

43. The Book of Revelation—9:20-21

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(6-2-21)

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In our study in the Book of Revelation we currently find ourselves in Chapter 9 looking at the fifth and sixth trumpet judgments.

These two judgments unleash upon the inhabitants of the earth 2 demonic armies that bring with them such horrific judgments that these judgments are singled out and called “**woe**” judgments (Revelation 8:13).

Revelation 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.

At this point in the 70th week of Daniel we have passed the midpoint and now have moved into the second half of the Tribulation Period known as the 'Great Tribulation'.

As we said last time, it is unimaginable that after years of suffering and death under the terrifying judgments from God, coupled with the powerful preaching of the gospel by the 144,000 Jewish evangelists (7:1-8), the two witnesses (11:1-14), an angel in the sky (14:6-7), and other believers (Matt. 24:14)—the remaining unbelievers upon the earth—still refuse to repent!

Why is that? Well, no doubt because they have so hardened their hearts to accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior that they have committed 'blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.'

But also, and probably more to the point—as we started to look at last week before we ran out of time—they have a new god whom they have committed their lives to and are worshipping with such zeal that it motivates them to kill anyone who will not worship him also.

The Bible tells us that a world leader will arise and unite the world in a one world government—we call this leader the *Antichrist*.

The Bible also tells us that he will have a cohort called the *False Prophet* who will unite the world in a one world religion.

Together they will deceive the whole world with the exception of those who will come to Christ during the Tribulation Period.

Paul the apostle said that the *"mystery of iniquity"* is already at work—in other words, that Satan is already preparing the world to receive this false messiah and to embrace his false gospel which the Bible calls—the Lie.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-11 (NKJV)

⁹The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie...

This lie that the Antichrist and False Prophet will preach to the world is in the context of verses 3-4 of 2 Thessalonians 2—

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NKJV)

³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

I believe the Antichrist's religion will not only be rooted in the belief that *he* is God—but that mankind can also become a super-race of god-beings that will live forever.

We all know that the desire for man to become God goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden and the lie Satan told Eve.

The main way the Antichrist will be able to deceive people into following him is by showing them his supernatural powers and telling them that—just as he ascended to 'godhood' so can they if they follow and worship him (the same lie Lucifer told Eve in the Garden of Eden).

This has been the goal of Hinduism, Mormonism, the New Age Movement and many others—those who believe that we are really gods (or together one god collectively) and all we need to ascend to godhood is to be "enlightened."

When enough people are enlightened to their own divinity (the Antichrist's 'gospel')—at one point the human race will reach a 'critical mass' of collective consciousness and will take a 'quantum leap' in the evolutionary process into godhood—and with it, the glorious new age for mankind.

So, the very lie that caused the human race to fall in the beginning, I believe, is going to be the ultimate deception that Satan is going to use against the human race in the end.

Revelation 9:21 (NKJV)

²¹ And they **did not repent** of their **murders** or their **sorceries** or their **sexual immorality** or their **thefts**.

See all of this in the context of the Antichrist's new world order (Explain)

"Murders"—Jesus said of this time, *"Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."* (Matthew 24:12)

We are already seeing the beginnings of this rampant lawlessness in our society right now (Antifa and BLM riots).

One author said this—

“In addition to idolatry, violent crimes like murders will be rampant. Bereft of any sense of morality, evil, unrepentant people will imitate the demon horde’s murderous blood lust. Believers in the true God will no doubt be their prime targets, as they lash out seeking revenge for the disasters God has brought on them.”

“Sorceries”—comes from the Greek word *Pharmakōn*—the word from which the English words “*pharmacy*” and “*pharmaceuticals*” derive.

The Greek word is referring to ‘*hallucinogenic drugs*’—which were often used in pagan worship to induce an altered state of consciousness (peyote and LSD etc.)

These kinds of drugs were and still are believed to induce a higher religious state of communion with deities and spirit guides. If you are old enough to remember the 1960’s you remember how young people were getting high on LSD and taking ‘psychedelic trips.’

