"

"Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods ["mighty ones"]? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?"

From the Song of Moses, Exodus 15:11

Question:

Who is like you YHVH? Mi komocha, Adonai (Lord)

Rhetorical question, demands <u>only one answer</u>: *There is NONE like you, Adonai!* **Ein komocha, Adonai!**

Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad Baruch Shem k'vod malchutto, I'olam va'ed

Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God. The LORD is One. Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever.



Hell beiches. Part 2

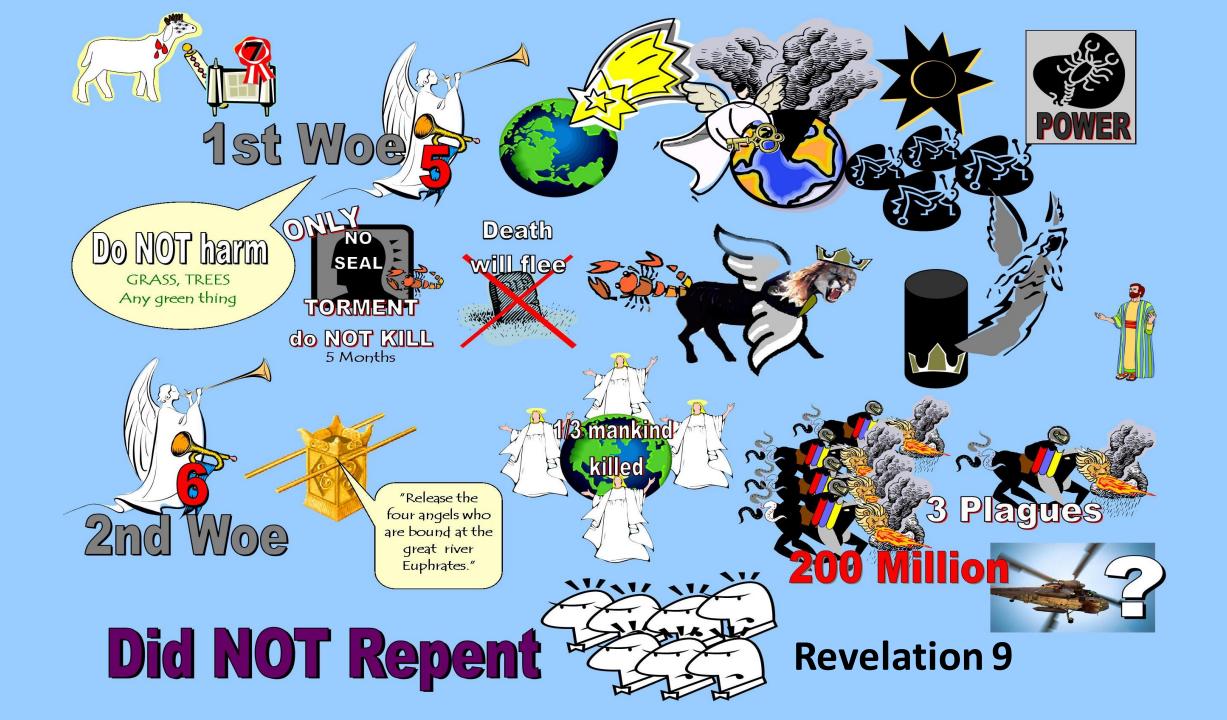
Revelation 9

Demonic army?

