

Pentwater Bible Church

Revelation Message 24

February 11, 2024



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Daniel E. Woodhead – Pastor Teacher

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Revelation Message Twenty-Four

THE LOCUST & LITTLE SCROLL

February 11, 2024

Daniel E. Woodhead

Revelation 9:1–12

¹And 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. ²And 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. ³And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴And 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. ⁵And 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. ⁶And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. ⁷And 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. ⁸And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. ⁹And 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. ¹⁰And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. ¹¹And 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 ¹²One 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, He demonstrates His sovereignty, and justifies His final judgment of deserved 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.

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.

Revelation 9:13–21

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 (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:

1. They are led by four fallen angels
2. 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.
3. Their description demonstrates that they are demons.
4. The kings of the east are not connected to this at all.

In the Tabernacle and Temple, the priest was continually touching the four horns of the altar of the burnt offering with his fingers that were dipped in the sacrificial blood. It was also his job to keep a perpetual fire going and to burn the fat of the sacrifice on the altar! These were symbolic of the divine requirement that sin must be judged by fire and redeemed by blood. In other words, if mankind will not allow the blood of Christ to "atone" for their sins, then they must stand in the fiery judgment of God. We see that these four angels are bound, or restrained indicating that they have wanted to carry out this destruction long before now.

These are "fallen" angels (the good one need not be bound) The river Euphrates was one of the tributaries flowing from the Garden of Eden. It was there that Satan began his work on our first parents. It was there that the first murder was committed. It was by the river Euphrates that the ancient pagan city of Babylon was built. And under Nimrod, the greatest display of astrology, pantheism, polytheism, idolatry, spiritism, and man-made philosophy began to flourish. Satan and his host communicated to Nimrod the occultic secrets of the universe in order to bring about yet another great rebellion against God which corrupted the Mazzeroth. This was evidenced by the carved images at the apex of the Babylonian temple shrine, representing the stars and constellations. Virtually every star and constellation was associated with pagan gods and goddesses taking the form of these demonic hosts in the corruption of the Mazzeroth. The Hebrew Mazzeroth was originally showing messages from God in the constellations through their decans stars.

Genesis 6:2-4

²That the sons of God saw ³And Jehovah said, My Spirit shall not strive with man for ever, for that he also is flesh: yet shall his days be a hundred and twenty years the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all that they chose. ⁴The Nephilim were in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of God came unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them: the same were the mighty men that were of old, the men of renown. (ASV, 1901)

These scriptures say that fallen angels (demons) came to earth and cohabited with women and produced giants called Nephilim. Is it known some of these demons could possess human bodies and did so with animals (like they did with the pigs in the gospels) resulting in the dragons, and centaurs, and Pegasus', and a host of other creatures.

The Scripture show that there is a connection between these fallen angels and the Edenic river Euphrates. Both were where Satan caused corruption and his demons caused the elevation of Nimrod and the promulgation of the occult.

The last plague lasted only 5 months and men were not allowed to die. This one will be for just over 13 months (a year, a month, and a day), and many will die.

Totaling all the time up from the seal judgments and the 5th and 6th trumpets, it adds up to 3 1/2 years, which brings us to the middle of the Tribulation.

The number of these demons is almost equal to the entire population of the United States. They are horses, yet with the heads of lions, and tails like serpents, (with heads even on their tails) Out of their mouths come fire, smoke, and brimstone, or (sulfur)!

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. There are eight parts to the description. It begins with the head and progresses back to the tail of these creatures. Overall, they are like horses prepared for battle that means they are ready to make war on humanity (Joel 2:4). On their heads are what appeared to be crowns like gold. Their faces were like the faces of men, their hair like the hair of women, their teeth like those of lions. They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like chariots or horses going to battle.

There are close parallels between the descriptions of the demonic locust swarm (9:7–10) and of the demonic cavalry (9:17–19). Both are clearly demonic and engaged upon torment and destruction, with the infliction of suffering emanating from their tails. In their appearance, both horse and rider have breastplates. The breastplates, are fiery red in color, and a dusky blue color as of sulphurous smoke and a sulphur like yellow. It is not clearly apparent that the breastplates had these three colors intertwined, or whether some were red, some blue, and some yellow. These colors correspond to the fire, smoke, and sulfur of 9:17b–18 and describe the terrifying nature of this demonic cavalry. Their whole purpose is fire and destruction.

