

DEMON INVASIONS

Revelation 9:1-21

If you were to walk into the teaching room on Baranganon Island you would see two miniature boats suspended from the rafters.

One boat is painted black and is sailing towards the Lake of Fire.

The other boat, painted white, is sailing to the New Earth.

We are in one or the other of these boats. We are sailing either to the Lake of Fire or to the New Earth. These boats speak not only of destination, but alignment. Those in the black boat are aligned with Satan and the demonic world. Those in the white with Jesus.

To the secular, naturalistic mind, Satan and demons are the stuff of fantasy. The Bible clearly reveals that Satan is a created angel who rebelled against God, deceived a third of the angelic host to worship him and is the avowed enemy of God, of righteous angels and humanity. Regarding Satan the secular man scoffs and dismisses as religious fanatics those who believe in his existence.

But a day is coming when all such scoffing will cease. In the fifth and sixth Trumpet Judgment the stuff of nightmares will be reality.

Let's review where we've been and where we are in our study of end-time events.

CHRONOLOGY OF ESCHATOLOGY¹

We are living in *The Dispensation of Grace*; specifically *The Church Age*. At any time Jesus could come to fetch His bride, the Church and take her to heaven through the *Rapture* event (Jn. 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:13-5:11). When Antichrist signs a 7 year covenant with Israel, the 7 year *Tribulation* will commence (Dan. 9:27). The *Tribulation* will end when Jesus comes again to the earth to deliver Israel and defeat Antichrist (Rev. 19:11-21). Jesus' triumph will usher in the 1000 year *Messianic Kingdom* (Rev. 20:1-6). With its conclusion the *Great White Throne Judgment* will take place during the *Aftermath* resulting in the consignment of Satan, demons and unrighteous humanity to the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:11-15). Then *The Eternal Order* will commence resulting in the new heaven, new earth and new Jerusalem (Rev. 21).

When the seven-year covenant is signed between Antichrist and Israel the Tribulation will begin. The 144,000 Messianic Jewish Evangelists will be sealed and sent on a worldwide evangelistic campaign resulting in the salvation of many tribulation saints. The Seven Seal Judgments will be executed during the first 21 months of the Tribulation.

The Seventh Seal Judgment actually contains the next two series of judgments: the Trumpet and Bowl Judgments. When the Seventh Seal is broken there is silence in heaven for about half an hour. Seven angels are given seven trumpets (8:2) that, when sounded, will bring down each of the seven Trumpet Judgments. The offering of the prayers of the saints (8:3-4) followed by the Trumpet Judgments indicates these judgments are the divine answer to the martyrs' cry for vindication (6:9-10).

The Trumpet Judgments will be executed in the second quarter of the Tribulation (second 21 month period). The first four result in the destruction of 1/3 of the earth's dry land, 1/3 of the earth's salt water, 1/3 of the earth's fresh water and a 1/3 reduction of the light received from the sun, moon and stars.

Trumpet Judgments 5, 6 & 7 will eclipse the severity of these first four Trumpet Judgments so much so that they are also called *Woe Judgments* (8:13). Picking up where chapter 8 leaves off, chapter 9 reveals that with the sounding of the fifth trumpet a demonic invasion will be unleashed.

¹ Fruchtenbaum, Arnold G. *The Footsteps of the Messiah : a Study of the Sequence of Prophetic Events*. Rev. ed. Tustin, CA: Ariel Ministries, 2003, page 2.

(9:1-12) FIFTH TRUMPET JUDGMENT (1ST WOE JUDGMENT): FIRST DEMONIC INVASION**Revelation 9:1 (ESV)**

¹ *And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit.*

The word *star* is here being used figuratively to refer to a fallen angel. Verse 11 reveals his name and rank: he is king over the demons who will be released.

