

1. Last week I taught Rev 9:1-19. When time expired we were about to begin the exegesis of Rev 9:20-21.
2. Before continuing, I want to provide “1Jo 1:9 time” as may be necessary.
3. Let me first give you an expanded translation of Rev 9:1-19.

**Rev 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded his trumpet and I saw Satan fall to earth from heaven; Jesus the Christ authorized one of His angels to give him the key to the bottomless pit.**

**Rev 9:2 And Satan opened the pit and there arose out of it a great smoke, like the smoke from a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke.**

**Rev 9:3 Earth's atmosphere was darkened by reason of the smoke from the shaft; even the light from the sun could not be seen. And out of the smoke there came grass-hopper like creatures into the earth. And there was given to them power like the power of a scorpion.**

**Rev 9:4 And they were told that they should not injure the grass of the earth nor any green thing nor any tree, for they were only to injure those who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.**

**Rev 9:5 And they were given a charge; they were not to kill these unbelievers but instead they were to torture them for five months.**

**Rev 9:6 Their torture was similar to the sting of a scorpion. And in those days men shall seek death but they shall by no means find it. They shall long to die, but death is not an option; they can only suffer.**

**Rev 9:7 And the resemblances of the grasshoppers were similar to those of horses prepared for war. And upon their heads they wore a victor's crown; they had wreaths of gold like those provided at the Bema. And their faces were like the faces possessed by men.**

**Rev 9:8 but they had long hair like the hair of a woman. And their teeth were like those of lions. And each wore a breastplate of iron.**

**Rev 9:9 And the sound of their wings was like the sound of thousands of moving chariots and horses running into battle.**

**Rev 9:10 And they had tails like those of scorpions, and in their tails there resided stingers sufficient to inflict terrible pain upon the unbelievers living in the Great Tribulation. They were given this power for five months.**

**Rev 9:11 And these creatures had a leader over them, it was Satan himself, but here he is also called the angel of the bottomless pit, his name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue it is called Apollyon.**

**Rev 9:12 The first great calamity is now past; two other calamities are about to fall upon the earth.**

**Rev 9:13 And the sixth angel sounded his trumpet. And I heard a voice out of the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,**

**Rev 9:14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, Set free at once the four angels who have been bound at the river, the great river, the Euphrates.**

**Rev 9:15 And the four angels were set free who had been kept in readiness for the hour and day and month and year in order that they should kill the third part of the men.**

**Rev 9:16 The oriental armies numbered in the millions. I heard one of the angels announce their number.**

**Rev 9:17 After this I saw the horses; those seated upon them had breastplates of fire and of jacinth and of brimstone. And the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions. And out of their mouths came fire and smoke and brimstone.**

**Rev 9:18 The fire, smoke and brimstone killed a third part of mankind.**

**Rev 9:19 The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails. Their tails were like snakes, having heads and by means of them they caused injury. The weird descriptions provided by John seem to be his difficult attempt to describe modern warriors with unbelievable fire power.**

4. I want to review some of that learned last week before beginning new material.

5. With the sounding of the sixth trumpet, John hears a voice described as coming from the four horns of the golden altar before God. In Rev 8:3, this altar is the scene of the offering of incense with the prayers of saints.

6. Here in its final mention in the book of the Revelation, the altar is related to the judgment of the sixth trumpet. The inference is that this judgment like those preceding is partially an answer to the prayers of the saints and a token of divine response and preparation for their deliverance.

7. Wycliffe has written of the horns:

“Horns of the altar: Altars made of stone and wood have long since disintegrated, but brass altars have been found by archaeologists ... The "horn" on the altar was a horn like protrusion on each corner.”

8. The voice instructed the sixth angel to release the four angels bound in the great river Euphrates. Verse 13 begins with the second woe (the sixth trumpet). It's a terrifying judgment. Four of the most wicked and powerful of all fallen angels are released to destroy a third of all remaining mankind!

9. These four angels at the River Euphrates are very significant. They were bound by God as future tools of Satan. Their confinement at the River Euphrates is especially momentous and not without significance. The first human sin is believed to have been committed here, in the Garden of Eden. In this area the first murder and the first great revolt against God also took place.

10. It was in nearby Babylon that the first world ruler set up his kingdom. The Euphrates region is truly the site of many significant events of human history! The Romans, Greeks, and Babylonians always considered the Euphrates River the boundary line between the East and the West.