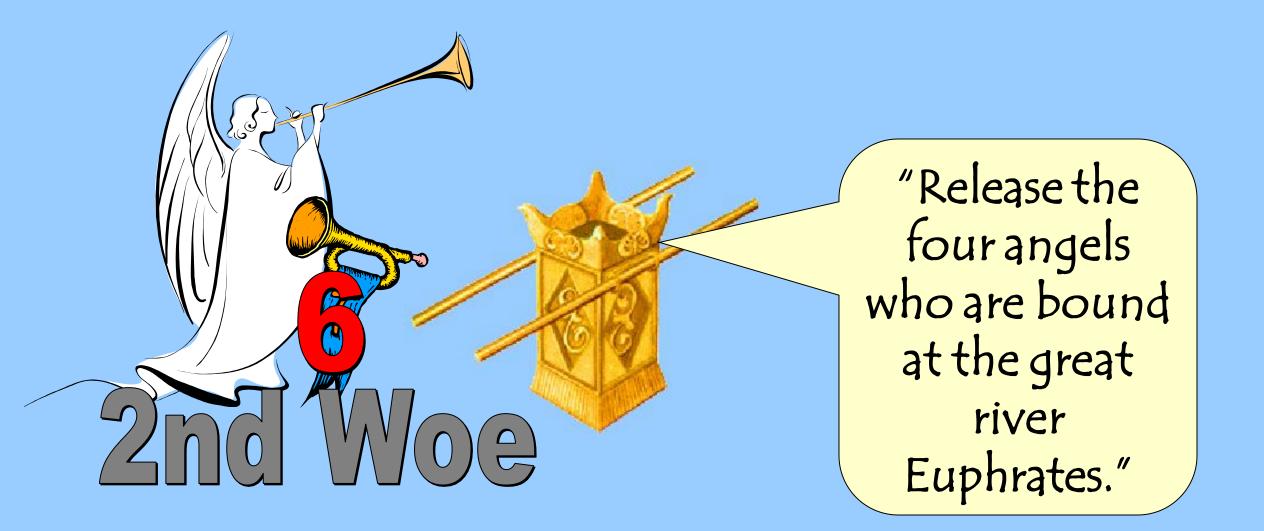
¹³ Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, ¹⁴ saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." ¹⁵ So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. ¹⁶ Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

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. 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. 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.

²⁰ But the rest of mankind, 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. ²¹ And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.



¹³ Then 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 who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.



- <u>6th Trumpet Judgment</u>, second woe. (7th Trumpet, containing all Bowl Judgments, = <u>3rd and final woe</u>.)
- "Four horns of the golden altar, which is before God..." Two altars: one in courtyard (called brazen altar) and other (altar of incense) in front of veil that separated Holy Place from Holy of Holies. ("before" God's seat on Ark)
- The "golden altar" altar of incense, inside Holy Place. ALWAYS = PRAYERS OF SAINTS.

- Horns on altar <u>significant</u>.
- In scripture symbolize power. Altar of incense also symbolizes <u>prayer</u>. Righteous prayers before God are <u>very powerful</u>. (James 5:16)
- Souls under altar in chapter 6 (5th seal) crying "how long?" for God's ultimate vengeance.

GOLDEN ALTAR (in front of veil)



HORNS OF THE ALTAR

- <u>Fugitives seeking asylum</u> cling to horns of **brazen altar** (1 Kings 1:50) safe from someone seeking revenge for injury/death of someone else.
- True <u>if</u> person who committed violence did so <u>unwittingly</u>, or without prior meditation (accident, priests would intervene on their behalf).



BRAZEN ALATAR (Courtyard)

HORNS OF THE ALTAR

- Altar of incense also had 4 horns. Touched with blood for sin offering for high priest, or for whole congregation, if they had <u>sinned unwittingly</u> (Leviticus 4:7,18).
- Also cases where God would <u>not</u> protect one who tried to seek asylum at horns of the altar = outright murder, or wrong intentions.
- God did not spare those who spilled blood of others intentionally.

PSALM 82 A Plea for Justice A Psalm of Asar Term in OT for someone seeking revenge for such violence—the Avenger of Blood (11 X OT).

 Avenger of a person's blood considered justified in killing someone who had killed another.

• God is justified in destroying the wicked.

They walk about in darkness; All the foundations of the earth are



"voice from the four horns of the golden altar" ...?

- <u>God's</u> voice
- <u>martyrs</u> (under the altar, 5th seal) from chapter 6 (seen also in chapter 7) finally avenged.
- combined <u>voice of the saints</u> <u>in prayer</u>. These prayers play a big role during this time.



 "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." (Jude 6)

- "did not keep their proper domain" may be those
 "sons of God" (always angels!) in Genesis 6.
- However, those may be "reserved" for their <u>own</u> judgment, not used to judge others.
- We don't know.



 Jesus said, "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." (Matthew 24:37). Is this about these angels (Nephilim)?

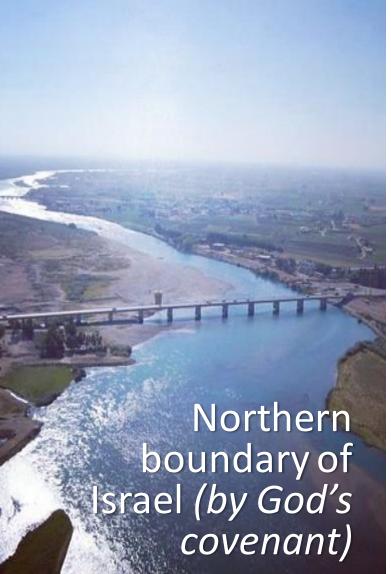
• WE DON'T KNOW!!

