

Attacks on Humans Revelation 9

I A Taste of Hell – 9:1-6

1. The Fifth Angel Blew his Trumpet – 1
This announces the first “woe” - 12
2. John sees a star fallen from heaven - 1
“Fallen star” may refer to Satan or one who fell with him – 12:3-4
This fallen angel was given the key to the bottomless pit
These fallen angels have a king (Satan) – 11
Satan is still accountable to God, as in Job
He is seen in Rev. 12:10 as one who “accuses the brethren”
3. He opened the shaft to the pit – 2
Smoke, like from a great furnace, rose from the pit
This smoke darkened the sun
4. With the smoke, came locusts to the earth - 3
These locusts were given power like scorpions on earth
5. However they were different – 4
They were told not to harm the grass or green plants
Their mission, people who did not have God’s seal
These were the 144,000 of Israel marked by God
6. They were to torment people for 5 months - 5
But not permitted to kill them
Rather to sting them like a scorpion
7. People will seek death but not find it – 6
Long to die but death will flee from them
God will allow them to experience hell
But there will be no repentance – **9:20-21**

II. Description of these Locusts – 9:7-12

1. These locusts were prepared for battle – 7
On their heads what looked like gold crowns
Those who had gained victories over enemies
Faces were like human faces, in tune with men
2. Their hair like women’s hair – 8
Attractive to those they will sting
But with sharp teeth, like lions, able to hurt
3. Capable of inflicting fear – 9
Breastplates like iron – great strength
Noise of many chariots & horses rushing into battle
4. Equipped to hurt people - 10
They have tails and stings like scorpions
Their mission is to hurt people for 5 months
5. Their King over them is Satan – 11
His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, in Greek, Apollyon
Both of these words means “destroyer”
6. This is the first “woe” two more to come
Is this not a sign of grace when God tells sinners what is to come?

III. A Spiritual Battle – 9:13-21

1. The sixth angel sounds his trumpet – 13
John hears a voice from the golden altar of God
This is the incense altar where prayers arise to God
The voice comes from the 4 horns of the altar
This voice comes as a response to prayer
2. The voice speaks to the 6th angel -14
“Release the four angels who are bound at the Euphrates River”
These angels were prepared for this specific time
Prepared for this hour, the day, the month, the year
Since they are bound & have been they are probably fallen angels
These angels have a mission for which they have been bound
To kill a third of mankind
3. The River had been a natural boundary
Between God’s people (Israel) & Babylon
Tower of Babel was man’s attempt to reach God – Gen. 11:4
When God called Abraham he took him to another land
Across the Euphrates – River became a boundary
God set Israel’s boundaries – From River of Egypt to Euphrates – Gen.15:18
Joshua set the boundaries when they divided the Land for tribes – Josh. 1:4
David and Solomon recognized these boundaries
1 Chron.18:3
Babylon became a seat of Satan’s warfare
4. The 4 angels were released to open the way – 15-16
To allow a massive army to cross the river
200 million were gathered to kill one third of mankind – 16
Prophet Ezekiel speaks of such an attack on Israel
5. This army is fully equipped for their mission – 17-19
Breastplates color of fire, sapphire & sulfur
Heads like lions shooting fire & sulfur out of their mouths
Their tails were like serpents wounding & killing 1/3
6. Those who survive refuse to repent – 20-21
Those who were not killed by these plagues
Did not repent of their evil works
Worshipping demons – idols of gold & silver, bronze, stone & wood
These idols cannot see, hear or walk
Nor do they repent of murders, sorceries, sexual immorality or thefts

Judging Man's Environment Revelation 8

Star was blazing like a torch it fell on one third of
fresh water

On rivers and springs of water

This star was named "Wormwood"

Many people died from the water, because it was
made bitter

5. Fourth trumpet brought partial darkness to the earth
– 8:12

One third of the sun was struck

One third of the moon was struck

One third of the stars were struck

Causing one third of their light was darkened

One third of the day kept from shining

Likewise one third of the night kept from shining

6. Then John saw an eagle crying with a loud voice – 13
It flew directly overhead

Crying "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth

This warning anticipates the next three judgments

At the blasts of the other trumpets that the three
angels are about to blow"

