

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 4/11-12/2022 *Revelation Chapter 9*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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OPENING PRAYER

Revelation Chapter 9 – Fifth Trumpet: Demonic Invasion from the Bottomless Pit God is in control! The Locusts from the Bottomless Pit – (1-12); Sixth Trumpet: Deadly Attack – One Third of Mankind Killed! The Angels from the Euphrates – (13-19); Rest of Mankind Did Not Repent! (20-21).

Demonic Invasion:

Rev 9:1 Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star (Satan?) fallen (past tense -having fallen) from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit (abyss -abusso). (Rev 1:18) I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. (Jud 1:6) And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; (2Pe 2:4) For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell (tartarus) and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; (Isa 14:12) "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer,

son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! (**Luk 10:18**) And He said to them, **"I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. (Eze 28:15)** You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, **Till iniquity was found in you.**

- **Key to the bottomless pit, or the abyss, the shaft to the abyss.** Now for the dead, there are different places to which they are consigned. Before Jesus Christ, everyone was consigned to the grave. Thus, the Hebrew word, **Sheol**, which means grave, but it is also translated as hell. In the New Testament, the Greek, **Hades is the equivalent** of the Hebrew, **Sheol. It is the same place.** The grave, which according to Jesus in Luke chapter sixteen, was divided into two compartments. One was a place where people were tormented. The other was a place of comfort, encouragement.
- **In the sixteenth chapter of Luke, Jesus tells of a certain rich man** who fared sumptuously every day. Daily, a poor beggar was brought to his gate by his friend, and he survived on the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. The poor man died and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom. Moreover, the rich man also died and in Hades, hell, he lifted up his eyes being in torment, and he saw Abraham afar off and Lazarus being comforted. He cried, saying, Father Abraham, send Lazarus to me that he may dip his finger in water and touch the tip of my tongue. I am tormented in this heat. Abraham said, Son, remember that you, in your lifetime had the good things, whereas Lazarus, the evil. Now he is comforted while you are tormented. Besides this, there is this gulf that is fixed between us. It is impossible to cross over this gulf from one side to the other!
- **So, Jesus gives the description of Hades prior to His death.** In the prophecies concerning the Messiah, Isaiah 61, as a part of the ministry of the Messiah, He was **to open the prison doors** to those that were bound, and He was **to set the captives free**. Prior to the death of Jesus Christ, there was only a covering of sin, there was not a putting away of sin. It was impossible that the blood of bulls or goats could actually put away a person's sin. All they could do was **to cover** their sin. **It took the blood of Jesus Christ to put away** our sin. So, prior to the death of Jesus upon the cross, all men who died went into this place called Hades, which was divided into the two compartments.
- **When the Pharisees asked Jesus for a sign, He said, (Mat 12:39-40)** *But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. [40] For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*
- **In the second chapter of Acts when the Holy Spirit descended upon the church** and a multitude gathered because of the phenomena that accompanied the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Peter stood up in the midst of them. He began to preach unto them; first of all, answering the question, What does this mean? Telling them that this meant that God had fulfilled His promise to pour out His Spirit upon all flesh. But then he began to preach to the people concerning Jesus. Several important points.
- **Number one, the identification, (Act 2:22-24)** *"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—[23] Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; [24] whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.*
- **Then in confirming this statement, It was impossible that death could hold Him,** we find that Peter now quotes from (**Psa 16:10**) *For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.* So, Peter testified, God did not leave His soul in hell (hades) but (**Act 2:32**) **This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.**
- **Paul the apostle in his letter to the Ephesians, said, (Eph 4:8-9)** *Therefore He says: "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE, AND GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." [9] (Now this, "HE ASCENDED"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?* The prophecy of Isaiah fulfilled, **setting the captives free**. When He ascended, He led the captives from their captivity as He ascended into heaven. So that now for the child of God, because the way has been made through Jesus Christ, (2Co 5:8) **We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.**
- **Paul the apostle writing to the Corinthians said, (2Co 12:2-4)** *I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. [3] And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— [4] how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.* No words can describe the glory,

the ecstasy of the experience I had!

