



The Book of Revelation: Week 14

Chapters 9 - 11:

The Two Witnesses and the Seventh Trumpet

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Review

- Last time we looked at Chapters 7 and 8, and the unveiling of God's plan to judge the nations and inaugurate the Kingdom of His Son, Jesus Christ.
- We saw how Jesus received from the Father a scroll, a scroll sealed with seven seals. As Jesus begins to open the seals, God releases events or allows events in the Earth. These events judge the nations and break their opposition to the rule of God through Jesus Christ.
- When the seals are opened, God allows man's inhumanity to man to reach its peak. He removes the restraint from human beings. After the seals are opened, there comes a series of judgments known as the trumpets, or trumpet judgments.

Revelation 9

1 Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. **2** And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. **3** Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. **4** They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. **5** And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. **6** In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

7 The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. **8** They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. **9** And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. **10** They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months. **11** And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. **12** One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

(Revelation 9:1-12 NKJV)

- Notice that, as always, God is in control.
- Notice also that there are some demons who are imprisoned in the pit.
- We also see that they are allowed to hurt men only, not the earth. People want to die but cannot. How does that come to pass?
- I believe that God’s desire in all of this is that people repent as they see how terrible the kingdom of darkness truly is.

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.” 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. 16 Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. 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. 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. 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. 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. 21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts. (Revelation 9:13-21 NKJV)

- Here again we have demonic spirits which are bound. Some are being held in chains temporarily to become agents of judgment at this time.
- There are four powerful fallen angels here who have been bound, and under them is an army of demonic horsemen. They are said to be a plague, not a nation warring against other nations.
- Notice that God is trying to get people to repent of their sins. The first one mentioned is demon worship. There are four other principal sins mentioned here: murder, sorcery, fornication, and theft. They are sins that enslave us.

Revelation 10

1 I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. 2 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, 3 and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. 4 Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them.” (Revelation 10:1-4)

- Many have speculated this is actually Christ himself. Is this valid?
- No one knows what the seven thunders are, although some have claimed to know. Deut. 29:29 says, *The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, 7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets. (Revelation 10:5-7 NKJV)

- Now John is told that things are coming to a conclusion. When the seventh angel sounds, there will be no more delay. All of the mysteries of God are going to be resolved together at the same time.

8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, “Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth.” 9 So I went to the angel and said to him, “Give me the little book.” And he said to me, “Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth.” 10 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. 11 And he said to me, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.” (Revelation 10:8-11 NKJV)

- This is a prophetic picture of John being given additional revelation. John was not the only person to have this experience. Ezekiel also had a similar experience in eating a scroll of the words of God. This is a powerful picture, because the Word of God is supposed to be sweet to us, and yet we know there are difficult things in the Word of God which can make our stomach bitter.

Revelation 11

1 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, “Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. 2 But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. (Revelation 11:1-2 NKJV)

- Here is another reminder to us of the timeframe of the final days before Jesus returns.
- The Jewish people will once again offer animal sacrifices on the Temple Mount. But something will happen so that those sacrifices will be stopped. The Antichrist will put an end to those sacrifices right in the middle of the 7-year period.
- The angel says that the outer court has been *given* to the Gentiles. And so it is possible that the Jewish Temple could be rebuilt alongside the mosque or Islamic structure which is now present on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. 6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. (Revelation 11:3-6 NKJV)

- Notice that they are indestructible as long as God has them on their mission. They perform the kinds of miracles that Moses and Elijah did. The three candidates whom most people suggest as possibilities are: Moses, Elijah, and Enoch.
- Is Moses a good choice? Or is it Enoch and Elijah? What are the reasons?

7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. 10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. (Revelation 11:7-10 NKJV)

- Antichrist is allowed at some point to kill these men. This takes place in Jerusalem, and their bodies are allowed to lie there in the street. It's a fascinating detail that everyone is allowed to see their bodies. First century prediction of TV?

11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly. (Revelation 11:11-14 NKJV)

- Notice that God raises these men from death, and this is a tremendous testimony to the truth of God.

15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” 16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying: “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned. 18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.” 19 Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail. (Revelation 11:15-19 NKJV)

- Now John comes back to the main time sequence of the book, and the seventh angel blows his trumpet. Immediately there is an announcement in heaven that the kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of God and Christ.
- The time has now come for the dead to be judged and the saints to be rewarded!

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