

# Pentwater Bible Church

*Revelation Message 22*

*January 28, 2024*



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The Angels Sound the Trumpets by Pat Martinko Smith cir 1992

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Revelation Message Twenty-Two

THE TRIBULATION CONTINUES

January 28, 2024

Daniel E. Woodhead

The Lord is now about to bring the Supernatural in view to the natural as He begins to reveal to the human the demonic world as He uses them to bring judgment upon the world.

Revelation 8:13

*<sup>13</sup>And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe! woe! woe! to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound (KJV)!*

With the first four trumpets having sounded, this verse introduces the final three. Because the three Trumpet Judgments are especially severe for mankind on the earth, they are called Woe Judgments. As bad as the first four judgments were, the latter three will be far more severe. This severity is so pronounced that there is a warning of their approach sounded with a voice in the atmospheric heavens. The eagle is most likely a cherub from Revelation 4:7 chosen to give this warning to the earth. The first two of these Woe Judgments are demonic invasions and the third one contains the Bowl Judgments.

Chapter 9

Revelation 9:1–12

*<sup>1</sup>And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. <sup>2</sup>And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. <sup>3</sup>And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. <sup>4</sup>And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. <sup>6</sup>And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. <sup>7</sup>And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the face of men. <sup>8</sup>And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. <sup>9</sup>And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. <sup>10</sup>And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. <sup>11</sup>And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon <sup>12</sup>One woe is past; and behold, there come two woes more hereafter. (KJV).*

The first of the two Woe judgments here tells of a particularly terrifying invasion of supernatural locusts from the “pits of hell” (the abyss) that heaps torture on the earth-dwellers for five months. These demons turn on the very people who follow them and show their utter contempt and incomparable cruelty by torturing their worshipers. It remains constant that God is in control and directs the entire event. When He finally has exhausted every attempt to bring the nations to obedience to Him, God demonstrates His sovereignty, and justifies His final sentence of doom. This passage begins with a fallen star who is given the key to the Abyss. The word star is symbolic of an angel. We know this to be a fallen angel as in Revelation 8:11. The Abyss is a temporary place of confinement for fallen angels or demons. It is the place where demons feared to be sent when they were cast out by Christ. (Luke 8:31). It is temporary, for the final abode for fallen angels will be the Lake of Fire.

The term “abyss” first appears in Genesis. There God originally associated it with the fathomless depths of the ocean, as in the “surface of the deep” (Genesis 1:20; 7:11; 8:2). In several other places the Bible speaks of “the waters of the great deep” (Psalm 42:7; Isaiah 51:10). The “abyss” became an idiom for the place of the dead (“the depths of the earth,” Psalm 63:9; 71:20); and possibly because the dead were unclean, it came to be used for the “pit” or “prison house” (I Enoch 18.14) in which fallen angels were imprisoned (I Enoch 10.4–6; 18.9–16; Jubilees 5:3–11). In the New Testament it occurs twice outside Revelation: for the place of the dead in Romans 10:7 and for the prison for evil spirits in Luke 8:31. The imagery is also found in II Peter 2:4 and Jude 6, where angels are “*kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains.*” In Revelation the “abyss” is a closed prison, and when it is opened, the smoke of its fires emerges (Revelation 9:2), and the “beast” will emerge from it at the time appointed by God (Revelation 11:7; 17:8). In the abyss Satan will be imprisoned for a thousand years, and it will again be locked for that time (Revelation 20:1–3). The “shaft” of the abyss refers to the “pit” (the term means a “well”) that goes down to the prison house itself.

Not all demons are confined in the Abyss at the present time. Those that are, are waiting to be released for specific judgments on mankind.

When the fallen angel opens the Abyss, the third blackout occurs and for the third time there a total cessation of light from the sun reaching the earth.

But it is not the blackout that makes the fifth Trumpet Judgment the first Woe Judgment. Out of the Abyss a great number of demons are released for the first of two demonic invasions. These demons are commissioned to carry out the fifth Trumpet Judgment. They are commanded to refrain from destroying any vegetation and told to torment only those who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. So, the Jewish evangelists are safe to continue their work. Those people getting saved will probably be included since they have the sealing of the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, these demons are commanded to kill no one, but only to torment men for five months or 150 days. Generally, John does not reveal the duration of time for each of these Judgments, but in this case the timing is given. There will be a limit as to how much destruction these demons will be allowed to render. Unsaved mankind will be open to torment, but not death.

Not only will the demons be unable to kill, but also the tormented men will not be able to kill themselves either. Because of the tremendous torment inflicted by these demons, men will seek death. They will attempt suicide, but all suicide attempts will fail. Mankind will be forced to endure the torment in all its fury.