• Much can be implied/speculated about this statement.

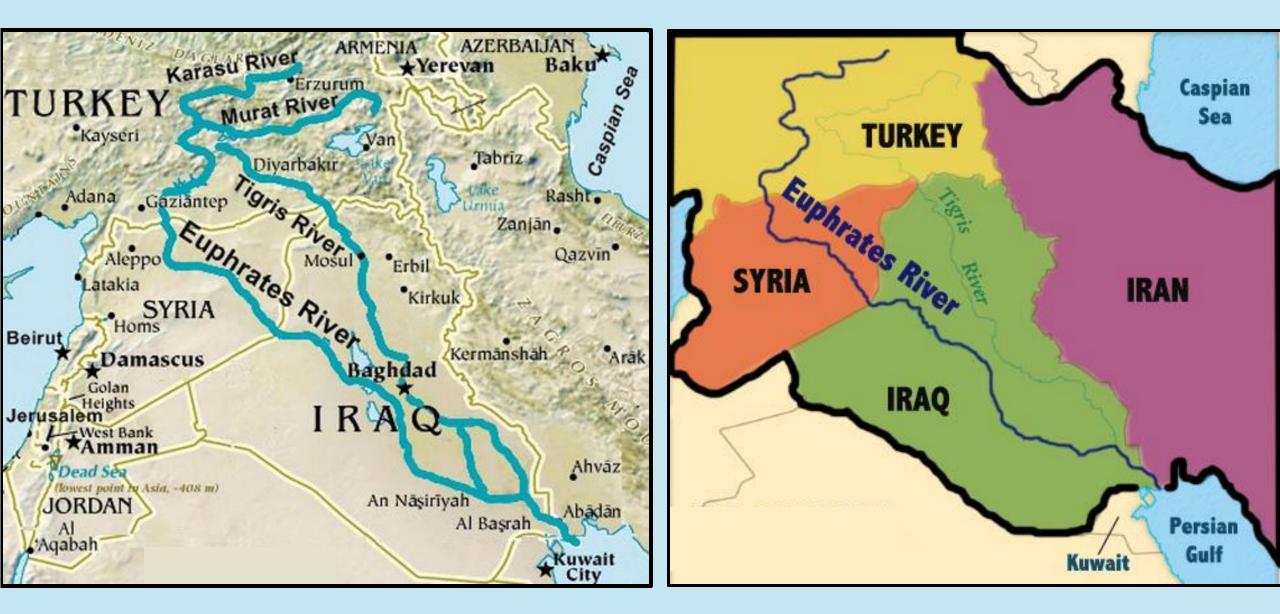
- *"Four angels..."* In scripture, number 4 associated with creation:
 - □ 4 <u>elements</u> (earth, air, fire, water)
 - 4 <u>ordinal directions</u> (North, East, West, South) [4 corners of earth]
 - □ 4 <u>seasons</u> (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter)
 - 4 <u>divisions of the day</u> (Morning, Noon, Evening, Midnight)
 - □ 4 <u>living creatures</u> in this book.

- Generally, number 4 indicates something on or of the earth.
- 4 angels <u>may indicate their judgment</u> will be in all 4 "corners" of the earth.
 Not just local, global.
- OR, could be a **literal 4 angels** doing this work.
- Remember, <u>ONE angel killed 185,000</u> <u>Assyrians in one night</u>. (2 kings 19:35, Isaiah 37:36)





- Euphrates significant. Divides east from west. Longest and most historically significant river in western Asia.
- <u>One of 4 rivers mentioned in the Garden</u>: Pishon, Gihon, Hiddekel (Tigris), Euphrates (*water flowed from Eden to supply these 4*)
- Greatest river boundary in scripture, often <u>symbolic of Israel's enemies from</u> <u>the north</u>.



• <u>Often in OT, but only here in NT</u> (2X in *Revelation, ch 9 and ch 16*).

 6th Bowl Judgment, River "dried up" to make way for "kings of east," ultimate Battle of Armageddon (16:12)

 Some have interesting interpretations of River Euphrates meaning, and the four angels prepared for these moments in history...

