

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Slaughter at the Sixth Trumpet

Revelation 9:13-21

1. A Devastating Judgment

When the sixth trumpet sounds, a voice from near the throne of God commands that four demons are to be released from their bondage (Rev. 9:13-14). The Lord has been precise in planning this judgment (Rev. 9:15a), and the resulting devastation is also targeted and specific (Rev. 9:15b). In the past God has shown His capability in quickly destroying men (Gen. 6:17-24; Ex. 14:27-31; 2 Chron 20:23-24; 2 Kings 19:35; cf. Luke 12:4-5; Job 1:13-19), and He is now again unleashing His devastating power in judgment (cf. Rev. 6:7-8).

2. A Satanic Army

The army that is described as coming from the Euphrates river is not human in composition. It is possible that each of the four demons who are released (v.14) are the leaders of this great army. John describes the military force as a cavalry with armor that is smokey-blue and yellow in color. The animals are horse-like but they have lion-like heads and serpent like tails, which themselves have heads (v.19). This supernatural force has the power to kill in three ways (v.17; cf. Rev. 11:5) as well as to cause harm with their tails (v.19).

3. A Wretched Refusal

After a quick succession of unprecedented natural disasters (Rev. 8:7-13), five straight months of torment (Rev. 9:5-6, and a second unbelievable time of death (Rev. 6:7-8), most of mankind is unwilling to repent before God (Rev. 9:20-21). For all of modern man's economic, academic, and industrial advances throughout the centuries, their idolatry will be of the same kind as idolatry was in the past (cf. Dan. 5:4). Whether it is a time of normalcy (John 1:11), a time of absolute wickedness and and chaos (Rev. 9-11), or a time of absolute peace and justice (Rev. 20:1-10), men prove that they love darkness rather than the light (John 3:19; Rom. 3:9-26; cf. Luke 19:10).