These next 3 judgments will impact men on earth

7. One thing we find missing in these judgments is
repentance

Even when these 3 woes come, note – 9:20-21

Judgment must come but it still comes with a note of
grace

I. A Solemn Scene in Heaven – 8:1-5

1. Opening the seventh seal – 1

Remember it is the Lamb who opens the seals

But there is no celebration in heaven

2. There is silence in heaven for about half an hour

Silence suggests something about God's nature

He is not one who is filled with rage, as is true
often with our anger

He is holy, righteous but He is also just

"God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked"

– Ezek. 33:11

But as holy He must hold sinners accountable for
their actions

"He is not willing that any should perish, but that all
should come to repentance" - 2 Peter 3:9

He is just and must judge those who refuse to
accept the remedy for sin (His Son)

3. John next sees 7 angels stand before God – 2

7 trumpets were given to them

Each angel will blow his trumpet announcing
God's judgment

4. Another angel stood at the incense altar – 3

This incense altar is right before the throne

It carries the prayers of believers to God's throne

It also carried the prayers of the martyrs for justice
– 4:9-11

5. The angel filled the censer with fire from the altar – 5

He threw the fire on the earth (justice must come)

There were peals of thunder rumblings, flashes of
lightning & an earthquake

6. This is a solemn scene but note these first 4 trumpets

II. First Four Trumpets – 8:6-13

1. Note there is still a touch of God's grace

Man's environment is first judged

Certainly affecting man but not always touching him

2. First trumpet brought hail and fire, mixed with blood
– 7

Resulting in one third of earth being burned up

One third of the trees were burned up

All green grass was burned up

3. Second trumpet brought something "like a great
mountain" – 8-9

This large mass was burning with fire

It was thrown into the sea & one third of the sea
became blood

One third of the living creatures in the sea died

One third of the ships were destroyed

4. Third trumpet brought a great star falling from
heaven – 8:10-11

The Raptured Church Revelation 7:9-17

I. A Glorious Sight – 7:9-12

1. John, having seen God's protection for Israel –1-8
His attention is turned to a sight in heaven – 9-10
2. What he sees, a great multitude "that no one could number" – 9
This is in comparison to 144,000 believers in Israel
They are sealed as belonging to God & protected
3. This number is beyond ability to count – 9
Also from every nation, from all tribes, people & languages
This multitude is from every people group in this world
4. They stand before the Lamb – belonging to Him– 9
Having been purchased by His own precious blood
Clothed in white robes - declared righteous by His cleansing
"With palm branches in their hands"
Expressions of praise & worship (celebration)
5. Crying out in worship, with a loud voice – 10
"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, & to the Lamb"
They rejoice over God's provision, sending His Son, to save us from our sin
His sacrifice on Calvary cleanses us & restores us to God
6. All heaven rejoices in the work of redemption –11-12
All the angels standing around the throne - 11
Around the elders (believers already in heaven) – Rev. 4:4
And the four living creatures (Cherubim) – 4:6-8
These angels fall on their faces before the throne & worshipped God–12
Saying "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen"
All heaven rejoices in God's work of redemption and restoration
The glory of His new creation has been won in Jesus Christ

II. Who is this Multitude? – 7:13-17

1. One of the elders asked John this question -13
"Who are these, clothed in white robes?"
"And from where have they come?"

2. John looks to the elder to answer these questions–14
"Sir, you know"
The elder gives answers to these questions
3. "These are coming out of the great tribulation"
Jesus promised this to the Philadelphia Church- 3:10
"I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world"
Great tribulation: time when God's wrath is poured out
God's wrath was poured out on His Son. Rom. 8:1
"There is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus"
"They have washed their robes & made them white in the blood of the Lamb"
4. "Therefore they are before the throne of God"- 15
They can stand before God in righteousness of Christ
"They serve Him (God) day and night in His temple
What a privilege to serve God in His temple
"He who sits on the throne will shelter them with His presence"
Protects those who are His children with His own presence
5. As a loving Father He will provide for all their needs–16
"They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore"
"The sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat"
6. "For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their Shepherd and He will guide them to springs of living waters" 17
Note that He (The Lamb) is in the "midst of the throne"
Father and Son are together in "oneness" on the throne
Jesus is the shepherd who leads and guides those who are His to the living waters that satisfies our need
7. All of earth's sorrows will be forever gone – 17
"God will wipe away every tear from their eyes"
They are the believing church to whom the rapture was promised
Jesus promised His return to take His believers – John 14:1-3
Angels promised His return at His ascension – Acts 1:11

