

Revelation 9:13-21

In Hollywood's bleak imagination, movies hardened criminals released en masse on streets (*Chaos, Riot, The Last Castle, Lockout*) Guess the results (unleashed horror, chaos, murder, theft, mayhem)

[7 yr Trib. (intensity/frequency): first four Trumpet jgt (^{1/3} earth/sea destroyed fire/aster/meteo]
-First **WOE**: Hell is opened, incarcerated demons unleashed upon the world. (Demon locusts) **tortu**
-Second **WOE**: Demonic army unleashed; the plague of death is certain & fixed. 2.5+ billion killed

What is the Bible warning us here: *IF* you are banking on things on this earth getting better and better, tree-hugging, saving the whales, better smog-detectors believing that *we* can somehow save this earth and make it a Utopia forever...you have been misled! **Debbie downer ☹ =judgmt**
-2 Peter 3:7 "**But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly people**"=first 4 Trump. Jugmts + 3 WOES

13 Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, **14** saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." *Euphrates part of the 4 river system in Garden of Eden -**G.2** (today flows from Turkey; Syria; Iraq into Persian Gulf -1700miles =most important river in m.E)
****drying up; historically low** (Rev. 16:12); **Assyria; Babylon; Persia**=central to life & war on Israel formed the east boundary of the promise land for Ab./Israel. (Gen. 15).

15 And the four angels (demons), who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind. =Represents the largest mass slaughter in human history 2.5+ billion killed. Human army or demonic army? ****Note:** Rev. 6:8: 4th seal = 1/4th world killed (war; famine; plague), but this = open warfare = 1/2 of world population killed by end of Tribulation. **HOW?** Demons unleashed...God using demons to destroy earth/peop

16 The number of the armies of the horsemen was **two hundred million; I heard** the number of them [John emphasizing *not* exaggerated or hyperbolic] **17** And this is how **I saw** in my vision the horses and those who sat on them: *the riders* had breastplates *the color* of fire, of hyacinth, and of ^[k]brimstone; and the heads of the horses are *like* the heads of lions; and out of their mouths *came fire and smoke and brimstone/toxic sulphur.

18 A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire, the smoke, and the brimstone/sulphur which came out of their mouths. **19** For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are *like* serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm. **WHAT??** Real army? Demonic Army? Supernatural Army? (Modern warfare/tanks?)
-Is this Nuclear war? Ballistic Missiles? [*If flying, stinging demon-locusts are real, then here too*].

******(Concerning the Demon locusts and the Demon Calvary):

-10 most prominent **Amil/Partial Preterists** [*Beale; Hoekema; Poythress; Sproul; Sam Storms*]
=*None* of it is real as described: Symbolic only of spiritual oppression; spiritual warfare;
Recapitulation =(cycles of history); warfare of dem. phil; Cath; Islam; **OR** Jewish v. Rome 70's AD.

-10 of the most prominent Premill. Scholars/commentators [*Morris; Ladd; Pentecost; Phillips; Macarthur; Osborne*]: All concur that These events real & occur during the **future Tribulation.**

-The **200 million army** represents an **immense supernatural host.**

-The creatures are **demonic or demonically empowered**, not merely symbolic.

-The judgment results in **the actual death of one-third of humanity.**

-The imagery (fire, smoke, sulfur, serpent tails) reflects **hellish, supernatural destruction** rather than modern military technology/modern tanks, fighter jets, missiles. =Real demons unleashed!

In this vivid prophetic description from John's Vision (From Jesus): **=Hell is not merely a future destination—it becomes an active agent of judgment during the Tribulation.** For a brief moment in history, God allows demonic forces *normally restrained* to be unleashed & devastate the earth & humans, using fire, smoke, & brimstone/sulphur to punish/kill **unrepentant unbelievers** (**IRONICALLY**: the very same judgment that these same demons/devil will experience in Hell when they are judged and put there in Rev. 20. (**Gehenna**: =eternal fire, smoke, brimstone without end =chained and bound for eternity).

** -Luke 10:19 Jesus gives authority to the disciples to trample on demons like scorpions/snakes **"Behold, I have given you authority to walk on snakes and scorpions, and authority over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you."**

-And here, (Rev. 9) for a brief time, Jesus gives authority to demons in the form of scorpions and snakes to harm the world. -Yet, we see who gives the Authority: God (He is sovereign over ALL).