Revelation 9:11 (ESV)

¹¹ *They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.*

What is the *bottomless pit*? The Greek term is actually the *Abyss*. The *Abyss* is that section in *Sheol / Hades* which is a temporary place of confinement for fallen angels. *Tartarus* is that section in *Sheol / Hades* which is a permanent place of confinement for fallen angels involved in sexual immorality resulting in Noah's flood (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6-7). Satan will be consigned to the *Abyss* for a thousand years (Rev. 20:1-3). "Legion" begged Jesus not to send him to the *Abyss* when he was cast out of the man from Gerasene (Luke 8:30-31).

When the fifth trumpet sounds, Apollyon will be given the key to the *Abyss* and will release a demon horde to torment humanity.

Revelation 9:2-6 (ESV)

² *He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft.* ³ *Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth.* ⁴ *They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.* ⁵ *They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone.* ⁶ *And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.*

From the *Abyss* will come a great number of demons to carry out the fifth Trumpet Judgment. They will be prevented from destroying any vegetation and they will not hurt those who have the seal of God on their foreheads – the 144,000 sealed Jewish Evangelists (7:1-8). Some scholars believe this includes all believers on the earth at that time. These demons will be directed to torment those who are not sealed, but they will not be allowed to kill anyone. Generally, God does not reveal the duration of the Tribulation judgments, but in this case He reveals that this judgment will be five months, or 150 days. For five months these demons will torment unbelievers with scorpion-like stings. Those tormented will not be able to kill themselves; because of the tremendous torment they will attempt suicide, but all suicide attempts will fail. Men will be forced to endure the torment in all its fury.

The description in verses 7-10 proves these are not literal locusts.

Revelation 9:7-11 (ESV)

⁷ *In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces,* ⁸ *their hair like women's hair, and their teeth like lions' teeth;* ⁹ *they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle.* ¹⁰ *They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails.* ¹¹ *They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.*

Artists have attempted to depict these demons but with little success. The point is, they will be terrible to behold and difficult to elude. For five months the unsaved citizens of the Tribulation will be forced to endure this demonic assault.

But when it's over it's not over...

Revelation 9:12 (ESV)

¹² *The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still to come.*

With the sounding of the 6th Trumpet another demonic invasion is unleashed.

(9:13-21) SIXTH TRUMPET JUDGEMENT (2ND WOE JUDGMENT): SECOND DEMONIC INVASION**Revelation 9:13-15 (ESV)**

¹³ Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar 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, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

Whatever relief mankind experiences with the cessation of the fifth Trumpet Judgment, it is short-lived. With the sounding of the sixth Trumpet, a second demonic invasion is unleashed. The four angels who will be released are demons who, up to that point in time, will have been bound and unable to lead their massive demon army until the appointed time of the sixth Trumpet Judgment. Whereas the first demonic invasion was not permitted to take human life this second demonic invasion will be commissioned to kill one-third of the earth's population. One-fourth of the earth's population was killed in the sixth Seal Judgment (6:8). One-third will be killed in this, the sixth Trumpet Judgment. By the middle of the seven-year Tribulation the population of the world will be reduced by one-half; fifty percent of the world's population will perish in the first three and a half years of the Tribulation. This scale of death will not have been seen since the days of Noah's Flood (Genesis 7:21-23).

The means of this slaughter is revealed in verses 16-19.

Revelation 9:16-19 (ESV)

¹⁶ The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number. ¹⁷ And this is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them: they wore breastplates the color of fire and of sapphire and of sulfur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths. ¹⁸ By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths. ¹⁹ For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like serpents with heads, and by means of them they wound.

The number of demons involved in this second invasion is given as *twice ten thousand times ten thousand* which equals two hundred million. I grew up being taught that this was an army from China because China boasted at one time that it could field an army of two hundred million. The sixth Trumpet Judgment has nothing to do with China. This is an army of demons commanded by four demons. They are associated with the Euphrates River which is not located in China, but in ancient Babylonia (modern day Iraq), a place often connected with demonism in the Scriptures.

By means of fire, smoke and sulfur they will kill one-third of the unbelieving population during the second quarter of the Tribulation.