III. Rapture Means New Life – 1 Cor. 15:50-58

1. Rapture means more than just escape from Tribulation
More than just a safe place where life is perfect
2. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God -50
If we could go to heaven as we are we would not fit in
"The perishable cannot inherit the imperishable"
3. "We shall all be changed" – 51
It is not just that we must be forgiven of our sins
That is accomplished in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ
We must all be changed, there is a basic need in our fallen nature - 52
"This perishable body must put on imperishable"– 53
"And this mortal body must put on immortality" – 54
Christ died to save us from our sins but He also died to deliver us from death - 55

4. Christ died to deliver us from "death" – 56
To transform us into "eternal life" – 2 Cor. 5:17
As Christ lives in us He seeks to transform us into His likeness
When He comes we shall be like Him – 1 Jn. 3:2
God's eternal plan is to conform us to image of His Son – Rom. 8:29
Rapture will bring His plan to fulfillment
Eternally living together as God's children through His Son

God Protects True Israel Revelation 7:1-8

I. Holding Back the Winds of Wrath – 7:1-3

1. Four angels stand at 4 corners of earth – 1
Assignment: "Hold back the winds of wrath"
"Do not allow the winds to blow on earth or sea"
"Not even against any tree"
There is further instruction from God
2. Another angel comes with God's seal – 2
This angel speaks with a loud voice (clear instruction)
Message is for these 4 angels holding back the winds of wrath
God's grace must prevail
3. "Do not harm earth and sea or trees" – 3
"Until God's servants are sealed on their foreheads"

II. Full Measure of God's Protection – 7:4-8

1. God's seal is placed on 144,000 – Sons of Israel
The number of Israel's sons was 12
12,000 sealed is 12,000 from each tribe
Suggesting that each tribe has a full complement
2. When God sent 10 plagues on Egypt
He spared the people of Israel
God again marks His people of Israel from "God's Wrath"
3. This seal is seen again in Rev. 14:1-5
The 144,000 are seen with the Lamb on Mt. Zion
Not only protected but also redeemed by the Lamb
Celebrating this fact of redemption provided by the Lamb

III. Israel's Path to Redemption – Dan. 9:24-27

1. God's plan for Israel – 24
As Daniel prepares for return after 70 years of exile
God sends an angel extending it to 70 times 7
490 years Israel will be under Gentile control
2. Those 70 x 7's will restore Israel to God – 24
Israel's path will ultimately bring redemption
Finish transgression, put an end to sin, atone for iniquity
Bring in everlasting righteousness
Seal both vision and prophet
Anoint a most holy place
3. Sixty nine 7's would mark rejection of Israel's Messiah – 25-26

- Jesus would fulfill the work of redemption
But Jesus weeps for Israel's rejection – Lk. 19:41-44
And prophecies of troubles for Israel
4. Daniel also predicted this trouble - Dan. 9:26
Destruction of Jerusalem & its Temple
End would come like a flood
There would be war & desolations are decreed
 5. But there must be a 70th period (Tribulation) – 9:27
Gentile powers still over Israel
Beginning with a strong covenant with many (Israel)

Covenant for 7 years

But this ruler will break the covenant after 3 ½ years
"Putting an end of sacrifice and offering"

6. Jesus spoke of this as "abomination of desolation" – Matt. 24:15-24
This term comes from Daniel's prediction under Greek rule
When Alexander the Great died 4 generals took over
Antiochus Epiphanes created an abomination in the Temple by offering a sow as a sacrifice desolating the Temple
The Jews rose up with God's help, defeating him
The Feast of Hanukkah remembers this victory
Jesus used this event to warn of antichrist's abomination
7. Consider words in 2 Thess.2:3-4 & Rev. 13:5-8, 11-15
When man of sin sits on God's throne & is worshipped as god
This marks the abomination shortening the Tribulation
Jesus warns Israelites to flee for His protection

iv. God's Messengers – Rev. 11

1. Two witnesses appear – like 2 lampstands - 11:4
They have power to protect themselves – 5-6
Power to bring fire out of his mouth (like Elijah)
Power to shut the sky that no rain may fall during their prophesying
Power over waters to turn water into blood (like Moses)
Power to strike the earth with every kind of plague
2. Note: Moses & Elijah appeared at Jesus' transfiguration -
When Jesus spoke with them about His departure, which
He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem – Luke 9:28-31
3. When these witnesses finished their testimony to Israel – 7
The beast out of the bottomless pit killed them
Their dead bodies will lay in the streets of Jerusalem for 3 ½ days
4. People on earth will celebrate their death – 10
But their celebration was brief
5. After 3 ½ days breath of life from God entered them –