- **Jesus opened the door to heaven for the saints of God.** Now, as Paul said, I find myself with mixed emotions. (*Php 1:23-24*) *For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. [24] Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.* I am pulled by both sides. I have mixed emotions.
- **That one portion of Hades has been emptied, where Abraham was comforting those** as they waited for the promise of the Messiah to be fulfilled. There is a second place called the *abusso* or the pit. It is the shaft that leads into the abyss, which is often called the bottomless pit.
- **In the case of the demoniac at Gadara,** when Jesus landed with His disciples and they got out of the little ship, this demon possessed man came running in a threatening manner. The demons began to cry out, Jesus, You, Son of David, we implore You, do not torment us before our time. Jesus said unto them, What is your name? They responded, Legion, because we are many. Then they began to beg Jesus that He would not send them to the *abusso*, the shaft. It would seem that this *abusso* or shaft is the incarceration of evil spirits, demonic spirits, separate from the Hades where men are incarcerated. They beg Jesus not to send them to the *abusso* before their time. So, He gave them permission. They entered into that herd of swine that ran down into the sea of Galilee and were drowned (*Mark 5:1-13*).
- **The *abusso* is mentioned in a few other places in the scriptures.** We have it here in the Book of Revelation as this angel is given the key to this *abusso* or place of incarceration for evil spirits. When the antiChrist comes on the scene in Revelation chapter seventeen, we are told that he comes out of the *abusso*. It will be discussed more completely when we get to the seventeenth chapter. When Jesus returns to the earth to establish the kingdom of God, He comes with all of His saints, Satan is taken and is chained and cast into the *abusso* for a thousand years. At the end of that thousand-year period, he is released for a short season and is then cast into Gehenna where the beast and the false prophet are.
- **One day death and hell (hades) will give up the dead,** which are in them, to stand before the great white throne judgment of God, Revelation chapter 20. We will discuss that more when we get there. Those, whose names are not found written in the Lamb's book of life, **will be cast into Gehenna.** The next place that we have in the New Testament, also many times just translated hell, is Gehenna. Unless we have a concordance, it is hard to know whether or not the hell that is being made reference to in the scripture is Hades or Gehenna.
- **Gehenna is different from Hades.** Jesus describes it as the place of outer darkness where there is weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. It is the final place of incarceration for evil spirits. The first inhabitants of Gehenna will be the beast and the false prophet. When Jesus returns to the earth to establish God's kingdom, He destroys the beast and the false prophet with the word that goes forth out of His mouth and they are cast into Gehenna. A thousand years later after Satan's short rebellion at the end of the millennial reign of Christ, it says, (*Rev 20:10*) *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.* Not where they were consumed, not where they were destroyed, not where they were annihilated, but **where they are!** We read in (*Rev 14:11*) *And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever (De aionias pros de aionias).; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.*
- **The place of the eternal abode of those who have rejected the love of God** that has been offered to them so freely by Jesus Christ. Hopefully we can sort of separate in our mind these different places. When Jesus returns and gathers the nations for judgment and separates them as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, (*Mat 25:34, 41*) *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: [41] 'Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:* It wasn't really prepared for man. It was prepared for Satan because of his rebellion and those that join Satan in his rebellion.
- **Tartarus.** It should be noted and not to be confused, there is one further place. That is Tartarus, which is the place of incarceration. It is only mentioned once and that is in (*2Pe 2:4*) *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned but cast them down to hell (Tartarus) and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.* It is the place of incarceration for those angels, who did not keep their first estate, and are reserved in the chains of Tartarus, awaiting the day of judgment. They could be the four angels of the river Euphrates that we will get in the latter part of the chapter.
- **To him was given the key to the bottomless pit (abyss -abusso).** So "when the fifth angel sounds, I

saw a star, which I believe to be Satan, one of the angels, fall from heaven: and to him was given the key to the bottomless pit.” Now back in chapter one as Jesus describes Himself, (**Rev 1:18**) *I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.* He opened the prison doors to those that were bound. He has the key. He is in control!

- **But now we find Him giving the key to this fallen star**, who comes with that key to open up the abusso or the bottomless pit.

Rev 9:2 *And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.*

(**Gen 19:28**) *Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace. (Joe 2:2) A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations.*

- **Somewhere on the earth there is a locked shaft**, possibly spiritual in nature, which leads into the abyss. When the angel opens it, the smoke arises out of the abyss that covers the earth, causes the sun to be darkened.