The teeth of the locusts are like lions' teeth, and the heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions. Verse 9:19 shows their power is in their mouths as well as their tails, and it is the mouth of the lion that allows it to tear apart its prey. The majestic and terrible view of a lion is a natural image for this incredible army, since it was a most vicious beast known to the ancient people of the Mesopotamia. The head here seems to combine their teeth (9:8), their roar (10:3), and their mouth (13:2) to produce terror, which is emphasized.

From their mouths comes fire and smoke and sulfur (aka brimstone). These correspond to the three earlier mentioned colors in these verses showing that these demonic monsters are truly from the pits of hell. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by burning sulfur that was rained down by God, and the result was dense smoke ..like smoke from a furnace" (Genesis 19:28). Fire, burning sulfur, and smoke became a sign of divine judgment (Psalm 11:6; Isaiah 30:33; Ezekiel 38:22), as did Sodom and Gomorrah (Luke 17:29; Jude 7). In book of Revelation burning sulfur always refers to the eternal fires of judgment (14:10), especially the fiery lake of burning sulfur (19:20; 20:10; 21:8), and "smoke" also signifies the judgment of God (14:11; 18:9, 18; 19:3). Here this judgment is sent from God via the demonic hordes that have become His instrument of judgment. In one sense this summarizes the other trumpet judgments, for the first three trumpets involved fire (8:7, 8, 10) while the fifth involves smoke (9:2). Some see these judgmental means as imitating Christ. The demonic hordes copy the method of judgment used by Christ. This is another of the dominant themes of the book, the imitation of the work of God and the Lamb by the dragon, the beast, and their demonic hordes.

Revelation 10:1

¹ And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow [was] upon his head, and his face [was] as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire (KJV):

It is important to determine the identity of this "angel" is that is coming down from heaven. There are seventy-six references to angels within the book of Revelation. This is one very special angel. We have some very strong clues.

1. He comes down from heaven
2. He is clothed with a cloud
3. He has a rainbow upon His head and face
4. His face has the appearance of a likeness of the sun
5. His feet are similar to pillars of fire.

This angel is most likely the Lord Jesus. Since He is coming from heaven; heaven must be where is now. These five characteristics are present in other portions of Scripture where we are afforded glimpses of His deity and pre-incarnate appearances as the "Angel of Jehovah."

The following eight verses demonstrate some of the many appearances in the Old Testament.

1. Genesis 16:7-14. The Angel of the LORD appears to a woman named Hagar. The Angel speaks as God in the first-person, and in verse 13 Hagar identifies the visitor as God.
2. Genesis 22:11-15. The Angel of the LORD appears to Abraham and, again, refers to God in the first-person.
3. Genesis 31:11-13. The Angel of God speaks to Jacob in a dream and tells him "I am the God of Bethel".
4. Exodus 3:2-4. The Angel of the LORD appears to Moses in a flame in verse two, and God speaks to Moses from the flame in verse four.
5. Numbers 22:22-38. The Angel of the LORD meets the prophet Balaam on the road. In verse 38, Balaam identifies the Angel who spoke to him as God.
6. Judges 2:1-3. The Angel of the LORD appears to Israel and identifies Himself as God.
7. Judges 6:11-23. The Angel of the LORD appears to Gideon. In verse 14 the Angel refers to Himself as God; in verse 21 the Angel allows Gideon to sacrifice to Him as to God, and in verse 22 Gideon fears for his life because he was in the presence of God.
8. Judges 13:3-22. The Angel of the LORD appears to Manoah and his wife, and, in verse 22, is identified as God.

The Lord descended on Mount Sinai in a thick cloud. He appeared on the Mercy Seat in the Holy of Holies in a cloud. He went before Israel in the wilderness in a pillar of cloud. When God reproached Israel for their murmurings The Glory of The Lord appeared in a cloud. The Lord said to Moses. Lo I come unto thee in a thick cloud. The psalmists gives it a the characteristic of the Almighty, that clouds and darkness are round about Him and that he maketh the clouds His chariot and that about him are thick clouds. (Psalm 97:2; 104:3) When He cometh with clouds (Job 36:32; Revelation 1:7). Clouds are how the Bible describes the attire of Deity. We also know that Jesus was lifted up at His ascension with clouds and so shall he in like manner appear. (Acts 1:9,11)

No mere angel is ever described as such in Scripture. He has the rainbow on His head. We saw the rainbow in the fourth chapter as around the throne of God. John saw the risen Lord Jesus and told us of His appearance in chapter one of the Revelation. Here we see similar characteristics of His face as it were the sun and His feet as it were pillars of fire.

