



The Trumpets Unveiled: Part 3

Revelation 9:13-21

ANNOUNCE

Book of the month No Reason to Hide

Mozingo

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 9:13-21 NKJV] 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.

INTRO

As we come near the end of the seven trumpet judgments, we find that the nature of the judgments is becoming more demonic and more destructive upon the remaining population of the earth.

- With the 5th trumpet came an increase of demonic torment, but for 5 months, death itself will elude mankind. Though many will seek death in the hopes of escaping the torment of a demonic army, they will not have the ability to die.
- With the unleashing of the 6th trumpet, death not only returns, but the net demonic army wipes out 1/3 of the remaining population, which will equate to somewhere between 1-2 billion people.
- There are many possible interpretations for the following plagues that come from 4 demonic angels and a massive army. We can't be certain whether or not this army is comprised of demons, or actual human armies led by evil angelic beings.

Let's look at this passage and break it down:

- 1. The Announcement**
 - 2. The Angels**
 - 3. The Army**
 - 4. The Aftermath**
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1 The Announcement

BIBLE PASSAGE

3 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God

CONTEXT

The voice that commands the judgment comes from the golden altar in heaven.

- It's not an unreasonable assessment that this golden altar is the same altar found in Revelation 8 when the coals and incense of the altar were cast down to the earth to set apart God's chosen before the trumpets began to blow.
- This would be the altar of incense as illustrated in the tabernacle. Upon this altar, a sweet-smelling aroma would be offered before God's presence. Once a year, the blood of the atoning sacrifice would be offered upon the altar of incense.]
- This altar in heaven represents that place where the prayers and worship of god's saint rise before His presence. I believe it's also the altar where the blood of Jesus was offered as incense before God.
 - **[Heb 9:12 NKJV] 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.**
 - Ephesians 5 says that Jesus offered himself as, "A sweet smelling aroma to God."

Four horns

- It's the place, according to Psalm 118, where the sacrifice of Christ would be bound.
- It's the place where traitors like Adonijah and Joab once ran to try and find mercy from their condemnation.

NOTE: We should observe this contrast: The same place that represents mercy, grace, and forgiveness for sinners in Christ also issues forth judgment upon those who reject the truth. This is the altar where God's justice was absorbed into Jesus' sacrifice, bringing grace and salvation to all who believe. It also appears that the same Jesus who sacrificed Himself will one day command justice to be poured out against those who reject His offer!

[Heb 12:25-26 NKJV] 25 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, 26 whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven."

- I believe that this voice John hears is probably (not certainly) the voice of Jesus because ultimately, justice and judgment come from Jesus, as being the one who has all authority and has been granted judgment by the Father.

2 The Angels

BIBLE PASSAGE

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.

A. THEIR PLACEMENT

Euphrates [image] – Frequently referred to in the Bible as “The great river.” It was the bedrock water supply of the great civilizations of Babylon, Assyria, and Persia in ancient times. Today, it is still the most important river in the Middle East, along with the Tigris that flows east of it. It flows over 1700 miles through three countries: Turkey, Syria, and Iraq, and is a source of contention within those nations to this day as the construction of hydroelectric dams and water redirecting has caused many portions of the river to dry up completely.

- In Revelation 16, we learn that before the great battle of Armageddon, the Euphrates completely dries up to make a pathway for a coalition of invading armies.
- The fall of the ancient Babylonian empire was in part due to the Persian ability to divert water from the Euphrates, creating a strategic pathway into Babylon. Current scientific estimations state that the river could be nothing more than a dry basin as early as 2040... but more on that in chapter 16. Personally, I don't believe that these are the same armies but two different events that have their center at the Euphrates River.

Apparently, at the Euphrates, there is also a spiritual prison of sorts. We find that there are four powerful angelic beings that are being held there.

- While some believe that they are good angels, the language indicates that they are fallen demonic beings. The fact that they must be "released" indicates that they are imprisoned.
- Some have suggested that these are the four demonic superpowers that once influenced certain world empires such as Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome.
- According to Daniel, there are ranks of Angelic beings that influence regions, nations, and cultures. In Daniel 10, we see Michael the archangel battling with the "Princes of Persia and Greece."

This might not be relevant to the study, but worth mentioning there are undoubtedly powerful spiritual forces influencing and battling over America.

B. THEIR PURPOSE

So today, four powerful, destructive angelic beings are imprisoned somewhere along the Euphrates River, and they are being held for a specific day, time, and purpose.

- They were "prepared" for the very hour, day, month, and year. Do you think God is intentional and precise? This ought to wake us up that God has a timeline that won't be thwarted or changed. This is a real point in the future timeline of mankind, and no one knows what that hour, day, month, and year is except God.
- ***Prepared - drawn from the oriental custom of sending on before kings on their journeys persons to level the roads and make them passable.***
- We can almost see that these judgments prepare the way for the coming King.