11. From these parallels, it may be concluded that the four angels bound in the Euphrates River are evil angels who are loosed on the occasion of the sounding of the sixth trumpet in order to execute judgment.

12. These are wicked angels designated to execute the great judgment of the sixth trumpet but prevented from doing so until the proper moment. It is declared their function is to slay the third part of men. These angels were prepared to fulfill this purpose at this given hour.

13. The judgment here depicted, that of slaying the third part of men, is one of the most devastating mentioned anywhere in the book of the Revelation; i.e., prior to the Second Coming of Christ.

14. The destructive judgments thus far studied account for the demise of half of the world's population; a genocide of massive proportions. Never since Noah has such a substantial proportion of the earth's population come under God's righteous judgment.

15. Having declared the purpose of the army, John now gives details. Most impressive is the astounding number of the invading army, 200 million or literally "twice ten thousand times ten thousand."

16. Scott does not believe that the army of 200 million should be taken literally. H. B. Swete comments, "These vast numbers forbid us to seek a literal fulfillment, and the description which follows supports this conclusion."

16.1 If considered a literal enumeration of the army, it would represent the largest armed force ever known to man. Considering the millions of people in the Orient, the literal interpretation is not impossible. Keep in mind there are countries today with populations exceeding a billion, e.g., China, India and Indonesia. The population of the U.S. is a paltry 290 million.

17. It may be that the army here described continues to fight as they move westward toward the Valley of Megiddo to await the Second Coming of Christ. There is no direct statement as to the origin of this army, but the implication is that the angels bound "in" or at the Euphrates come from the east.

18. Both the chapter nine event and the chapter sixteen event describe the same oriental invasion. Remember our outline: chapters six through eleven cover a series of events with emphasis on the event and chapter twelve through nineteen cover the same events with emphasis on characters.

19. In a world that longs for global peace and seeks to attain it by the worship of the Antichrist, they soon learn the sad lesson that there can be no peace until the Prince of Peace rules.

20. Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 9:20 and 21, the last two verses of chapter nine.

KJV

Rev 9:20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

Rev 9:21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

NIV

Rev 9:20 The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood--idols that cannot see or hear or walk.

Rev 9:21 Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Closing Principles:

1. In spite of the dramatic judgment inflicted by this invading military force? Those who survive are declared to be unrepentant.

1.1 These two verses have to be the most incredible in the whole Bible. After all the foregoing supernatural events, men are still unwilling to repent and turn to Christ!

1.2 These two verses also reveal another remarkable prediction; mankind has the uncanny ability to reject even the most demonstrative of gospel messages: men love their idols even when confronted with the most convincing of truths.

1.3 In the United States we have seen a return to witchcraft and Satan worship.

1.4 Rock groups espouse and encourage witchcraft, occult groups are common, several young people who recently shot up their high schools claim to worship Satan. In Super Bowl LI Tom Brady was given a talisman of some sort to protect him from injury.

1.5 Some members of the academic community who were formerly agnostic in their religious views now not only accept the possibility of the supernatural but give the occult a cloak of respectability under the label of parapsychology!

1.6 Clearly today you see the most popular of movies mesmerizing our young people with surreal characters who possess super human powers.

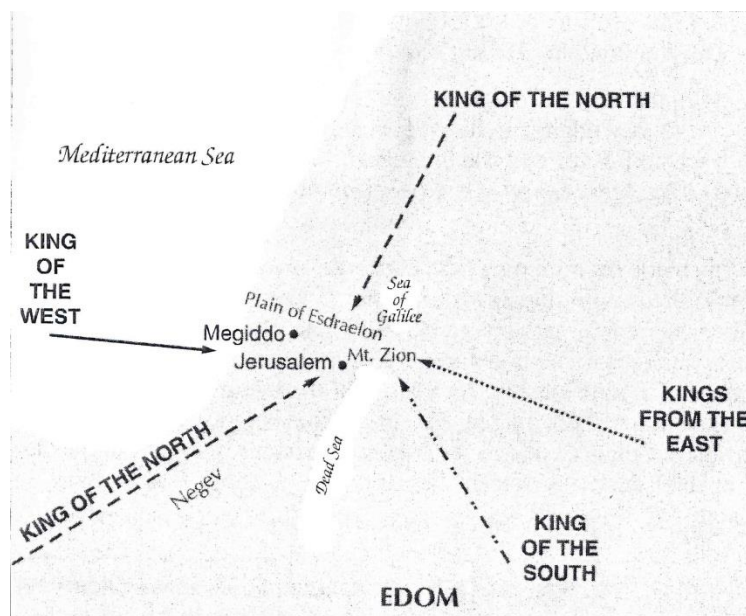
1.7 The revival of interest in witchcraft today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is said to be due to our attempt to escape from the lunacy in which we now live. Societies in all civilizations have had some sort of faith, faith in the unknown or the supernatural.

