

The Book Of The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter Nine

The Depravity of the Human Race

Focus Verse: **Revelation 9:20,21**

“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: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.”

I. Introduction - The “Progress” and “Evolution” of Man

- A. Throughout history, man has attempted to convince himself that things will only get better! People never look back and objectively see even from history that we just keep going around in circles, and are on a basic downward spiral. The Bible portrays man as messing up everything that God created, and that man would destroy himself if God did not intervene from time to time and hold him back!
- B. In this chapter of Revelation, God clearly demonstrates that man by nature does not learn from his mistakes, and that he as a general rule, would rather see everything destroyed around him before he would repent of his sins and yield to an almighty God! This is because they are of their father, the devil (John 8:44), and until they obtain the new birth (John 3:3,7), they will do *his* will, and not Gods!

II. Lesson - “The Three Woes,” or, “The _____ of the Human Race”

A. The Fifth Trumpet - Another “star” falls from heaven (9:1-12)

1. Refining our definition of Angels (9:1)

- a. Here, this “star” is a person (Cf Rev 1:20; Job 38:7)
- b. According to Rev 20:1, this “star” is an _____. Therefore, all stars are not gaseous balls of hydrogen fission, but, some live in Los “Angeles”, and live in the lime “light,” and seek their own “worship”! Therefore, angels are definitely NOT like the feminine winged creatures dreamed up by Greek mythologists.
- c. Angels are “_____” (Matt 1:20,21), “ministering spirits” (Heb 1:7,14), “representatives” (Rev 1:20), always male (never are they female), and here they are “stars” as in celestial beings that “shine” (Dan 10:5,6) and come down from the “heavens.”
- d. Above all, angels are _____ to be worshipped (Col 2:18; Rev 19:10; 22:9)!

2. Identifying the “bottomless pit” (9:2)

- a. Note the “sides of the pit” in Isa 14:15
- b. Hell is located in the center of the earth (Prov 15:24; Ezek 31:16; Mt 12:40; Luke 16:19-26). Therefore, can you imagine what Hell is like? How about a giant ever-turning clothes drier, with the heat turned up on HIGH, and all the inhabitants being constantly thrown up and down the sides “as the world turns!”
- c. There are various “departments” of Hell. Note that there is a place called the “lowest hell” Dt 32:22. Just for fun, let’s list the different sections to the lower parts of the earth (remember, this is more advanced than science by about 400 years!):
 - 1) The grave
 - 2) Paradise (no longer exists, just like Eden doesn’t)
 - 3) A Great Gulf (the Gulf of Mexico?)
 - 4) Hell
 - 5) The bottomless pit - the lowest Hell

There is a sixth place called, “the lake of fire” which seems to be located in a separate place (Cf Rev 20:14).

3. The first Woe (9:3-12)

Get ready, because everything that man has dreamed up for the Twilight Zone, and Hitchcock is about to become real!

- a. Involves humanoid/demoniac locusts being let loose out of the bottomless pit (9:3-12)
 - 1) These are not “normal” locusts
 - 2) These locusts:
 - a) Have the power of scorpions - they sting
 - b) Don’t eat grass and leaves (which is their normal diet)
 - c) Attack and “torment” humans for 5 months
 - d) Shaped like horses, with human faces
 - e) Have a king over them (vs 11; Cf Prov 30:27). Could be the “death angel of Exodus 12.
- b. Creates a “Hell on earth” situation (9:5). The tormentors of hell are allowed out onto the surface of the earth. There not only are locust-type creatures in hell, but also never-dying worms (Isa 66).
- c. Brings about the “hope” of modern medicine (9:6) No more death, only slow dying. Death sometimes is a real blessing, but at this time, God even holds back the Law of mortality for a while in order to bring about this time of Tribulation.

B. The Sixth Trumpet - 200,000,000 Armed Horsemen (9:13-21)

1. The second of the three Woes.
2. The four angels bound in the Euphrates river (9:13-15)
 - a. Emerge out of the area around Babylon
 - b. Definitely not “good” angels - they were “bound”
 - c. Lead an army larger than any seen yet!
3. The 200,000,000 demoniac horsemen (9:16-19)

Again, as with the locusts, these creatures and their riders are definitely not your run-of-the-mill horse and rider, but something very supernatural (II Kings 6:13-17)!

- a. The horses have the heads of “lions”! (9:17)
 - b. The horses breath fire! (9:17)
 - c. These horsemen are directed to kill off 1/3 of the remaining population (9:18)
 - d. These horses have tails like snakes (9:19)
4. The depraved human race (9:20-21)
 - a. Didn’t see the connection of their punishment with their sins (9:20)
 - b. Didn’t repent of two things:
 - 1) Their goodness - their religion (false as it is)
 - 2) Their wickedness: Murders, sorceries, fornication, and thefts.

Evidently, man’s religion has a lot to do with these four sins! Thank God for **SALVATION!**

PRINCIPLE: God’s primary intention throughout history has been to get man (a sinner) to repent (a definitely New Testament doctrine; Acts 20:21), NOT to become religious, or do good works, or go to church, or anything other than realize the he is a sinner in need of the blood of Jesus Christ!!!

III. Conclusion - Some Questions

1. Define the Bottomless Pit: _____
2. Where is Hell located? _____
3. According to the Bible, is man getting better and better? _____
4. What two things didn’t the human race repent of after all the judgments? _____
5. What comes out of the bottomless pit in the first woe? _____
6. How many armed horsemen come to attack Israel? _____
7. What is God’s primary intention throughout history? _____