- Interesting to note Euphrates River associated with (mentioned in same passages):
 - □ First **sin** (Genesis 2:10-14)
 - Genesis 4:16
 - □ First organized rebellion against God (Genesis 11:1-9)
 - □ First **dictatorship** (Nimrod) (Genesis 10:8-10)
 - And now, judgment.

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.



 "...who had been prepared for the <u>hour and day and</u> <u>month and year</u> ..."

Reminder of <u>incredible</u>, <u>eternal</u>, <u>unchanging precision</u> of Plan of God. Entire plan perfect, to the last hour, day, month, year.

A mind-blowing, numbing thought that four angels can and will kill over 2,000,000 people in one judgment.

- These chained angels <u>likely NOT the ones that came out of</u> <u>the "pit" earlier this chapter</u>. Those are demonic locusts (wicked beings also).
- "Locusts" were restricted. Could only torment, not kill. These (6th Trumpet Judgment, 2nd Woe) will kill 1/3 of what is left of earth's population.
- Remember: all these creatures whether "good" or "bad" subject to the King of the Universe (Melech HaOlam).
 Have no authority or power outside of His say-so. They do God's will in His time, and only that.

• These angels kill 1/3 mankind.

- 4th <u>Seal</u> = ¼ of earth's population die. Now in this chapter another 1/3 die.
- Now <u>less than half original</u> world population. God purging earth of unregenerate mankind.



"I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold..." (Isaiah 13:11-12)

- People (believers) alive through Tribulation will eventually enter Millennial Kingdom (only believers, rest killed at final battle).
- <u>Unbelievers NOT left alive</u> to populate Kingdom.
- Perhaps in 6th Trumpet judgment God "cleaning house" after 5th Trumpet (demonic locusts).
- Perhaps these = unbelievers who would not turn to God even after torment of locusts.
- ALL SPECULATION!

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

200 Million



Now a weird, supernatural army! Thought locusts were weird. This defies understanding.

- John <u>hears number</u> of this supernatural army = 200 million.
- Number <u>may or may not be literal</u>. Could be a number too big to count. However, **safer to take literally**.
- Not like others *"the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,"* obviously indicating a number beyond counting [Revelation 5:11])



 China in news frequently today. Designs on controlling entire world. Is this China? Perhaps. WE DON'T KNOW!

 Some believe = army of "kings of the East" in chapter 16, also China?

- Description of "horsemen" seems to indicate supernatural, perhaps demonic, realm.
- Need to consider may merely be John's description of military hardware (or something else) he's never seen before.
- And, perhaps like nothing we've ever seen before either.

- Horses (not *LIKE* horses)
- Riders/breastplates (seemingly human?)
- Breastplates fiery red, hyacinth blue, sulfur yellow (are these national flags?? Or coalition?)
- OR colors of fire, flames.
- Horse heads <u>like</u> heads of lions.
- Fire, smoke and brimstone (burning sulfur) from "mouths" (weaponry?)

Supernatural armies appeared before in scripture:
1) Horses/chariot of fire took Elijah to heaven (2 Kings 2:11)

2) Dothan besieged by Syria, God opened Elijah's servant's eyes to see the horses and chariots of fire (2 Kings 6:13-17)

- <u>Don't know</u> association these horsemen have with 4 angels released in this judgment. Do know <u>they are</u> <u>destructive</u>. Perhaps angels command horsemen.
- Warfare in spiritual world, ongoing. (more in chapter 12, also Daniel 10, etc.) *Seen and unseen?*
- **COMMENTARY:** "Most of Satan's angels are yet free being the principalities against which we wrestle, but some terrible offenders of high rank have been bound." (Newell)



Angel who visited Daniel in chapter 10 of that book was "detained" by *"Prince of Persia."* <u>Battle in spiritual</u> <u>realm.</u>

"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. " (Daniel 10:13)



- Because we can't "see" supernatural forces, tendency not to believe they exist.
- Years ago we couldn't see viruses or bacteria either.
- Don't let personal unbelief/preconceptions get in way of truth.



- Best stick to literal interpretation even though doesn't seem like anything we know yet.
- Remember John is a first century guy trying to describe/words what he is seeing happen thousands of years in the future - in a vision.

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. 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.





3 Plaguest 1/3 killed

- Keep in mind still in 6th Trumpet judgment. 4 angels, strange horsemen all part of this judgment.
- <u>Demonic, effect on earth will be terrifying</u>.
- These judgments <u>not "remedial</u>" to *change* behavior. They are "retributive" – intended for judgment and punishment.