1.8 Witchcraft may be man's answer as a replacement for their lost faith in Christianity.

1.9 History shows that man cannot live in a religious vacuum. There are many moving toward the occult to find a means of relieving their sense of fear about the uncertainty of the future and to find meaning for their existence.

1.10 Even Russia, which is officially atheistic in its national life and policy, we find many of their citizens exploring the strange world of the occult. A well-documented book called *Behind the Iron Curtain Psychic Phenomena* reveals that Russia is probably leading the world in experiments with clairvoyance of all kinds.

1.11 This experimentation may be setting the stage for a general acceptance of the atheistic rider on the Red Horse who as the King of the North invades Israel.



2. The character of mankind is unfolded in the verses of Chapter Nine. The masses who suffer the pain of the demons would seem to motivate little repentance. There is no reason to deny that there will be those who respond to God's tough love by becoming believers—oh what a relief it must have been for those being stung to find physical relief in Christ.

3. Most, however, do not repent of their worship of devils, demons, and idols which their hands have formed; John dramatically describes their idols as "that which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk."

4. Verse 21 also indicates that they do not repent of their murders, their wicked sorceries, their fornication, or their thefts.

4.1 These four seem to be the most prominent sins of the Tribulation.

4.2 The first of these characteristic sins is murder. Over a century ago, before America groaned under the present crime wave, Joseph Seiss, the author of *The Apocalypse*, predicted on the basis of Rev 9:21 that capital punishment would have been largely abolished by the time of the Tribulation!

4.3 He foresaw the day when murderers would be spared punishment because society rather than the individual would be held responsible for their crimes!

4.4 Many law enforcement officers, as well as private citizens, believe that the failure of the courts to lengthen prison terms and their failure to use capital punishment are reasons for the alarming increase in violent crime.

4.5 Whether capital punishment is a strong deterrent to murder is perhaps debatable given the way we do it.

4.6 But there are other factors which many would agree have contributed to the rise in crime.

4.7 First is the failure of parents and churches to teach children and adults the sinful nature of man and that God's remedy is a new birth in Christ and a renovated mind.

4.8 There have been murders committed by people who knew they were sinful, but I'm also sure that many did not know how to deal with the dark, angry emotions that surged through them.

4.9 Another strong factor in the making of murderers is the rejection of absolute standards of right and wrong.

4.10 This rejection came about partly because of liberal theologians teaching that the Bible is only a book and not God's Word.

4.11 Added to this is the "situational ethics" and relative standards of morality fostered by certain nineteenth century philosophical and psychological thinkers; it is no wonder that men can explode with their passions and then somehow justify to themselves the taking of another's life.

4.12 The breakdown in the home and the failure of fathers to assume their roles of leadership have also been strong contributing factors to the increase of violent crimes.

4.13 A child who is never taught discipline and respect for authority in the home will grow up with destructive anxieties and frustrations, and too often he takes out his hostilities on society.

4.14 Many believe the freely accepted practice of aborting the unborn has made mankind callous and without appreciation for the sanctity of life in general. This would seem to make sense given the great debate in secular circles as to when life begins.

4.14.1 Few can agree when life begins and yet abortions are being performed in large numbers even amidst an undecided populous and this indecision includes the scientific community.

4.15 The second prominent sin of the Tribulation era will be drug related occult activities. The word "sorceries" in Revelation 9:21, comes from the Greek word **Pharmakeia**, from where we get our word "pharmacy" and refers here to the practice of the occult through the use of drugs; both prescription and non-prescription.

4.16 In our day, drug addiction has swelled into a flood across the nation. With it has come an unprecedented tide of witchcraft and demonism.

4.17 Hal Lindsay has written extensively about demon possession and control. He writes: "I've talked with people who have been on LSD for a long time, and they've told me, 'Demons are no strangers to me!'"

4.18 Demons and drugs are very similar in their effect on the human mind. They can take over a man to the point where he's completely altered in personality. Dwight Gooden, once one of baseball's premier pitchers, today requires psychological and medicinal theory. He now testifies how he foolishly lost it all in the haze of alcohol and cocaine.