Why is God judging the world? Why this hell unleashed upon the earth? Why demonic punishment? In view of all this global Death and horror (surely vividly displayed for the whole world to see) there is a continuing delusion, a hardening of hearts (intractably impenitent) unchanging minds, and the disaffected, unrepentant soul who hates God at all costs. **They refuse to repent!**

The horror, devastation, chaos only makes their hearts more hard toward the Lord & His Truth **(Idolatry; Immorality; willful Disobedience) =spiritual rebellion to God**

20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent of the works of their hands** -so as not to worship demons (false religions; demonic worship; false ideologies: [reject God & worship nature; self; mind; material world; inventions; or the dark forces] =Modern: Naturalism; rationalism; secular humanism; materialism; transcendentalism; feminism; New agism; relativism; post-modernism; anti-institutionalism; ... list goes on each new generation: -1 Timothy 4:1 **"Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits, seducing doctrines, and teachings that come from demons."**

-and the **idols** of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; -Deut. 32:16-17 **"They made Him jealous with strange gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. ¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons, who were not God, To gods whom they have not known, New gods who came lately, Whom your fathers did not know."**

-Ps. 96:5 **"For all the gods of the peoples are idols and demons"**

***Anything in our life that takes the place of God=IDOL (Not me?? What do you spend your time on? money on? think about more than God=IDOL) =we choose what we want to do....**

-and the **idols** of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; -Both literal and symbolic: how much do we idolize money (things of value) to us. Can't serve both God and money/wealth/power -Mt. 6:24 **"no one can serve two masters"**

21 and they did not repent of their **murders**, -hard-heartedness (life has no value)=kill indiscriminately bc the heart of selfishness reigns and no one allowed to get in our way. **Take it -nor of their witchcraft**, (sorcery: *Pharmakon*: drug induced spells; charms; curses; amulets; rituals; sceances; necromancy; Overtly demonic: Including mysticism; spiritism; wiccan; witchcraft; occultism; satanism; paganism; hedonism) **satan has people duped (supernatural)**

-nor of their **sexual immorality**, (porneia: fornication; adultery; pornography; rape; deviant sex) -nor of their **thefts**. =These are the basic 10 Commandments

-2 Timothy 3:1-7 “But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, ⁴ haters of good, ⁵ treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁶ holding to a form of ⁷ godliness although they have denied its power; avoid *such people as* these. ⁸ For among them are those who ⁹ slip into households and captivate ¹⁰ weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, ¹¹ always learning and never able to come to the ¹² knowledge of the truth.”

APPLICATION

1. God’s Sovereignty Over Evil

- The sixth trumpet demonstrates that God **controls even demonic forces**. The release of the army from the Euphrates is **permitted by His command**.
- **Spiritual takeaway:** Nothing in the spiritual or natural world operates outside God’s authority, even when it seems chaotic or destructive.

2. The Reality of Judgment

- One-third of humanity dies from this judgment. Scripture reminds us that God **judges sin seriously and righteously**.
- **Spiritual takeaway:** God’s patience has limits; rebellion has consequences, reinforcing the need for repentance and obedience.

3. The Deceptive Power of Evil

- The army’s destructive power and demonic origin illustrate the **devil’s ability to inflict suffering and lead humanity astray**.
- **Spiritual takeaway:** Believers must remain alert, discerning, and dependent on God’s power to resist spiritual deception.

4. Human Stubbornness in Sin

- Verses 20–21 show that, despite witnessing immense destruction, humanity **refuses to repent of idolatry, murder, sorcery, sexual immorality, and theft**.
- **Spiritual takeaway:** Sin can harden the human heart to God’s warnings, highlighting the **urgency of personal repentance and evangelism**.

5. Hope for the Faithful

- While the passage emphasizes judgment, it **demonstrates God’s ultimate plan to vindicate the faithful**. The destruction of evil prepares the way for God’s reign.
- **Spiritual takeaway:** Believers can trust God’s justice and remain faithful, even in the face of widespread evil.

Historical Context: In 79 AD, the city of Pompeii was destroyed when **Mount Vesuvius erupted**, burying thousands under lava and ash. Many were warned by strange tremors and smoke beforehand but **did not take the warning seriously**. Those who ignore the warning signs have no one to blame for their own demise. God’s grace and mercy build in warnings to us. Hard hearts reject warning signs. Rebellion always has devastating consequences. Those frozen charred bodies serve as a living reminder that people were going on with their normal life activities when judgment struck. **YOU?**

-Do you sense any warning signs in your life? Spiritual? Word? -Where do you seem stubborn against the things of God? Where is your heart hardened against spiritual conviction?

Community Group Discussion Questions (Focus on Rev. 9:20–21)

1. **Observation of Rebellion:**

- Why do you think humanity continues in idolatry and sin **even after witnessing such massive judgment**? What does this tell us about the human heart apart from God?

2. **Idolatry Today:**

- In what ways do we see modern “idols” (not necessarily statues) that people cling to, despite evidence of their consequences?

3. **Patterns of Repentance:**

- What would genuine repentance look like if humanity had responded differently in these verses? How does this compare to your own life?

4. **Warning and Mercy:**

- How does God’s patience in allowing people to continue living after judgment reflect both **His justice and His mercy**?

5. **Spiritual Vigilance:**

- What practical steps can believers take to avoid the types of sins mentioned (idolatry, murder, sorcery, sexual immorality, theft) hardening their hearts?

6. **Evangelistic Implications:**

- How should these verses motivate us to **share the gospel with people who persist in rebellion**, knowing that human hearts can be stubborn?

7. **Faith Amid Judgment:**

- How can this passage encourage believers to remain faithful when they see evil and rebellion seemingly triumph in the world?