

A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

November 22, 2020

Revelation 9

God Used External Forces

- 8th Century BC – Used Assyria against Israel and Judah (Isaiah 10:6-ff)
- 7th Century BC – Used Chaldeans to destroy Assyria (Jeremiah 1:6-11)
- Used Medes and Persians to conquer Babylon (Isaiah 44:27 – 45:7; Jeremiah 51:11, 28)

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:17

“And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates (as) of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceedeth fire and smoke and brimstone.”

Revelation 9

Description of Riders/Horses

- In the vision, horses and riders are presented as one:
 - Riders as having breastplates (*armor*) with fiery red, hyacinth blue (*smoky*), and sulfur yellow
 - Horses heads were like the heads of lions
 - Out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone
 - Striking because it aligns them with their horses out of whose mouths proceeded fire, smoke, and brimstone
 - In the OT, brimstone was a sign of God's wrath!

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:18

“By these three plagues was the third part of men killed, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone, which proceeded out of their mouths.”

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:19

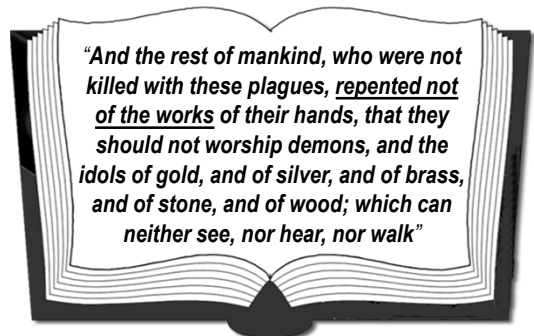
“For the power of the horses is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails are like unto serpents, and have heads; and with them they hurt.”

Revelation 9

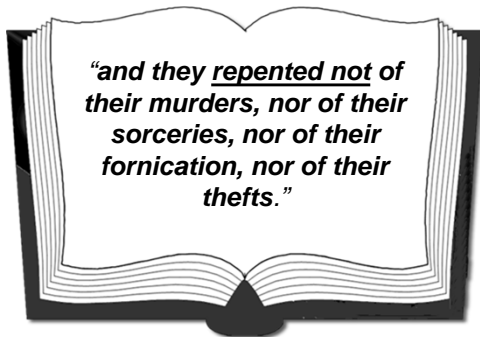
Three Plagues

- Plagues were **symbols** of divine visitation in judgment.
- **One third** of mankind is killed by **fire, smoke, and brimstone**.
- This is a great **destruction** but not a total one.
- Power in their tails suggests the ability to **march and inflict terrible hurt**.
- **Picture** – a culture collapsing on itself

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:20

Revelation 9

Revelation 9:21

Revelation 9

Would Not Repent!

- Sad words indeed!
- The rest of mankind, not killed, were not brought to **repentance**. cf. 2 Corinthians 12:20-21; Luke 13:3,5
- God sends judgment in hopes of **turning people away** from their sins – but they **refused** His mercy.
- First woe – **internal decay** – had blinded them to the first **four trumpets** of **natural calamity**; no changes were made!

Revelation 9

Would Not Repent!

- **War** and **destruction** are used here to **warn** the unrighteous to cease sinning.
- They cast off judgment and fate and fail to repent.
- They continue to engage in the worship of "**idols**" and to serve them.
- **Second woe** – **external enemies** – should have softened their hearts; yet, they became hardened by the deceitfulness of sin!

Revelation 9

Would Not Repent!

- This empire's principal sin was **idolatry**.
- God's **mercy** is seen in the midst of this frightening scene.
- They were worshipping the **emperor** instead of the true God.
- **Immorality** and idolatry go hand in hand.
- Rome has **gone too far** to be saved now.
- Sin has compounded upon sin.
- All that's left – **unleash the final woe** against the evil kingdom and the beast!

Revelation 9

What Is The Point?

The Downfall of Rome

1. 1st - 4th Trumpets – *Natural Calamity*
2. 5th Trumpet – *Internal Rottenness*
3. 6th Trumpet – *External Invasion*

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Revelation 9

“The whole picture presents the Parthian cavalry from the land of the Euphrates. This group was Rome’s most dreaded enemy and a constant threat to her eastern boundary ... This whole picture is given to symbolize external invasion which would serve as an instrument in God’s hand to punish the oppressors of his people.”

– Ray Summers, *Worthy Is The Lamb*, Page 159

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