4.19 An article in *The International Journal of Social Psychiatry* dealt with the reality of demon possession and how to diagnose it; the article gave the following instructions:

"There is a need to ascertain if there is any involvement in drug addiction, as it is common that addicts, especially with heroin and alcohol, become involved in black magic and vice versa. (Some) have been known in some cases to have been very religious people who defaulted, and thus left themselves open to some power other than God."

4.20 Lindsay goes on to write:

"The interesting thing to me is that in many cases with which I am familiar the person first used drugs, then got into witchcraft. But when a deep involvement with the occult followed, drugs were eventually dropped in favor of the more powerful experience with spirits."

4.21 Many people do not realize the connection between their addiction and demon control/possession. Col. Thieme writes of the connection in his book *Demonism*. A powerful writer of our time, Carlos Castaneda, has written of his own personal experiences along this line in his bestseller of the 1970's, *Journey to Ixtlan*.

4.22 In this book and his two previous ones, he tells of his initiation into the practice of Indian sorcery in Mexico through the use of such hallucinogenic drugs as peyote, jipson weed, mushrooms mixed with other plants, and other natural drugs.

4.23 While Castaneda was on his "trips" he had all kinds of encounters with "beings" he couldn't understand. He was continually urged to continue his drug abuse by an old Indian sorcerer named Don Juan, a creature from the "other world."

4.24 Whether Don Juan really exists or is simply a creation of Castaneda's pen, no one knows for sure. But Castaneda has spent ten years of his life seeking to "see" by negating the routine use of the five senses and to experience firsthand the world of spirits and psychic phenomena. For his efforts in this field UCLA gave him a Ph.D. for *Journey to Ixtlan!*

4.25 One of the most important things that Castaneda discovered in his journey to becoming a sorcerer is that drugs seem so innocuous at first. Soon however, abusers often make contact with "spirit entities" and there is ample testimony that these entities provide special powers to the abuser.

4.26 As a seeker becomes fully committed to sorcery, a "spirit entity" attaches itself to the seeker and gives him unimaginable power.

4.27 The point to be made here is that Carlos Castaneda's two books *The Teachings, A Separate Reality*, and *Journey to Ixtlan*, has sold in the millions and is now considered by many in the academic world as among the most important anthropological research of all time.

4.28 And do you know what it is they are so excited and stimulated about? The Bible calls them demons!

4.29 According to the prophecies of the book of the Revelation, those who reject the truth about Jesus Christ will become so deceived they will not only believe in the reality of demons, but they will actually worship them through the coming one world religion called "mystery Babylon."

4.30 The third prominent sin of the Tribulation, sexual immorality, will be rampant. In verse twenty-one the Greek word translated "sexual immorality" is **Porneia**, it refers to all kinds of sexual activity outside of its Biblically sanctioned function, sex between a right man and a right woman within the bond of matrimony.



4.31 The marriage vow will be virtually unknown in the Tribulation, and there will be a complete breakdown of the family.

4.32 The *Futurist* magazine devoted an entire issue to the "Man-Woman Relationships."

4.33 In the lead article Dr. Herbert Otto writes,

"A psychologist foresees a society in which men and women will explore new depths of intimacy, and the pursuit of joy will become an art form ... More people will indulge in group sex ... and the ideal life will not be marriage, children, and a house in the suburbs, but rather the experiencing of a series of deep and fulfilling relationships in a variety of environments. We live in a day when the impact of the rejection of Biblical morality and absolutes is beginning to be seen at every level of society, but especially in attitudes toward sex. The world is in a headlong plunge downward into the amorality of Sodom and Gomorrah."

4.34 The fourth characteristic of the Tribulation will be thievery of all kinds, including burglaries (theft by breaking into houses and businesses) and robberies (theft by threat of personal violence).

Rev 9:20 The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood -- idols that cannot see or hear or walk.

Rev 9:21 Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

4.35 These kinds of crimes have always been with us and so shall they always be! But in the Tribulation it would seem "thievery" proliferates to unprecedented proportions.

4.36 When a society's family unit breaks down, the whole society falls apart. Many of our world's people are without moral conviction and natural affection because they have been set adrift on the sea of life with no compass, or rudder or destination.

4.37 The *Futurist* magazine article quoted above also reported, "Divorcing parents traditionally have battled to gain custody over their children, but in a growing number of broken families today neither parent really wants custody."

5. So much for preaching about the need to reverse the 21<sup>st</sup> century trends.

6. Now let's see what we can learn from Chapter Ten, but first an expanded translation of the last two verses of Revelation Chapter Nine.

