

Man's Love of Evil

Mankind one day after the Rapture of the Church will experience pain and suffering like never before. You would think those living in these troublous times would become believers in the Christ to come. Will mankind get the message and repent? Will they accept the warnings and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ? As we have studied in our analysis of the Book of Revelation the answer is a resounding no!

Revelation 9:20 and 21 provide what will take place at the Second Advent of Christ. The streets of America already abound with the evils described in the last two verses of Revelation Chapter nine. In my teaching of Revelation I point out the similarities of what we see in America today and what it will be like just before Christ returns—its called “Man’s Love of Evil.

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.

These two verses have to be the most incredible in the whole Bible. After all the traumatic events described in detail in the Apocalypse, men are still unwilling to repent and turn to Christ! These verses also reveal several remarkable predictions; mankind has the uncanny ability to reject even the most demonstrative of gospel messages: men love evil even when confronted with the most convincing of truths.

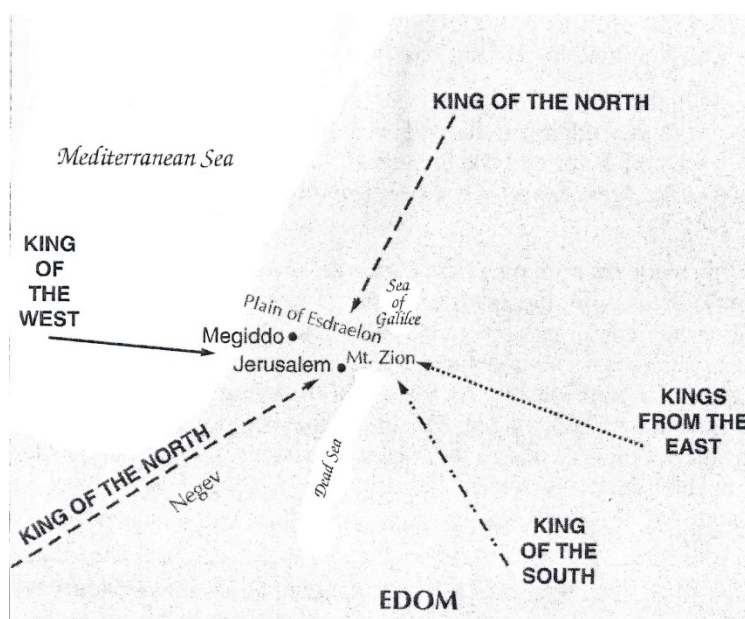
In the United States we have seen a return to witchcraft and Satan worship. Rock groups espouse and encourage witchcraft, occult groups are common, several young people who recently shot up their high schools claim to worship Satan. In Super Bowl LI Tom Brady was given a talisman of some sort to protect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

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

The revival of interest in witchcraft today in the 21st 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. Witchcraft may be man's answer as a replacement for their lost faith in Christianity.

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.

Even in 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. 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.



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 will be for those being stung to find permanent relief in Christ.

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." Verse 21 also indicates that they do not repent of their murders, their wicked sorceries, their fornication, or their thefts. These four seem to be the most prominent sins of the Tribulation.

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!

He foresaw the day when murderers would be spared punishment because society rather than the individual would be held responsible for their crimes! 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. Whether capital punishment is a strong deterrent to murder is perhaps debatable given the way we do it today.

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

Another strong factor in the making of murderers is the rejection of absolute standards of right and wrong. This rejection came about partly because of liberal theologians teaching that the Bible is only a book and not God's Word. Added to this is the "situational ethics" and relative standards of morality fostered by certain nineteenth century philosophical and psychological thinkers; is it any wonder that men can explode with their passions and then somehow justify to themselves the taking of another's life?

The breakdown in the home and the failure of fathers to assume their roles of leadership has also been a strong contributing factor fostering violent crimes. 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.

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 is extremely troubling given the great debate in secular circles as to when life begins. 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.

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

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!'"

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. 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."

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." Many people do not realize the connection between their addiction and demon control/possession. Col. R. B. 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*.

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. 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."

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*! 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.

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

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

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

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

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).

Expanded Translation

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

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. 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. 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."

Is it any wonder then that the United States is in a "world of hurt?" As the Book of the Revelation concludes: "Even so come Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

