

Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #19 | Revelation 9:13-11:14 | The Sixth Trumpet, part 1 (9:13-21)

Revelation 9:13-15 | The Four Angels of the Sixth Trumpet

- The sixth trumpet takes up more space than any of the others.
- When this passage is interpreted literally, it literally makes sense. When it is taken allegorically, the allegories run wild.
- The command came **a voice** which came **from the altar which is before God** (v. 13).
 - In Exodus 30:3-6, the altar of the tabernacle is made, also with four horns, but standing in front of the **vail that is by the ark of the testimony**.
 - In the heavenly throne room (of which the tabernacle is a type), there is no vail nor ark, for there is no reason to separate and there is no reason to *represent* the presence of God, for the real presence of God is there.
- The command: **loose the four angels**. We know two things about these angels:
 - They were **bound in the great river Euphrates**.
 - How are they *bound in a river*? We are not told. The Greek implies that they are bound *upon* the river.
 - Is this the river Euphrates that we know today? If it is not, then we would have no clue what river it is. The plain sense makes common sense.
 - Note that the Euphrates is associated by location with Babel / Babylon, and also spiritually associated with judgement. Could it be that that *physical location* was chosen as the building ground for Babel because of its proximity to *the abyss*?
 - Because *horsemen* are associated with these angels (v. 16), Jeremiah 46:4-10 are especially interesting.
 - Note that these angels are *currently bound*. We cannot identify them, we are not visited by them, we cannot be harmed by them.
 - They were **prepared** for a specific time **to slay the third part of men**.
 - From this, we can assume they are not *good angels* but rather *demonic*.
 - They appear to be four specific angels among those that were **bound** and released for the fifth trumpet.

- Jude 6 gives important insight of angels bound **unto the judgement of the last day**.

- There is no conceivable reason to make these four angels to be anything other than the text presents them to be. They are not four plagues, four storms, four crimes, four countries, etc. They are four angels.
- The destructive work of these angels takes place in a single (and very specific) **hour**. This is not an extended period of time.

Revelation 9:16-21 | The Horsemen of the Four Angels

- There is a *huge* army of horsemen, presumably controlled by the four angels. The number is so large that tremendous speculation has been given about their identity. Once again, it is best simply to know that the identity is exactly as told in the passage.
- The number is **two hundred thousand thousand**, or 200,000,000.
 - It is a specific number, as specific as the 144,000.
 - John **heard the number of them**.
- The description of verse 17 tells us one thing for sure: *these are not human*. God has described these creatures, let us be content with His description!
- Though one-third of humanity dies within the hour, **the rest of the men which were not killed** (v. 20) still refused to repent.
 - The present is a day of *grace* in which we *receive* the gift of sure salvation.
 - The future is a day of *law* in which they will *repent* for the *hope of salvation*.

The Coming Day is Foreshadowed Today

- This future *post-Christian* day is beginning to be clearly seen in our *Christian* era.
- All manner of spiritual idolatry is present around us.
 - It is seen in the worship of and devotion to crystals, utopian philosophies, spiritism, etc.
 - It is seen in the almost total rejection of Biblical Christianity and of Judeo-Christian history.
- If what we see today is a foreshadow of what is to come, we can see that today's societal "ills" are nothing short of *spiritual warfare*.
- How can we combat worldviews that will refuse to change even in the face of utter and unprecedented disaster? We can only be ambassadors for Christ, and increasingly place no confidence in our world systems.