Instead of repenting, those surviving will continue in their rebellious lifestyles and false religions.

Revelation 9:20-21 (ESV)

²⁰ The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, ²¹ nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Despite the clear judgments of God and that their tormentors are demons, earthdwellers of the Tribulation will continue to reject God and live in league with Satan and the demonic realm. They will be very religious following false teachings inspired by demons. They will be given over to materialism. They will continue in moral decadence. Notice that verse 21 says "murders" (plural). Murder will be rampant. No one will think anything of killing another human being. The 'law of the jungle' will prevail. The second sin mentioned is *sorceries* (plural). This is from the Greek word *farmakon*, (*pharmakon*) which refers to "a drug, incantation, enchantment." Our word *pharmacy* comes from this word group. This suggests that drugs will be a big part of the Tribulation. In the Tribulation practically everyone will be on drugs and men will kill and steal to get them. The third sin mentioned is *sexual immorality*. Sexual immorality will be rampant. The fourth sin mentioned is *thefts* (plural). This emphasizes complete moral breakdown where men will lie, steal, cheat, and defraud at every turn.

When the bonds of society are torn and all mutual respect for each other's rights, even in the most sacred relationships, are completely gone, what follows? Men will hold nothing sacred anymore. Not life, not

marriage or the family or sex, not one's health, nor the property and rights of others. Man will be given over completely to sensual indulgence and he will do anything to satisfy his cravings. It demonstrates the total ruin of all meaning to life. "Every man for himself" will be the ethic of that day. It will be a terrible time to be living on the earth.

THESE DEMON INVASIONS FORESHADOWED IN JOEL 2:1-11

Many of the symbols in Revelation appear in the Old Testament. An invasion of locust had devastated the land in the days of Joel the prophet (1:1-14). Under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Joel warned God was preparing to bring an even more devastating army down upon the Israelites (2:1-11): the Assyrian Army (the northener of 2:20). The locust invasion and potential invasion of the Assyrian Army in Joel's day foreshadowed the ultimate invasion of demons in Revelation 9.

Joel 2:1-11 (ESV)

¹ *Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,* ² *a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations.* ³ *Fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them, but behind them a desolate wilderness, and nothing escapes them.* ⁴ *Their appearance is like the appearance of horses, and like war horses they run.* ⁵ *As with the rumbling of chariots, they leap on the tops of the mountains, like the crackling of a flame of fire devouring the stubble, like a powerful army drawn up for battle.* ⁶ *Before them peoples are in anguish; all faces grow pale.* ⁷ *Like warriors they charge; like soldiers they scale the wall. They march each on his way; they do not swerve from their paths.* ⁸ *They do not jostle one another; each marches in his path; they burst through the weapons and are not halted.* ⁹ *They leap upon the city, they run upon the walls, they climb up into the houses, they enter through the windows like a thief.* ¹⁰ *The earth quakes before them; the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining.* ¹¹ *The LORD utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful. For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it?*

REFLECTION

When I considered the fact that these demons exist right now and, if able, would be tormenting and killing us it caused me to thank the Lord for His protection. These demons are not now active because God has bound them. They are under His sovereign authority. They will accomplish His purposes in His time.

If you are in the black boat you risk entering the Tribulation and suffering at the hands (tails) of these demons. Even if you don't enter the Tribulation you will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire with Satan and these demons.

Get out of the black boat! Get into the white boat of the *Manig Libre*, the One Who Liberates!

You can't switch boats on your own. Only through Jesus can you switch boats. You must be righteous in God's sight to ride in the white boat. You and I are not righteous; we are condemned sinners. We must be given Jesus' righteousness. This is what happens when we put our faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. When Jesus died, He paid our sin debt in full. When He rose from the dead he overcame death signaling God accepted His payment for our sin. When we place our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus for salvation, our sins are forgiven and His righteousness is imputed (credited) to us. Only Jesus can rescue us from the black boat.

Do you want to be saved from Satan and the demons?

Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ today!