During those trips some of them began having encounters with spiritual entities that identified themselves as ‘spirit-guides’ (“ascended masters”) that would help guide them to a ‘new reality’ (a glorious new age—the Age of Aquarius).

The problem was, acid trips were not always a positive experience—in fact bad trips led many young people to kill themselves (accidentally and deliberately).

But then something incredible happened—hippies back in the ‘60’s began to realize that they could get in contact with the same ‘spirit guides’ (demons) through Transcendental Meditation that they had been in contact with through the use of LSD—but without all the negative consequences (i.e., ‘bad trips’).

So many made the transition into eastern meditation and religion (think of the Beatles).

So L.S.D. was the ‘kindergarten’—Transcendental Meditation became the ‘graduate school.’

➔ Talk about Rabi R. Maharaj and his book “Death of a Guru”.

Pharmakōn can also refer to poisons, amulets, charms, séances, witchcraft, incantations, magic spells, contacting mediums—or any object that is tied to pagan idolatry to elicit lust or to seduce.

People will dive deeper and deeper into the satanic trappings of false religion and demon worship during this period of time.

“Sexual Immorality”

Another sin the militant unbelievers will refuse to turn away from during this time is *immorality*.

The word “**immorality**” comes from the Greek word *porneia* which is the word our English word *pornography* comes from. *Porneia* is a general term describing sexual sin of every variety, including—fornication, adultery, incest, rape, bestiality and homosexuality.

This tells us that the world will be given over to indescribable and insatiable sexual perversions that will be running rampant in that day.

“Thefts”

Finally, people will refuse to repent of *thefts*.

This doesn't just refer to holding people up at gun point and stealing their property—it could also apply to the “redistribution of wealth” under the guise of Marxism or Communism.

Or even under the guise of Climate Change or any other socioeconomic system of wealth redistribution (as it will be under the Antichrist's totalitarian regime).

➔ Talk about the coming “Great Reset”

Like morality—honesty will be nonexistent at that time, as people compete for the increasingly scarce supplies of food, clothing, water, shelter, and medicines.

One writer—

“Under the influence of the massive demon forces the world will descend into a morass of false religion, murder, sexual perversion, and crime unparalleled in human history.”

Again, don't forget the reason for this unbridled evil throughout the world is because the Church has been removed via the rapture.

2 Thessalonians 2:6-8 (NKJV)

⁶And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. ⁷For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

The words “*restraining*” (verse 6) and “*restrains*” (verse 7) both come from the same Greek word meaning “to hold in check”. This means that the Antichrist (“the lawless one”) will be the epitome and personification of lawlessness—who cannot be revealed as long as the Holy Spirit is at work in the world at the present time.

Now don't misunderstand—when we talk about the *Restrainer* (the Holy Spirit) being removed from the earth before the Antichrist can be revealed—we are not saying that the Holy Spirit will be totally gone from the earth otherwise no one could be saved and we know millions and even hundreds of millions will be saved during the Tribulation Period.

What is in view is the Holy Spirit working through the Church in the world—Jesus said that His Church is the “light of the world” and the “salt of the earth”.

Once the Holy Spirit in the Church is removed from the earth at the Rapture there will be nothing restraining evil which will spread quickly and cause worldwide spiritual and moral decay to take place that will invite the judgment of God upon the world for its wickedness and rebellion.

Revelation 9:20 (NKJV)

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.**

1 John 5:21 (NKJV)

²¹ Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

“This is ridiculous! Modern, enlightened people don’t worship idols or practice idolatry anymore!”

By this time the Antichrist has already caused the sacrifices and oblations to the true God in the newly rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem to cease, and he has put his own image in the Holy of Holies and has demanded to be worshiped as God.

We are talking about worldwide idolatry and demonic worship.

This is why God now ramps up the judgments unleashed upon the people of the world as the world has now entered the second half of the 70th week of Daniel with the “woe” judgments!

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Want to know more? Click [here](#).
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