The description of these locust-scorpions clearly shows that they are something other than literal scorpions or locusts. Their origin being the Abyss further shows that they are demons. It is not

unusual for demons and other angelic beings to have animal-like features. This was true of the cherubim in chapter four.

The description of the first woe ends with the identity of the fallen angel who opened the Abyss. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek Apollyon. Both words mean destruction.

The five months of torment will eventually come to an end. Although Mankind may see some relief, it will be short lived, as the next verse makes crystal clear.

Revelation 9:13–21

*<sup>13</sup> And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, <sup>14</sup> saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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: <sup>21</sup> neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts (KJV).*

With the sounding of the sixth trumpet the four fallen angels who have been bound at the Euphrates River are released initiating the second woe judgment. These angels are the leaders of the second wave of the demonic invasion. One fallen angel whose name was Apollyon led the first wave of demons. Four fallen angels lead this wave. The first wave's purpose was to torment but not to kill but this one is commissioned to kill 1/3 of the earth's population. The second woe is much greater than the first.

It is important to point out that this is a demonic judgment. It is not an army of humans coming from the east. Commentators had a sensationalistic field day with these 200 million demons trying to make them a Chinese Army. The context does provide for that weak interpretation. There is a "kings from the east" invasion in chapter sixteen but not here. Even then, chapter fourteen explains who those kings are. The two are involved in separate judgments. Here we see the trumpet judgments and the kings of the east are part of the bowl judgments. These are all Fallen Angels or the Demonic.

In summary then:

They are led by four fallen angels

Their location is said to be at the river Euphrates, where Babylon is located and the future headquarters of the Antichrist's one world government as well as its economic capital.

Their description demonstrates that they are demons. The kings of the east are not connected to this at all.

The corresponding Old Testament description of this judgment and these demonic activities is found in Joel 1:15-2:11 Joel describes a trumpet being sounded announcing the approaching army of demons. He describes them as horses with horsemen. He describes them as noisy bringing terror, having speed and discipline in their attack. This is an example of one the major Old Testament prophecies being fulfilled in the Revelation.

## BIBLICAL DEMONOLOGY

Ephesians 6:12

*<sup>12</sup>For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (KJV).*

We have seen that sin was originated in Satan (Ezekiel 28: 15). He is a king with a kingdom (Matthew 12:26) and a portion of that kingdom consists of demons (Matthew 12: 24). Scripture does not give us the exact origin of the demons. The New Testament tells of the angels who defected with Satan and “*kept not their first estate*” and “*are reserved unto judgment of the great day*” (II Peter 2: 4; Jude 1:6). Most competent conservative Bible teachers view the demons as the fallen angels. Some refer to them as disembodied spirits. This fall happened during Satan’s second domain, the Jeweled Garden of Eden. The Bible is vastly superior in its exposition of demonology compared to the superstitious exaggeration in the general population.

Demons do exist, because the Bible says they do. In the Old Testament they were the power behind the idols prohibited by God for the Israelites to worship. In Hebrew, the demons are called Shedhim (Deuteronomy 32: 17; Psalm 106: 36-37) as well as Seirim (Leviticus 17:7; II Chronicles 11: 15; Isaiah 13:21; 34: 14).

The New Testament scripture has much to say about the demons:

- They exist (James 2: 19; Revelation 9:20).
- They know who Jesus is (Luke 4: 41).
- They cannot disobey Jesus’ commands (Matthew 12:29).
- They are organized under Satan (Matthew 12:26; Ephesians 6:12).
- They know their rulers (Luke 8:31; Revelation 9:11).
- They are characterized as foul, unclean spirits (Luke 4:33; 6:18; Revelation 18:2).
- They are deceitful and perform miracles through unsaved human beings (I Timothy 4:1; Revelation 16:14).
- They can possess unsaved humans (Mark 1:32).
- They are cast out of humans by Jesus and his disciples (Matthew 15:22, 28; Luke 9:1, 42; 10:17).
- They can be rebuked (Mark 5:8).
- They know their final doom (Matthew 25:41).
- They are served by the unsaved (I Corinthians 10:20).
- They cannot be served by those that are in Christ (I Corinthians 10:21).

The demons have keen and supernatural knowledge. It is not as powerful as God’s holy knowledge or our saving knowledge. They are confirmed in evil, never seek forgiveness and never plead for purity. They know that Jesus is the Lord of the spirit-world but don’t have a trust in Him or submit to Him. They worship Christ but not in adoration or joy in Holy Communion. They bend to His will in resentment and hate. They, like Satan, have limited knowledge and ceaselessly attempt to thwart God’s plans and purposes. They are depraved and completely morally corrupt.

These evil beings have a desire to corrupt and are frequently called unclean in the Bible (Matthew 10:1; Mark 1: 27; 3: 11; Luke 4: 36; Acts 8:7; Revelation 16: 13).