This is indeed the Lord Jesus and here He is making His third appearance in the Revelation. (Revelation 7:2 holding back judgments for a special work of grace; 8:5, messenger of the covenant, pouring forth fire of judgment and here in 10:1 claiming the real estate)

Revelation 10:2

²And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and [his] left [foot] on the earth (KJV),

In Scripture when one sets his foot on a piece of real estate is an expression meaning that he is about to take possession of that place. Jehovah said to Israel “*every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours.*” (Deuteronomy 11:24) Therefore, when this mighty angel sets His right foot on the sea, and the left one on the land, He thereby claims possession of it and asserts His purpose to take it as His own. This is His purpose to take back the world, establish His occupancy and rule over it. No mere angel has this authority and power to take possession of the earth. It is only Jesus our Messiah who has paid the price and is our Goel, kinsman redeemer, prophet, priest and king who is authorized to do this. He has a scroll in His hands, which has been

given to Him with the seven seals now open and He takes the posture of a conqueror. He is claiming the whole world (Deuteronomy 11:24; Joshua 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 10:26, 28; Col 1: 16).

All things must be put under His feet. (Psalm 8:6; Hebrews 2:8) All the dwellers on the earth are only tenants. The owner is now come to the earth to begin His earthly eviction claiming that it is His! This image we have here is one of invincible power and steadfastness joined with consuming destruction to those who venture to withstand. He plants His feet, the pillars of fire, to show that He will consume all opposition.

The temporary suspension of the judgments from Heaven begins after the sixth Trumpet Judgment with the story of the Little Book. John saw a strong angel carrying a little book or scroll (vv. 1–2). This is the second time a scroll is mentioned in Revelation. The first was the Seven-Sealed Scroll or book that contained the Seven Seal and the Seven Trumpet Judgments which described the events of the first half of the Tribulation. Now, the scroll again comes into the picture.

The strong angel cried a great shout, after which the Seven Thunders uttered something that John is forbidden to reveal (vv. 3–4).

Up to this point, six of the seven trumpets have sounded, so there is yet one more remaining. The results of the seventh trumpet are now announced by the strong angel (vv. 5–7). In the days of the seventh angel, the judgments of God will be completed. Just as the seventh Seal Judgment contained the Seven Trumpet Judgments, the seventh Trumpet Judgment will contain the seven Bowl Judgments, which will finish the judgments of God declared by the prophets. All the prophecies dealing with the Tribulation's second half will then be fulfilled. That the seventh trumpet will not be an all-at-once judgment but a process that is evident from the statement, *in the days of the voice of the seventh angel is the mystery of God finished*. The plural number shows that a time period is involved. The Bowl Judgments all come toward the end of the Tribulation and with them *the mystery of God is finished*. The seventh trumpet that contains the seven Bowl Judgments is the third woe. For this reason, it is the worst of all. The Little Book contains all the information regarding the seventh trumpet with the Bowl Judgments, found in Revelation 15–16.

All Attention is now focused on the Little Book in verses 8–10. John was commanded to eat the book. In his mouth the taste is sweet as honey, but it became bitter in the belly. The clue to the meaning of this symbolic act is found in verse 11, which states what the content of the book is:

Revelation 10:11

¹¹And they say unto me, You must prophesy again over many peoples and nations and tongues and kings (KJV).

The content of the Little Book is prophecy, especially the prophecy of the middle and the second half of the Tribulation. This gives the clue to the meaning of verses 8–10. To almost all people, prophecy is sweet. Prophetic conferences draw larger audiences than virtually any other kind of conference. The voluminous sale of the more sensational prophecy books is another evidence of how “sweet” Bible prophecy has become to so many people. But if “sweetness” is all there is, then it is worth little. Every believer reading these prophecies should have the second experience that John had: bitterness in the stomach. A knowledge of things to come should give every believer a burden for people. For the way of escape from these things is the Rapture, and the requirement to qualify for the Rapture is acceptance of Messiah now. An understanding of prophecy should create the strong burden to preach the gospel to others in whatever opportunities the Lord has provided for you and thereby give them a way of escape.