11

They stood on their feet & great fear fell on those who saw them

6. A loud voice from heaven said, “come up here” – 12
They went to heaven in a cloud & their enemies watched them
7. At that hour there was a great earthquake – 13
A tenth of the city fell & 7,000 people were killed
The rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven

4. They were each given “a white robe” – 11
“Told to rest a little longer” – God declares them righteous
“Until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers”
“Should be complete who were killed as they themselves had been
5. These 4 horses lead to more martyrs – Matt. 24:15
This prince will break his covenant with Israel – Dan. 9:27
He will do something to desolate the temple
Partial fulfillment with Antiochus and the sow
But Jesus speaks of this abomination & desolator
6. Consider words in 2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:5-8, 11-15
This anti-christ sits in the temple, worshipped as god
Brings on the “Great Tribulation” and many martyrs
7. Is this not a worthy reason why God should judge?

Opening 5th & 6th Seal Revelation 6:9-17

I. Cry of the Martyrs – 6:9-11

1. The Lamb opens the 5th seal – 6:9
John saw souls under the altar
This altar is the altar of “incense”
Where the prayers of God’s people rose like “incense” to God – Rev. 8:3-4
These souls under the altar were souls of the martyrs – 9
“Souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God”
“And for the witness they had borne”
2. These souls cried out with a loud voice – 10
“O Sovereign Lord, holy and true,” – God is absolutely “Just”
“How long before you will judge and avenge our blood” -
“On those who dwell on the earth?”
Cry for Justice
3. Think of how great that number of those martyred
Think of those listed in Scripture
Like John the Baptist, Stephen, James
Those listed in Church History
Like Peter, Paul, most of the Apostles
Like those listed in Foxe’s Book of Martyrs
Those in our own life-time
Like missionaries killed by Auca Indians
Like those now being killed in “Persecuted Churches”

II. Disturbance in God’s Creation – 6:12-14

1. God shakes what man thought was unmovable – 12-14
When the Lamb opens the 6th seal
All creation seems to come apart – Col. 1:17
The God who created this universe can cause it to come apart
2. Note how the various parts begin to unravel – 12-14

There was a “great earthquake” – (God’s Word says “great”) - 12

So “great” that it may be felt all over the earth
The sun became “black as sackcloth” – 12
That which was made to give humans light is now hidden in darkness

Those separated from God in sin get a taste of “outer darkness” – Matt.22:13

The full moon became “like blood” – 13

The glory of the “full moon” becomes marked by “bloodshed”

The “stars of the sky fell to the earth” - 13

As a fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale”

Man has for a long time dreaded “falling stars”

The Sky vanished “like a scroll that is being rolled up” – 14

God seems to remove, for at least a brief time, when these heavenly things disappear

The land masses begin to shift from place to place– 14
“Every mountain and island was removed from its place”

It is difficult for us to imagine such a shaking when God removes His hand

III. Humans Try to Hide from God – 6:15-17

1. Man seeks a place to hide - 15

When creation seems to come apart
Like Adam & Eve, guilty sinners try to hide from
God

Some men may appear to have greater opportunity
To hide
The Kings and the great ones, generals of earth may
have a bunker

Surely the rich and the powerful must have a place
But, not so, everyone, slave and free, hid themselves
in caves

Hid themselves among the rocks of the mountains

2. Man, in terror calls to the mountains & rocks – 16
Crying out for the rocks and mountains to fall on them
“Hide us from the face of Him who is seated on the
Throne”

“And from the wrath of the Lamb”

3. “For the great day of their wrath has come” – 17
“And who can stand”

4. There is one more seal to be opened – 8:1
And that 7th seal will open two other descriptions of
God’s wrath

The 7th seal will unfold 7 trumpets sounding God’s
judgment

And the 7th trumpet will sound two descriptions of
“Bowls of wrath”

But chapter 7 gives bright hope for God’s people