

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
September 14, 2022
The Second Woe

Revelation 9:12-21 KJVS

[12] One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter. [13] And 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 which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. [15] And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. [16] And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. [17] And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. [18] By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. [19] For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. [20] And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: [21] Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

(9:12) The Three Woes correspond to the 3 final Trumpets of God's Wrath. 3 being the number of God and His Trinity. See 8:13, 11:14. Also Matthew 28:19, Isaiah 48:16, John 15:26.

(13) Compare Exodus 27:2 to 26:34. What does this reveal? Consider 1 Kings 1:50-51, 2:28, Amos 3:13-15. What is being illustrated about the alter's horns?

(14) The Euphrates marks the boundaries between Israel and her enemies, Assyria and Babylon. The river symbolically borders Demonic Horsemen who are geographically bound to punish unbelieving Israel. The Euphrates also runs directly past the site where men built the Tower of Babel to worship Demons and stars. It is speculative but could there be a connection between this monumental sin and the binding of these demonic angels? The host city, Babylon ushered in the first collective of mankind to rebel against their Creator. Genesis 11:4-9. That original Babylonian culture is even now maturing into a main focus of God's Wrath. See Revelation 17:1-6. Babylon in its final manifestation will represent global government, finance and cultural revolution. Discuss how that is currently being administered. 4 is the number of the physical earth. Demonic forces are bound by physical entities and by geography. Angelic forces protect such places. See Daniel 10:12-13.

(15) Is it possible these Demons were trapped in place from ages past just to be released for this time and purpose? What does this say about God's timing in your life? Confer Esther 4:13-14. Is God operating according to a precise preset timetable?

(16) Confer Daniel 7:8-11 concerning antichrist and Ezekiel 38:1-5 concerning the armies of Armageddon. Does a massive human army pose a threat to the Lord?

(17) What can this verse symbolize? Confer 1 Chronicles 12:8. Speaking of God's anger at Jerusalem and Judah, read Isaiah 5:26-30. What does this imagery represent?

(18) At the time of this study the earth's population stands just short of 8 billion people. See Revelation 6:8. Killing $\frac{1}{4}$ of the people of earth equals 2 billion, leaving 6 billion. Verse 9:18 claims $\frac{1}{3}$ of the survivors or another 2 billion. 4 billion remain. At this point $\frac{1}{2}$ of the earth's population has been killed. Sobering numbers.

(19) Assyria (modern day Iraq) as mentioned earlier is an ancient enemy of Israel. Confer Isaiah 9:12-15. How does that aid in clarifying this verse? Remember serpents represent Demons and multiple heads represent kingdoms. Who currently rules the nation's of this world? John 12:31-32, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4.

(20-21) Devil worship. Idolotry. Murders. Sorcery. Fornication. Thefts. Confer Exodus 20:1-17. How do these passages relate? What modern ways has mankind found to sin even more effectively than ever? Consider also; Leviticus 17:7, Deuteronomy 32:17, Psalm 106:37, 1 Corinthians 10:20. Idolotry speaks of image worship. How does that relate to modern times? Discuss sorceries; (pharmakeia; medication, "pharmacy", magic, witchcraft, the use or the administering of drugs, poisoning, sorcery, magical arts, often found in connection with idolatry and fostered by it) Discuss fornication; (with apologies to the readers for the sensitive nature of this word) por-ni'-ah Strong's Definition; harlotry including adultery and incest. Thayer's Definition; illicit sexual intercourse, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, intercourse with animals etc. sexual intercourse with close relatives; Lev. 18, sexual intercourse with a divorced man or woman; Mk. 10:11,12. On the word, thefts, discuss what mankind steals from one another and from God. Consider dignity, honor, worship. Revelation 9:20-21 do not speak of the evil of these sins. Rather they lament the fact that man is unrepentant. Repentance and faith in Christ are all that are necessary to completely undo the horror and punishment for these sins. Acts 2:38, 3:19.