

The 6th Trumpet

Revelation 9:13-21

I. Introduction:

A. Tribulation

1. The tribulation will begin when Jesus appears calling His beloved bride to meet Him in the air. Thus, the church is raptured out of this world.
2. Saved by faith in Jesus are delivered from God's wrath & won't experience the period; however, those who reject the Gospel message & God's saving grace pass into this period.

B. Great Tribulation

1. The whole 7-year period is called the tribulation; however, the last 1/2 or the last 3 & 1/2 years is called the Great Tribulation (see **Matt. 24:21**).
2. The Great Tribulation is when God's most severe judgments are dealt out to wicked.
3. The trumpet judgments are part of severe judgment in that Great Tribulation period.

C. Demonic attacks

1. The 5th trumpet judgment is the first direct demonic attack upon men.
2. Satan will be expelled from heaven & allowed to open the abyss containing demons who've been incarcerated by God. When the 5th trumpet sounds, they'll be released & actively torment men for 5 months with stings like that of a scorpion.
3. Lost will be so tormented by demons they seek death, but God won't allow them.

II. Then comes the 6th Trumpet Judgment. (Revelation 9:13-14)

A. Horns of the Golden Alter

1. When the 6th trumpet sounded, John heard one distinctive voice giving a command.
2. It's not known to whom the voice belongs, but from where it came is known.
3. He's standing by the golden alter in heaven which is a mirror image of the alter of incense in the tabernacle and the temple on earth.
4. The bronze alter in the tabernacle & later the temple was where incense was burned as prayers were lifted up to God. Incense was usually burned there in morning & evening.
5. Yearly the High Priest of Israel made sin offering for the nation in the holy of holies.
6. Blood from sin offering was placed on horns on corners of this alter of mercy & grace.
7. Alter in Heaven: It's this same alter, under which souls of tribulation martyrs, cried out for God to bring judgment upon wicked men who persecuted, tortured, & murdered them.
 - a. This alter will be a place of prayers, as those murdered saints ask God for justice.
 - b. This alter, which represented mercy, will become a source of God's judgment.
 - c. It is from this alter the command goes forth to sound the 6th trumpet.
8. Application: This is a reminder that God will not always strive with man.

B. Release the demons

1. This voice from the golden alter in heaven commands releasing the angels bound at the great river Euphrates. Since these angels are bound, they are demons.
2. Before the world was created, pride was found in Satan, & he was expelled from heaven
3. Some of the angels followed him & became demons.
4. God locked up some demons in the abyss & some were bound near the Euphrates.
5. Demons are commanded release from bondage & allowed access to inhabitants of earth

III. Demons released. (Revelation 9:15-19)

A. Sovereignty of God

1. The releasing of these demons has been planned by God right down to the hour.
2. God has sovereignly planned the whole course of human history.

B. Their purpose

1. Purpose for releasing these demons is to kill 1/3rd of remaining wicked alive on earth.
2. Death had been suspended under the 5th trumpet judgment.
3. Those being tormented by the first group of demons wanted to die and could not.
4. These demons go forth with the express purpose to kill lost men and women.
5. These demons will think they're doing Satan's bidding when in fact they will simply become the instrument of God's judgment upon a wicked & sinful world.
6. Death Toll: By this point in the tribulation the death toll on earth will be tremendous.
 - a. The death toll from the 4th seal was 1/4th of the earth's population.
 - b. The death toll in this 6th trumpet will be 1/3rd of the earth's population.

C. Description- *John gives a description of this demonic army coming upon the world.*

1. – Great host
 - a. Number John gives is 200 million demons led by the 4 released near The Euphrates.
 - b. This demon army will swarm the earth bringing death.
2. – The demons
 - a. The demons are described as riding upon horses, and wearing the very colors of hell.
 - b. Breastplates are fiery red, hyacinth blue, and brimstone sulfur yellow.
 - c. These demons cause great fear as they rain down death & destruction on earth.
3. – Horses
 - a. Horses have long been associated with war & battles.
 - b. Horses were used in battle because of their power and swiftness.
 - c. But, these demonic steeds are a bit different from what we know as horses.
 - d. These demonic creatures have heads like lions & tails like snakes.
 - e. These creatures will kill 1/3rd of the earth's remaining population in 3 ways:
 - (1) They incinerate them with fire. (2) They asphyxiate them with smoke.
 - (3) They bite them with the deadly snake bite of their tail.

IV. Response of those still alive. (Revelation 9:20-21)

A. They did not repent! - Notice the sin they will persist in.

1. – Idolatry or False religion.
 - a. They'll continue to reject the true God in favor of worshipping demons & devils.
 - b. Some will continue to pursue secular humanism and the worship of man himself.
2. – Murder
 - a. Murder will be an epidemic in tribulation. People kill one another for food & water.
3. – Sorceries
 - a. This comes from a Greek word that means pharmacy or pharmaceuticals.
 - b. The idea here is recreational use of mood- and mind-altering drugs.
 - c. Drugs were & are used in false religious worship creating feelings, dreams, & visions
4. – Immorality
 - a. The Greek word is *porneia* which is the root for the English word pornography.
 - b. It refers to all forms of sexual sin including: fornication, adultery, rape, pedophilia, homosexuality, & all forms of sexual perversion. All will run rampant in the tribulation
5. – Thefts
 - a. Thievery will be rampant as people compete for scarce food & water.

B. On the path- 1. Our society in the United States of America is on this path, right now.