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.

Revelation 9:18 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.

Revelation 9:19 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.

Revelation 9:20 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.

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

What's worse than an army of demons let loose from the Abyss with the power to torment you for five months?

A second army of demons released from the Euphrates River with the power to kill you!

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

The word **woe** indicates the coming of a great calamity. The **woe** that **is past** was a demon invasion. Two more horrifying judgments are coming. The next is another demon army let loose on earth.

These invasions are a look at what the world would be like if the devil and his angels had their way. Folks who claim to worship Satan, or those who think they can tap-into and control demonic forces, don't know what they are really dealing with. Revelation shows you what these forces are really like.

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

The **golden altar** is the place previously where the prayers of the saints are offered. Jesus wants you to realize that your prayer, Thy kingdom come, is going to find its fulfillment. It is a prayer that will be answered in due time.

We are not told whose **voice** rings forth from the golden altar. Whoever it is, we understand that demons cannot do anything more than God will permit. Though it may seem He gives them too much freedom, we see how much He holds them back.

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

We talked about a chamber in the Abyss in which certain demons are incarcerated. Here we see another prison location. There's no

reason to think the Bible doesn't mean this literally. Somewhere in the Euphrates is a prison within which especially wicked demons are incarcerated.

Dr. Henry Morris, pioneer of creation science, has an interesting theory about where this Euphrates prison is:

Maybe the Euphrates mentioned here is the antediluvian [before the flood] Euphrates rather than the Babylonian Euphrates. It is... possible that, deep in the earth remains the underground storage chamber which controlled the... flow into the Garden of Eden... It would provide an appropriate prison for these fallen angels. It would then be literally true to say they were bound in the great river Euphrates.

The previous demon army bound in the Abyss might be connected with the demons that sinned just before the Flood by co-habiting with women and producing offspring of giants. These could be more of those guys; or they could be unrelated. Truth is we don't know that much about what goes on in the angelic real. It could be that demons are regularly being incarcerated.

Their release is terrible:

Revelation 9:15 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.

God is *never* the author or creator of evil. It's a petty criticism to blame God for evil since He could have created a world in which it was not possible. But in such a world free will would also have been impossible. Love would have been impossible.

Prepared for means that God would use them at this time and for this purpose.

Again notice the very precise and restricted time period. This is a great drama unfolding and nearing its climax. The timing is designed to show mankind God is in control. It is still His mercy reaching out to them to be saved.

The first demon army wounded and tormented but was not allowed to kill. Why? **To give a chance to repent before the second army came to kill.**

One-fourth of the earth's population was killed earlier. Now another one-third. Those who inhabit the earth are being decimated.

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

Later in the Revelation, in chapter sixteen, a reference is made to the Euphrates River drying up so that an army from the east can arrive at the final battle of mankind, Armageddon. *These are two distinct events!* Here in chapter nine we are seeing a demon army.

John gives the graphic details:

Revelation 9:17 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.

At this point we have a decision to make. Are there just **four** wicked demons who then command a human army of two hundred million? Or are there **four** wicked demon commanders and two hundred million demon warriors?

It seems more likely to me this is entirely demonic. The character of this **woe** is entirely supernatural, not just demonically inspired.

They are given nightmarish bodies to inhabit capable of causing the kind of pain and death here described. They remind you of fire-breathing dragons – which most likely were real creatures that existed alongside humans at one time.

Revelation 9:18 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.

You're told a second time **a third of mankind was killed**. I see it as **only** a third! It's clear this army has the power to kill all but is not allowed to do so.

Death will be imminent. One out of every three will die. Pretty bad odds. Better... **GET SAVED!**

It's as if God is saying, "You're about to die. Where will you spend your eternity?"

Revelation 9:19 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.

What's worse than a scorpion's tail? Having a tail that is a serpent, complete with its own head and fangs and poison.

Two thirds of the human race will survive. There can be no mistake that these controlled but vicious demonic invasions were God's judgments and warnings. It ought to be the sermon that sets up a great altar call of souls. Instead you read,

Revelation 9:20 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.

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

These were the activities of humans prior to the two demon invasions. They were trusting in their own works and worshipping demons via idolatry.

As I said earlier, men think they can dabble with demons and benefit from it but it will turn very badly against them.

I can illustrate it by mentioning any of the traditional vices. Let's use gambling. It's fun and exciting at first, and you think you can quit when you want. But how many lives have been ruined, decimated, by it in the end? How much does it lead to **murders**, **sorceries** (which here is drug abuse), **sexual immorality**, and **thefts**? Those are what really happen in Vegas but they don't stay there!

Even after God, in a sense, gave them a taste of just who and what they were really worshipping they refused to repent.

These influences will be at work throughout the Great Tribulation.

They are also at work today - prior to the Great Tribulation! Demons seek to influence you in exactly these same ways. As you look around at our world, they seem to be succeeding.

Idolatry is described by the phrase **the works of their hands... the worship of demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk**. Do people really practice idolatry?

First of all, think beyond our own culture here in the West. Most of the rest of the world openly worships idols! For example: There are millions of Hindu gods. They are demons. Whether they know it or not, most of the world worships demons.

More and more, even in the West, we are succumbing to demonic influence. Talismans are popular... People are seeking “spirit guides...” Many of the techniques of so-called modern psychology are occultic practices given scientific credibility - visualization, healing of memories, etc.

Murders are an influence of demons we can succumb to. We have legalized murder in the practice and promotion of abortion on demand.

Sorceries are an influence of demons we can succumb to. The word is *pharmakeia*, the word we translate “pharmacy.” The use of drugs is what is being described. Do we have a drug problem? It is the covert influence of demons.

Sexual immorality is an influence of demons we can succumb to. This includes things like sex outside of marriage, adultery, and pornography. The internet has exploded pornography into an epidemic that is destroying lives by the millions.

Thefts could be translated *dishonesties*. It would include the breaking down of absolute standards. It alludes to a situational living by which nothing is really right or wrong.

Demons don't have to invade to destroy. They can influence to deceive and achieve just as great a victory.

We are aware of the devil and his strategies. We need not yield to his influence. Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world!