Revelation 10:3

³And cried with a loud voice, as [when] a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices (KJV).

The Lord's loud voice is similar to the roar of a lion. He is after all the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:9). Scripture tells us of the Lord roaring out of Zion shaking the heavens and the earth (Joel 3:16) and the King is having a time of wrath roaring like a lion. (Proverbs 19:12; Hosea 10:11; Amos 3:8) Seven thunders noise with understandable voices. This is the voice of God speaking as thunder just as He did so the people would know who Jesus was. (John 12:28-19)

Revelation 10:4

⁴And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not (KJV).

John as he starts to write receives a command from heaven not to write and to seal up or hide the voices of thunder he heard. This is the only sealed message of this book. All else is opened to us. (Daniel 12:9; Revelation 22:10) Psalm 29 describes the Lord's voice as thundering. The world must wait to find out the specific message that God is speaking to John. Much speculation has been offered but there is no serious revelation achieved by any of the speculators. This one verse makes the case for the incompleteness of our canon until God reveals this undisclosed message.

Revelation 10:5–6

⁵And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, ⁶And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer (KJV):

Since God can swear by no other higher than Himself, He swears (attests to the truth) by Himself. He did this when He made His covenant with Abraham (Hebrews 6:13-20), when He declared His Son to be high priest (Hebrews 7:20-22) and when He promised David that the Messiah would come through His family line. (Acts 2:29-30) He will delay no longer. He has been so slow in reaching this point as described by the apostle Peter. (II Peter 3:1-9) "*Thy kingdom come Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*" is about to be more completely realized. The reign will be inaugurated in Revelation 11:17.

Revelation 10:7

⁷But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets (KJV).

This mystery will be finished. The expression "the mystery of God" refers to God's revealed purposes in bringing His kingdom to its full term. The kingdom has been hidden from unbelievers prior to this and it is now about to be revealed. In Matthew 13:11 Jesus mentioned the mysteries of the kingdom. In verse 35 He said, "I will utter things hidden from the foundation of the world."

The apostle Paul made known mysteries previously unknown. (Romans 16:25-26; I Corinthians 2:7; Ephesians 3:4-5, 9; Colossians 1:26) There are eight mysteries in the New Testament.

1. The mystery of the Kingdom
2. The mystery of the Seven Stars and Seven Golden Lampstands
3. The mystery of The Body
4. The mystery of the Indwelling Messiah
5. The Mystery of the Church as the Bride of Messiah
6. The Mystery of the Translation
7. The Mystery of Israel's Hardening
8. The mystery of Seven Climatic Judgments

All mysteries have been revealed in Scripture up to this point (Revelation 10:7) except the mystery of the seven climatic judgments that will destroy the satanic mystery of the man of sin. This only was not revealed to the Old Testament prophets or explained until the book of Revelation.

Revelation 10:8–10

⁸And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go [and] take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.⁹And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take [it], and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.¹⁰And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter (KJV).

John then takes the title deed of the earth and eats the book. It seems sweet in his mouth but once he has fully eaten it was bitter within him. The ways of this world seem so seductive and alluring until we realize the emptiness they actually offer. Two prophets in the Old Testament had the same experience by Jehovah. Jeremiah (Jeremiah 15:16) and Ezekiel (Ezekiel 2:9-3:4).

By realizing the futility of humankind is bitter. What we call achievement and success in our civilization is viewed by God as rebellion and apostasy. Political, economic and ecclesiastical life is emptiness apart from Christ. Our entire hope on this earth is in the Lord Jesus Christ and Him alone. There is no other satisfaction of any kind that truly is not bitter and ends in emptiness.

Revelation 10:11

¹¹And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings (KJV).

It is interesting to note that it is only after the full assimilation of the book that John is able to “prophesy again.” There is pain in change and anguish in obedience. God’s coming judgment on this earth should melt pride, silence excuses and prepare hearts to humbly receive His grace. The application for us as believers is to assimilate His Word and tell others.

NEXT WEEK: REVELATION MSG. XXV

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

pentwaterbiblechurch@scfieldinstitute.org Toll Free 877-706-2479