- 3 things called "three plagues" fire, smoke, and brimstone. 1/3 of mankind killed by them (1/3 of what is left at this point!)
- We **don't know how these deaths will happen**, perhaps through environmental disasters, dangerous pollution, fires, etc.
- "Brimstone" = burning sulfur. Fireworks = this smell. Creates sulfur dioxide, <u>very toxic gas</u>.

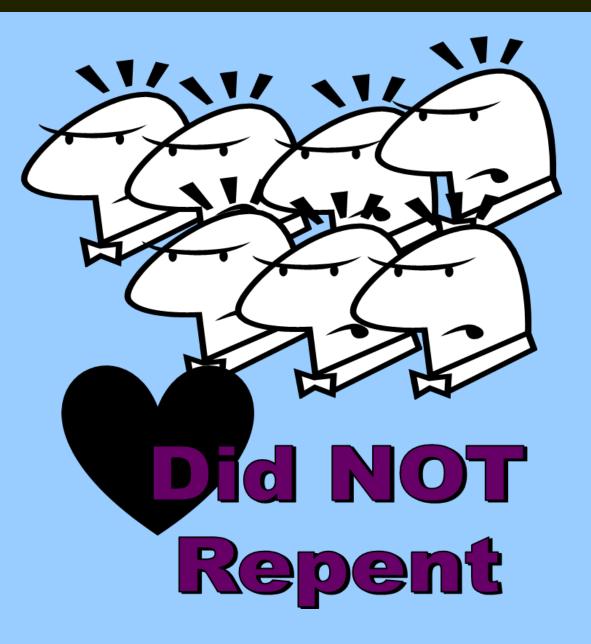
- Seems completely demonic/supernatural. Perhaps partly man's technology, modern weaponry?
- Describing <u>Battle of Armageddon</u>? Some say so. Lots of speculation. WE DON'T KNOW.
- Who is this army? IS it China or some other large country able to field that size of an army? Or perhaps it is the Antichrist's own army that turns against him at the end?
- **Again...avoid speculation!** Gets us nowhere but confused.

Ah! Maybe drones! WE DON'T KNOW!!!

Description of horsemen and ability to kill beyond our comprehension, <u>even our speculation</u>. Best to remember literal description. Still many things we do not know.



²⁰ But the rest of mankind, 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. ²¹ And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.



- Perhaps saddest verses in scripture.
- God has gone to amazing lengths to get mankind's attention – very dramatic displays of His power (and allowing Enemy to display his also). <u>Yet unregenerate</u> mankind continues to run from Him, and pursue sin.
- Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?"
- <u>World knows at this point</u> what is happening, and most likely WHO is doing/causing it.

- Height of foolishness and rebellion. "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Corinthians 2:14)
- God makes Himself clear, <u>but people do not want to</u> <u>turn to Him</u>.
- Majority of remaining half of world's population continues in unrepentant state.

Told exactly what those sins are...

1. Works of their hands – words indicate "hollowness" or "grasping" for things that cannot be obtained. Money, power, fame, etc.

 Pride in own power and accomplishments. May also refer to "idols" – <u>also works of</u> <u>own hands</u>.



All idol-makers amount to nothing; their precious productions profit no one; and their witnesses, to their own shame, neither see nor understand. ¹⁰ Who would fashion a god or cast an image that profits no one anything? ¹¹ All involved will be ashamed, but more than anyone else, the people who made them. Let them all be assembled, let them stand up; let them fear and be shamed together. ¹² A blacksmith makes a tool over burning coals; with his strong arm he shapes it with hammers. But when he gets hungry, his strength fails; if he doesn't drink water, he grows tired. ¹³ A carpenter takes his measurements, sketches the shape with a stylus, planes the wood, checks it with calipers, and carves it into the shape of a man; and, since it is honored like a man, of course it has to live in a house.

¹⁴ He goes to chop down cedars; he takes an evergreen and an oak; he especially tends one tree in the forest, plants a pine for the rain to nourish. ¹⁵ In time, when it's ready for use as fuel, he takes some of it to keep himself warm and burns some more to bake bread. Then he makes a god and worships it, carves it into an idol and falls down before it. ¹⁶ So half of it he burns in the fire; with that half he roasts meat and eats his fill; he warms himself; says, "It feels so good, getting warm while watching the flames!"¹⁷ With the rest of the log he fashions a god, a carved image, then falls down before it; he worships it and prays to it. "Save me," he says, "for you are my god!"