Rev 9:3 *Then out of the smoke, locusts (demonic creatures?) came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.*

- **Out of the smoke, locusts (demonic creatures?) came upon the earth.** John tries to describe them as best he can. In appearance, the closest thing is like the appearance of a desert locust. They are not the common, desert locusts, but are of a very unusual character. They eat no green vegetation productions. They have a king, whereas we read in (**Pro 30:27**) *The locusts have no king, Yet they all advance in ranks.*
- **They were given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.** We notice that **they were given power. God is in control.** Their power was limited in scope, to torment and not kill, and that was time limited to a period of *five months*.
- **The scorpions were given power to give a mean sting.** In fact, the scorpions that are over in the Middle East they say that the sting of those scorpions is one of the most excruciating pains a person can experience! But the sting of a scorpion is rarely fatal. It just hurts, really badly!

Rev 9:4 *They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.*

- **And they were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth.** Apparently, they are intelligent beings. Of course, the grass, the trees, is the usual food for the locusts. They are the things that they attack. They can totally make a whole area barren. They devour all of the green trees, the leaves and the grasses and so forth. But here “*they are not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing or any tree.*”
- **Back in the earlier trumpet judgments, (Rev 8:7) The first angel sounded:** *And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.* But these locusts or demonic creatures are not to follow the usual habit of the locusts.
- **But only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.** Here now, God begins to make a separation. In (**Rev 7:4**) *And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed.* They were not to be hurt by the four winds that were being held back by these angels. Now again we see the distinction here where these demonic creatures are not given power over the hundred and forty-four thousand to torment them with the stings. They are those which have the seal of God in their foreheads.

Rev 9:5 *And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.*

- **This horde of demonic creatures, they have power to inflict great painful stings** upon a man. Because they are spirit beings, you cannot really hide in a basement or close yourself in the inner closet and escape the torment. It is going to be five months of hell on earth as these demonic creatures are inflicting their painful torment upon men! **Is this not the heart of our loving God, to be asking the lost, is this what you want to experience, a pain that goes on and on, throughout all eternity?**

Rev 9:6 *In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire (longing) to die,*

and death will flee from them.

- **Death will take a holiday for five months.** Death is not the worst thing. Sometimes living is worse than death! When the body can no longer fulfill the purposes for which God designed and created it, the body can become a prison of pain. You may have seen people in states of coma where they are only kept alive by artificial means, resuscitations and so forth. That is not really living. You say, Is he still alive? Yes, he is still alive. But he is not living. That is not living when you are not conscious of what is going on, but you just lie there, and death does not strike. It does not release your spirit.
- **Can you imagine though when for five months,** it will be impossible to die? People will want to die because of the torment of these demonic creatures. They will be desiring to die. It might be that a person would take a gun and put it on his forehead and blow his brains out, but he still will not die. But he would have to go around in that condition. It is going to be horrible. As I told you before and over and over again, **you do not want to be here when this happens!**

Rev 9:7 The shape of the locusts was like horses (grasshoppers, like horses, leapers) ***prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.***

- **John describes them as best he can!** He is, unable to give a specific, literal description, but uses the simile, “like” twelve times in this chapter, using “like” three times in this verse alone.

Rev 9:8 They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

Rev 9:9 And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle.

- **Continuing to use similes, he describes these demon creatures, which were like horses running into battle!** Or horses that ***had breastplates like breastplates of iron , and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots.***
- **You have never seen anything like this before.** John has never seen anything like this before. When you go to Asia, many of these pagan countries, when you look at the carvings on their temples, you see similar looking carvings and creatures. Possibly the best explanation is these are creatures have been observed in visions by those who were worshipping Satan. These are visions of demonic beings.

Rev 9:10 They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.

- **During World War II, there were gun turrets in the tail of the B-24 and B-17 bombers.** A number of years ago, there were some Revelation sermons given where the teacher was likening these demonic beings to the B-17 and the B-24. The sting was in their tail. Of course, it did not follow all the way through because these stings do not kill and that is exactly, of course, what the tail guns were designed to do in the seventeens and the twenty-fours. These are not anything that man will create. They are not some types of weaponry that will be created by man in the future. These are demonic beings released out of the abussos for five months to torment the people upon the earth.