Where are the demons today? It is an impetuous conclusion to say that there are no demons active today; much has been written about demonic possession. Many cases of demonic activity up to and including possession (I Peter 5:8) have been validated. Satan walks about like a lion seeking whom he may devour, Peter tells us to be sober and vigilant. Paul tells us that Satan is like an “*angel of light*” (II Corinthians 11: 14). These two revealed characteristics of Satan are important for us to consider and both of these apostles want us to “be aware”. Satan and his demons will masquerade as an angel of light to deceive us into sin so he can devour us. Satan and his demons are adeptly deceptive throughout the various ages of human history from the beginning of the Church.

In the primitive societies the Devil can move about openly as a roaring lion. Missionaries within these societies report much open demonic activity and possession. Only unbelievers can be possessed. In nominally Christian polite society, Satan has to deceive people to turn away from God in order to achieve his goals. The general population of regions of the world have standards of living that are based on Biblical standards. This drives the demons into using tools of deception. Some of the deceptions are:

- Rejecting supernaturalism altogether.
- Rejecting the authority of God’s Word.
- Giving rise to rational thought instead of revealed truth.
- Causing people to be unaware of the origin of their thoughts.
- Causing people to think that no disease has a direct demonic cause.
- Causing people to think that some sins are really “not so bad”.
- Corrupting doctrinal integrity of the Scriptures so some parts of Scripture are thought of as more important than others.
- Causing the belief that magic is harmless (not sleight of hand).
- Causing a belief that paganism is harmless in its three root forms; magic, divination (seeking fortune tellers) and necromancy (seeking communication with the dead).
- Corrupting the Hebrew Mazzeroth (God’s message in the star constellations of Christ and the Gospel) with astrology.
- Causing myth to come into Christianity replacing truth.
- Causing a belief that all religions are equal, whatever the doctrine.
- Causing schisms in Christian fellowship over doctrine.
- Bringing deception in world governments controlled by wicked ruler and dictators to renounce Christianity and provide a channel for the demons to have a great effect on large numbers of people.

By far the greatest field of activity for Satan and his demons is the Church because Satan can influence believers. The body of believers is charged with bringing converts into saving grace knowledge of Christ and His work. The Church is to teach the truth of the Bible. The powers of darkness are increasing in our day and age and dupe the world against the truth of the Bible and historic Christianity. Satan is dedicated to turning people from God. When men do believe the gospel, Satan exerts every effort to turn them away from God’s will (Matthew 13:19). He knows that once they are saved, they are beyond his power to destroy so he seeks to corrupt (Numbers 25: 1-3; 31: 16; James 4: 4; Revelation 2: 14). Therefore, he determines to do them as much damage as he can, seeking to ruin their Christian life and testimony for God.

Satan is unrelenting and pitiless in his hatred for God and the people of God. What makes the devil a fearful foe is the fact of his great power. This is augmented by the assistance of a vast number of fallen angels or demons. Consequently, satanic forces constitute a mighty, evil spiritual reality to be seriously reckoned with by the entire fallen race, both redeemed and unredeemed. We must be aware of the demonic activity and what we are charged with to defeat it.

In its spiritual war, the Church must be knowledgeable about the stratagems of our enemy. In physical wars, military strategists are keenly aware of the necessity of knowing the enemy. Accordingly, they employ intricate networks of intelligence and counterintelligence. Missions involving espionage are frequently as crucial to winning a war as actual battles. Without intelligence of the enemy's strength and position, victory in any military encounter would be doubtful. Yet believers mostly display an obvious disinterest in what the Bible reveals about Satan and demons. The only sound approach is to know the enemy. Only as his wiles are revealed will the believer be able to anticipate and outmaneuver him. Satan's chief tactics are to hide his identity and his attacks. The Christian must recognize him and anticipate his moves.

Only as the believer knows the powers of darkness will he be able to win against them in his superior position and strength in Christ. The rampant demon activity of these last days (I Timothy 4:1) means we must "Know our enemy!"

1 Timothy 4: 1

*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils (KJV);*

Although we do not always know this enemy, one thing is sure. Satan *always* knows us! He is thoroughly acquainted with all of God's children and is quite aware of those who fall for his strategies. He also knows those who recognize and count on their position in Christ and who find and fulfill God's will for their lives. These saints are what the devil fears most, for they constitute the deadliest threat to his plans and ambitions. It is to us that he attacks in the subtlest manner. He brings us into temptation for the activities, which we know we should not be engaged. We fail to realize or admit his involvement and think that our activities are harmless or out of the purview of anyone else including God.

NEXT WEEK: REVELATION MSG. XXIII (The Christian Walk as Warfare)

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