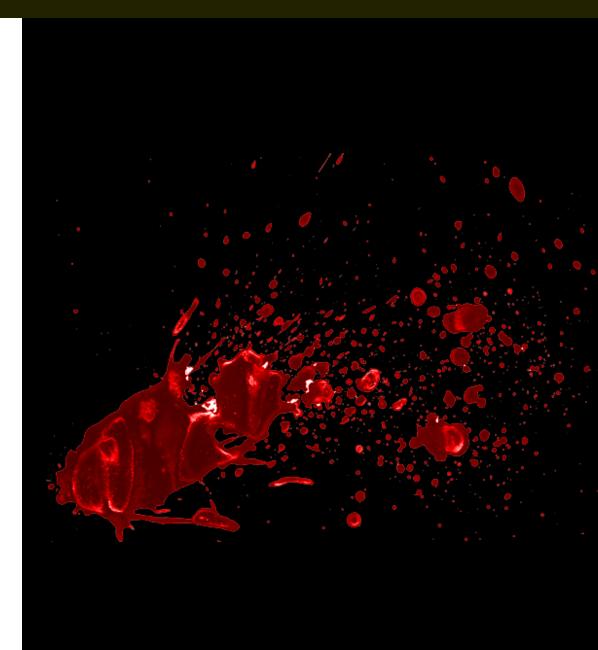


¹⁸ Such people know nothing, understand nothing. Their eyes are sealed shut, so that they can't see; their hearts too, so they can't understand. ¹⁹ Not one thinks to himself or has the knowledge or the discernment to say, "I burned half of it in the fire, baked bread on its coals, roasted meat and ate it. Should I now make the rest an abomination? Should I prostrate myself to a tree trunk?" ²⁰ He is relying on ashes! A deceived heart has led him astray; so that now he won't save himself, just won't say, "This thing in my hand is a fraud!" (Is. 44:9-20 CJB)

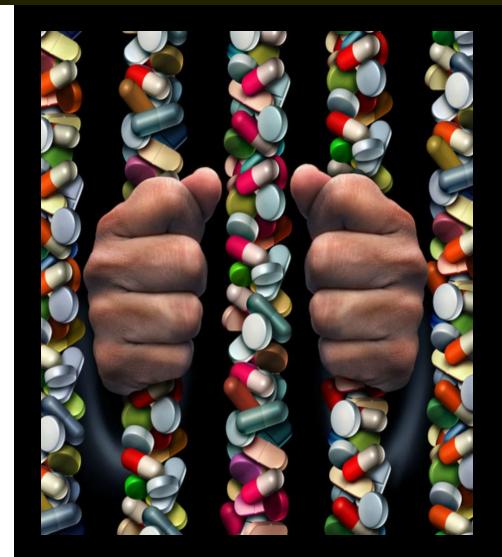
- **2. Occult practices/worship**, worship of demons, idols.
- Things some think "innocent" lucky charms, horoscopes, Ouija boards, paranormal – <u>all things</u> forbidden by God, of occult.
- Occult practices will become even worse in this time.
- Open Satanism/Paganism increasing.



3. Murders - literal, killing of humans (includes abortions, "mercy killings," euthanasia, etc., and senseless taking of human life in any way)



- Some interpret as occultic practices but <u>likely about drug</u> <u>use</u>, may coincide with sinful practices.
- Will become huge in Tribulation, both to escape pain, but also part of false "religious" experiences.



- **5. Sexual immorality** –Society rampantly sexually immoral already. Will only get worse.
- We exalt what is forbidden, and condemn what is righteous. "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20)



- 6. Thefts (Gr. *klemmon*, from *klepto*) stealing or "filching" of anything, including identities, ideas.
- <u>Culture based on stealing</u>, deception (*deceptive business practices*, *etc.*).
 Riches, no matter how obtained, exalted.



- Notice 6 things listed. Six = number for unregenerate man, incomplete without God.
- <u>These include every sin in the book</u>. What man turns to instead of God.
- Man puts himself on the throne instead of God.
- And, is what will condemn him when his life works are compared with the Law (his chosen form of judgment – only two, either Law or Grace.)

QUOTE:

"This was no longer about ignorance. It was about choice."