Rev 9:11 And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

- **And they had as king over them.** It is interesting there is a proverb that says, (*Pro 30:27*) *The locusts have no king, Yet they all advance in ranks.* This takes them out of the earthly category of locusts.
- **Which is the angel of the bottomless pit,** the one that set them free, *whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, which means destruction, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon, meaning destroyer.*
- **What an appropriate name for Satan, the destroyer.** Just look at the lives, all around us that he has destroyed! People who have given themselves over to Satan and to the powers of darkness. How he has ruined and destroyed their lives!

Rev 9:12 One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

- **Can we see another reminder from God, of His grace and His mercy?** As bad as things are, there are two more woes coming! This should cause us to take inventory! This should cause us again, to want to reach out to our lost loved ones, telling them the truth, because these things are ahead! In a difficult way, these things which are coming, should cause us to see that our God is still a gracious God, even under these horrible circumstances. He is not obliterating the lost. He says to these demonic creatures, do not kill them! How many will turn to Christ during this time? We do not know! But we do know that He wants none to be lost, but all to come to repentance!

Rev 9:13 DEADLY ATTACK - One Third of Mankind Killed! - Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

- **The horns are always a symbol of power.** On the altar what was built, they had horns on each corner because it is a model of the heavenly thing. Normally the golden altar is a place of mercy; as God responds to His people's prayers, the altar will resound with a cry for vengeance.

Rev 9:14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

- **Now another group of fallen angels, demonic powers, is to be released** upon the earth. Some suggest that these are the fallen angels that Peter referred to, (2Pe 2:4) *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned but cast them down to hell (Tartarus) and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;* of the great day of the Lord. That these angels are so fierce, so ferocious or fierce, that God for the sake of mankind has kept them chained. They are being held back until the day of God's judgment when God will release them and turn them loose upon the earth. That is a real possibility.
- **But there are the four angels that are bound at the great river, Euphrates.** Babylon was the place of the rebellion against God. The Garden of Eden was somewhere there in the Babylonian plain. It was the source of almost every false religious system, the birthplace of the false religious systems.

Rev 9:15 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.

- **The Greek language indicates an occasion, not a duration.** That the four angels will do all of their devastation in just one specific hour of a particular year, of a particular month, of a particular day--one hour to do their devastation. They are waiting for that moment!

Rev 9:16 Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

- **That is two hundred million!** It appears that these four angels are in control of a myriad of demonic beings! We know that just one of God's angels wiped out 185,000 Assyrians in one night! (Isa 37:36) *Then the angel of the LORD went out and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead.*

Rev 9:17 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.

(Gen 19:24) *Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens.*

- **They are not like any horse that we know.** They are creatures or beings of a spirit realm, demonic order.

Rev 9:18 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.

- **In this one trumpet judgment, one third of the earth's population will be killed!** Assuming that when the church is taken out of the earth there are eight billion people on the planet, in the first four seals, one fourth of that population will be destroyed, leaving six billion people. By the time of the sounding of the sixth trumpet, another one third of the remaining people will be killed or about another two billion people, so that the population of the earth will roughly be halved before we are even through with the trumpet judgments. We remember Jesus saying, (Mat 24:21) *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.*

Rev 9:19 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.

- **We see here that he is speaking of the horses, not the riders,** as we are told the *power is in their mouth and their tails!*

Rev 9:20 But the rest of mankind (defiant, unrepentant), 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.