Not only are these angels terrifying to consider, but their purpose is a gruesome task... wiping out 1/3 of the remaining tribulation population.

- Between the 1/4 of the population wiped out by the 4th horseman and the 1/3 wiped out by this coming army, after this point in time, nearly half of the world population will have been destroyed, probably within a span of 3 1/2 years. You could imagine the stench of the earth simply dealing with the massive amounts of rotting corpses throughout the earth.
- It's difficult for us to imagine such a reality is possible, but it aligns perfectly with the prophetic words of Daniel and Jesus.

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Dan 12:1 NKJV] 1 "At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands [watch] over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book.

[Mat 24:21-22 NKJV] 21 "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Upon the release of these powerful beings, a massive army (or armies) is summoned under their influence and control.

3 The Army

BIBLE PASSAGE

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.

THEIR NUMBERS

The NASB gets this translation right. The word translated army in Greek is plural in this verse. It should be translated as armies.

- The idea is that each horseman has an army that totals in number at 200,000,000 riders.
- Is this a literal number? We have good reason to believe it is. In fact, John, unable to count, verifies that number by clarifying that "I heard the number of them." In other words, the number is important and specific enough that someone in heaven declares it.

This number of armed forces is beyond human comprehension. To put it into perspective, the combined number of every army involved in WW2 was approximately 75,000,000. This future army that will wipe out about 2 billion people numbers more than double that amount.

THEIR NATURE

So the debate begins here... is this another demonic army, or is it a human army of combined nations? I tend to lean toward the demonic army because the human army shows up in Revelation 16. They are drawn by demonic spirits sent out from Satan, the antichrist, and the false prophet. This will result in a great battle in the Valley of Armageddon.

- I tend to see these as an extension of the 5th trumpet, where a demonic army was sent forth to torment, and this demonic army is sent forth to kill.

However, it is not completely irrelevant to acknowledge that there are nations, and certainly a combined group of nations, capable of raising such an army.

- China boasts of having 200,000,000 men of military capability.
- Some speculate that this is the army of the antichrist, possibly a combined army of a future revised Roman empire in Europe.
- There are currently 27 nations part of the EU. Combined, their armies would comprise the largest military force in the world.

The horses:

- **Heads - lion; out of their mouth came fire, smoke, and brimstone. Tails - have heads like snakes that do harm.** This could potentially be an image of modern weaponry. Perhaps tanks, aircraft, or missiles???

- The colors of the army's armor are Fiery Red, Hyacinth (blue), and sulfur (gold-ish yellow). These colors could represent the three plagues of fire, smoke, and sulfur, or they could represent national colors.
 - It's hard because the original Greek doesn't give us specific colors. The Greek word translated as red is not the actual color. It just means "shining like fire."
 - Hyacinth is by itself, and blue is added, although the hyacinth plant comes in various colors (blue being the most common).
 - Sulfur is certainly a yellowish color.
- A human army is not completely out of the picture.

But given the descriptions of the army, I tend to think this is another demonic invasion. Whether they are humans and their weapons empowered by demons or demons themselves, the sight and the effect are too horrifying to imagine.

4 The Aftermath

BIBLE PASSAGE

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.

APPLICATION

Here we get a glimpse into the state of worship and mankind in the tribulation period.

This will be a time of intensified demonic worship and idolatry.

- They worship demons and create idols out of natural materials. To the Western mind, it's a little more difficult to comprehend. But most of the Eastern world still creates these idols and has experiences with the spiritual forces behind them.
- Idol worship and seeking spiritual experience will intensify in the world when everyone actually sees the manifestation of demons. The very worship of the demons that are destroying the people will intensify.

On top of that, Notice that there is now unrestrained evil crimes:

- **Murders, thefts** - crimes against others
- **Sorceries and sexual immoralities**
 - Sorceries (Pharmacia - mixing of spirituality and drug use. Drugs provide open gateways to demonic forces.)
 - Sexual immorality (porneia - sexual pursuits outside of the marriage relationship between a man and a woman)

QUOTE

“ In spite of the clear evidence of God’s power to judge the world, no evidence was given John that there would be any change of heart on the part of the great mass of humanity. Though the sixth judgment produced fear, it did not produce repentance.

John Walvoord, The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures (Vol. 2, pp. 953–954)

APPLICATION

At the end of the day, God's wrath during this time is not a result of some sadistic pleasure that God has when he tortures people. The core of this judgment is the sin and rebellion of mankind. But unredeemed mankind will rarely see themselves as the source but always as the victim.

- Instead of seeing God's invitation to repent and find eternal hope, people harden their hearts even further, much like Pharaoh did when he chased the children of Israel, even after experiencing the devastating plagues.

- We often make the mistake of thinking that people generally don't believe in God because they can't see him or don't have enough evidence. But the reality is most of them don't want to submit to God because then he becomes the preeminent authority, not them.

I saw a video that painfully illustrated this point. Listen to the audio of what this girl says:

Play audio clip.