(<u>Apollyon</u> by LaHaye and Jenkins, "Left Behind Series")

COMMENTARY: "The Bible tells us the "the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9) The book of Revelation certainly answers the oft-stated suggestion of individuals that "what man needs is a second chance after death." During the tribulation man will have unprecedented opportunity to see the omnipotent hand of God working in the affairs of men, yet he will stubbornly persist in his rebellion against God and his rejection of Jesus Christ. ...

COMMENTARY: ...(continued)

That is seen by the fact that, in spite of the destruction of half of the world's population and one-third of the world's vegetation, light, and water supply, man will not repent of his stubborn heart and sinful practices...The tribulation population instead will embrace the pleasure of sin for a season and damn their immortal souls in the process." (LaHaye)

- Important to note <u>deception</u> will increase. "But evil men and imposters will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." (2 Timothy 3:13)
- Consider these verses: *"The coming of the lawless one is* according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all **unrighteous deception among** those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)

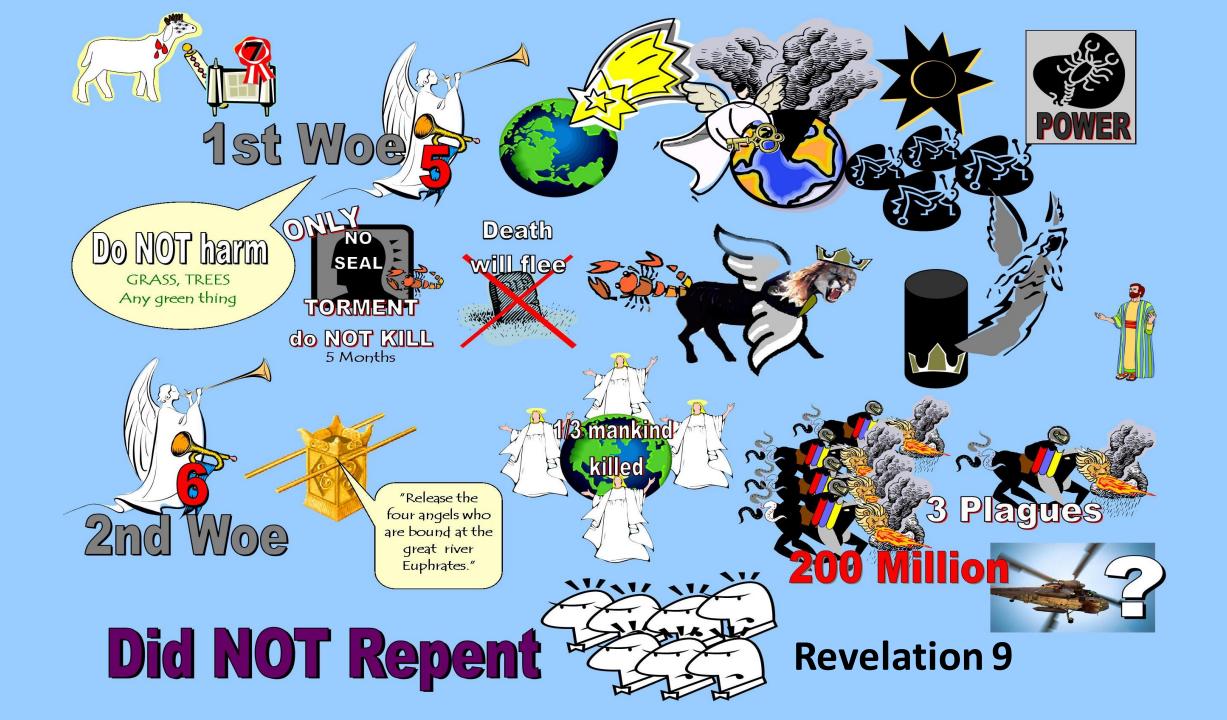
What is <u>THE LIE</u>? That we can be gods ourselves, do whatever we want, like spoiled children in defiance/rebellion. That we are not accountable.
 Same lie told in the Garden. Leads to death, eternal separation from God.

 "There is a way that seems right to man, but its end is the way of death." (Proverbs 16:25)

 These judgments/warnings frightening. <u>They are</u> <u>supposed to be</u>! Should humble, sober, correct and <u>hopefully save mankind</u>!

Ø ..

Two woes now past. Third to come. First, another interlude in chapter 10.



Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha May the LORD bless you and keep you

Ya'er Adonai pandv elekha vihunneka

May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

Yissa Adonaí panav elekha viyasem lekha shalom.

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