- **Just consider what is being said here!** Even with half of the world's population destroyed and all the spiritual activity going on that *the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent!* **They would not repent!** It was **not, that they could not, but that they would not!** That is truly amazing and alarming!
- **The worship of false gods. And these false gods are the deifying of various emotions.** They are the deifying of various ambitions or controlling influences of a person's life. Every man has a god! Even the man who claims to be an atheist is only claiming not to believe in the God who created the universe, the God who is revealed in the Bible. But he has a god. Quite often with the atheist, it is his own intellect which, in the Old Testament was the worship of Baal.
- **Many people claim to be atheists because they want to give themselves over to their unbridled sexual passions.** They know that God's word speaks against that, so they declare that they do not believe in God because it is their desire to follow after their sexual desires. In the Old Testament, which was known as the worship of Ashtoreth.
- **Our love for pleasure! There are many people who claim they do not believe in God and the reason** why they do not want to believe in God is because the master passion of their life is pleasure. They want to live for self and for the pleasure that they can attain in the various things in life. And they are worshipping the god Molech.
- **In the Bible times, the people were far more honest than we are today.** They acknowledged these false gods. Today people do not recognize or realize that they are worshipping false gods. It is because we no longer make little images that represent them. But just as true as a person consciously worshipped Bacchus, gave himself over to partying and to drinking and all, so there are people today who are worshipping Bacchus! They do not have a little idol that represents it. Thus, they are totally deceived! They would say, I do not have any god. I do not believe in God. But in reality, there is that which is the master passion and controlling passion of their lives and that is your god. People will not give up these things.
- **There is an interesting book on the subject of AIDS, written by Dr. Lorraine Day,** who was the chief surgeon at the hospital in San Francisco for many years. She describes in the book some of the practices of those in the homosexual community and how the AIDS virus is spread by them throughout their community. She spoke about how that these people will engage in dangerous sexual practices that threaten their lives. But their passion for the excitement and all of this type of relationship exceeds, she said, their passion for life itself! Here are people whose passion for these various gods that they have enthroned in their lives exceeds their passion for God!
- **We become like what we worship.** When these demonic spirits bring their destruction and torment to the earth, rather than repenting, rather than falling on their faces and begging God for forgiveness, **they refuse to repent** of their horrible practices, but will actually continue to worship of these devils and the idols of gold and silver and brass! (*Psa 135:18*) *Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.*

Rev 9:21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries (pharmakeia, drug use) or their sexual immorality (porneia, fornication, sexual sin) or their thefts.

- **In Romans, Paul the apostle speaks, (Rom 2:5) But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart** you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God. It is tragic how people are so entrenched in their evil that they refuse to repent, to change, to give it up.
- **We will see the continuation of their hard-hearted refusal to repent as we move on** in Revelation. In the sixteenth chapter, when the fifth vial that is poured out of God's judgment upon the earth and even more of the judgments have come, we read, (*Rev 16:10-11*) *Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. [11] They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores and did not repent of their deeds.* Here their tongues are in severe pain. Rather than using their tongue to beg for mercy, to ask God to forgive them, instead they are using their tongues to blaspheme God because of the pain and the sores! They still refused to repent of their deeds.
- **When a person hardens his heart to God, to the things of God,** when a person is involved in the worship of other gods, he can get to the place where his heart becomes so hardened that there's no place for repentance! He becomes like the Pharisees of whom Jesus said, "*(Joh 12:39a) Therefore*

they could not believe. They get beyond the place of repentance. Like the Pharaoh who hardened his heart over and over again as the plagues were coming upon Egypt. He would, it seemed for a time relent and say, Yes, you can go. But, as soon as the plagues would stop, he had hardened his heart and refuse to let them go. Finally, we read, “**(Exo 9:12)** *But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh; and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had spoken to Moses.*”