**Rev 9:20 The rest of mankind not killed by these plagues refused to repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, but continued deifying their idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood.**

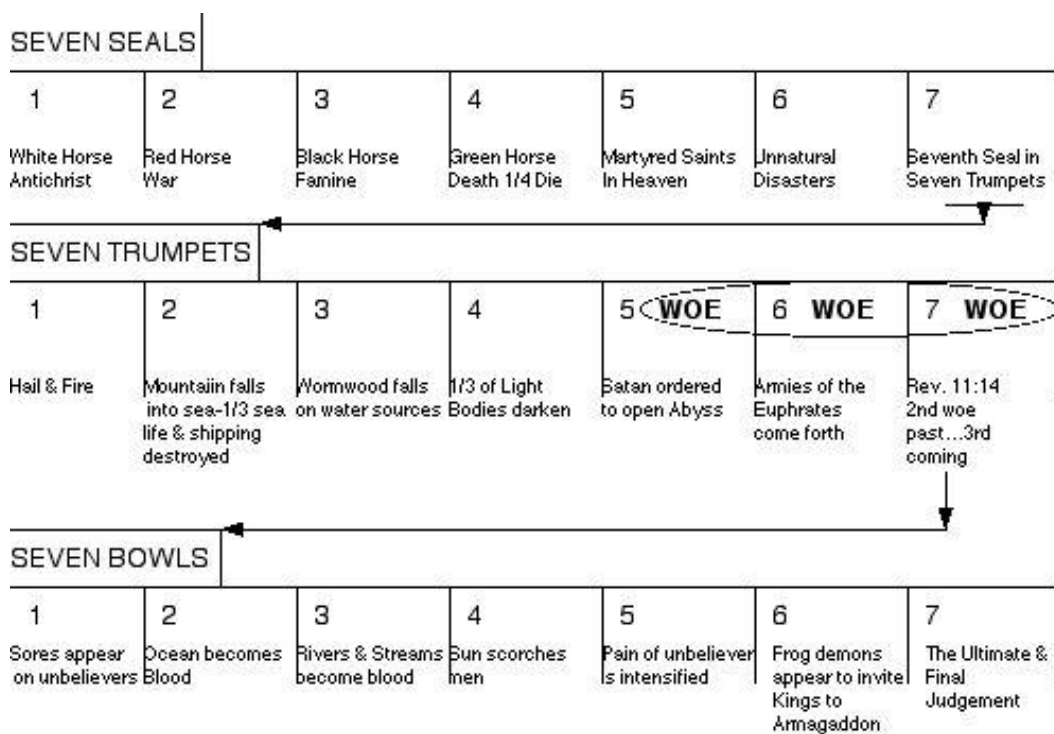
**Rev 9:21 Neither did they repent of their murders, occult practices, sexual immorality or other felonious activities.**

7. Before starting our study of Revelation Chapter Ten, let me again explain the order of the three woe judgments.

7.1 The first woe that is set loose on man is actually the fifth trumpet judgment (Revelation 9:1-12).

7.2 The second woe which man has to endure is synonymous with the sixth trumpet (Revelation 9:13-21).

7.3 The third woe is the seventh trumpet, and this judgment contains the final and most awful catastrophes of all times, called the "seven bowl judgments."



8. The record of the "seven bowl judgments" begins with verse one of Revelation chapter sixteen.

9. Now we are ready to study chapter ten which might be entitled "The Man Who Ate the Little Book."

**The Man Who Ate The Little Book**

1. Chapter ten describes an interlude of peace.

2. Up to this point we have studied some 13 judgments which in varying degrees have devastated planet earth.

3. And now in chapter ten God once more stays his hand.

4. Let's see what we can learn from verses one through four:

KJV

Rev 10:1 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

Rev 10:2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,

Rev 10:3 And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

Rev 10:4 And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

NIV

Rev 10:1 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars.

Rev 10:2 He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,

Rev 10:3 and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke.

Rev 10:4 And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down."

Principles

1. Beginning with chapter ten a parenthetical section is introduced which will continue through Rev 11:14. The parenthesis seems to take a step back to the first three and one-half years of the Tribulation for the specific purpose of describing the interesting accounts of two witnesses—Elijah and Moses. Rev 11:15-19 foresees the return and reign of Christ.

End Lesson Taught 2-15-2017

**The Westbank Bible Church does not seek donations nor do we authorize any business to solicit same on behalf of the Church.**