- **A different Hebrew word is employed there.** God made firm or stiffened the heart of Pharaoh. He had hardened his heart over and over. There are people who are hardening their hearts over and over again. They do not seem to realize the danger of hardening their hearts to God and the things of God. Because you can harden yourself to the extent that repentance becomes impossible! Thus, rather than repenting, one blasphemes God because of the consequences of their sin.
- **Is not that interesting over and over we see it. People who have lived godless lives,** blasphemous lives. People who have given themselves over to idolatry in many different forms, when some calamity comes into their life, they want to immediately blame God. They get upset with God that God would allow this to happen to me.
- **But it is possible for people to harden their hearts.** That is, indeed, a dangerous thing when the Spirit of God is speaking to your heart and calling you to repentance. To harden your heart against the voice of God is a dangerous thing indeed!
- **God said to Noah, (Gen 6:3) And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."** In that declaration, there is a blessing and there is a curse. It is a blessing that God's Spirit does strive with man. What a glorious thing that God is **(2Pe 3:9b)** *not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*
- **The only way you can perish is by your deliberate, willful rejection of God's offer of salvation!** If those who despised Moses' law were put to death because of the witness of two or three persons, **(Heb 10:29)** *Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?* In a way, you have to tromp over the body of Jesus to get to hell. He stands in the way.
- **God's spirit has been speaking to your heart and calling you to repentance,** calling you to the higher life and to the better life. And yet you harden your heart to that! It is a blessing that God's Spirit does strive but there is also that warning, "God's Spirit will not always strive with man!" There comes a time, there comes a place in a person's life, whereas with Jeremiah, he said, **(Jer 7:16)** *"Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you.*
- **We read in, (Rom 1:26-28)** *For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. [27] Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. [28] And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting.*
- **God gave them up! When God gives up on a man and God gave them up to their vile affections,** to come to that place where God's Spirit will no longer strive, **there is no place for repentance!** That will be the condition of these people here in the sounding of the sixth trumpet with all of this devastation, all of the death around them, they will still refuse to repent of their worship of these other gods, of their fornication, of their murders, of their idolatry, of their theft.
- **The Bible gives many warnings: (2Co 6:2)** *For He says: "IN AN ACCEPTABLE TIME I HAVE HEARD YOU, AND IN THE DAY OF SALVATION I HAVE HELPED YOU." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*
- **(Isa 55:6)** *Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.*
- **The psalmist said, (Psa 95:8-9)** *"Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, [9] When your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work.* When the children of Israel hardened themselves to what God wanted to do and thus had to remain in the wilderness until that whole generation passed away. Warnings for us to receive the grace of God, the love of God and the forgiveness of God while it is available! So, God warns us!

- **The Book of Revelation is a warning to each of you.** You do not have to be here when the trumpet judgment comes. You can be with the church there in heaven with our Lord, around the throne worshipping the King. You do not want to be here. That is for sure.

SUMMARY POINTS:

- **We see the power of the demonic forces very clearly** in these passages! We will soon see in Chapter 13, the empowering by Satan of the anti-christ and the false prophet.
- **We need reminding that the forces of evil all around us!** (*1Pe 5:8-9*) *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. [9] Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.*
- **Use these great examples of God’s coming judgment on a Christ rejecting world, taking personal inventory. Are we watching and ready?**
- **Reach out** to our loved ones and friends, telling them the truth, because these things are ahead! . We realize that there are many who have hardened their hearts. We do not know how close they might be to that final “no” to You--the final rejection of Your Son. Father, help them. Help them, Lord, by the power of Your Holy Spirit be transformed. May they say “yes” to Jesus Christ
- **We need to see,** although in a difficult way, that our God is still a gracious God, even under these horrible circumstances, He is not obliterating them. He does not do that. He says to the demonic creatures, do not kill the people, just torment them for five months!
- **How many will turn to Christ during this time? We do not know.** There are multitudes saved out of the Tribulation period! Many are martyred but there are some who encounter these things and fall to their knees.
- **But we see, by and large, people didn’t repent.** The human race is angry at God. The picture is still filled with God’s grace. God is saying, I will do everything I can possibly do, to turn the hearts of men and women to Myself. I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked!
- **He does not want to see anybody lost!** You have to understand these things that are coming. They are really hard and difficult things. But you need to understand who I am. I have not changed. I am the same yesterday, today and forever! There is governor on that. The key is “given”. They are “commanded”. It is “given” to them to do this. There are limits placed on it.
- **Let us go preach the gospel!** The Lord gives us the vision. He gives us the picture of what is coming,
- **This is Passion Week.** May we soberly and wonderfully experience His crucifixion, His dying on the cross for you and for me. His death and His resurrection. Yes, Resurrection Day is coming!
- **May we close** in singing *The Old Rugged Cross!*

CLOSING SONG:

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS – George Bennard – sung by George Beverly Shea (2:53)

*On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain*

*Refrain: So I will cherish the old, rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown*

*O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. [Refrain]*

CLOSING PRAYER:

For next week, read Chapter 10!

THERE WILL BE NO IN CLASSROOM MEETING NEXT WEEK – BUT WE WILL BE HAVING THE ZOOM MEETING AS USUAL!