

Prayer:

Many people say the book of Revelation is impossible to understand. Yes, there are places where one might grapple with details, but the overall message is very clear. And clarity begins with following the inspired outline as seen in Revelation 1:19.

Slide # 1

Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

- “have seen” – Past (Vision of Christ) – **Ch. 1**
- “which are” – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- **“after this” – Future (Post-Church Age)** – Ch. 4-22
 - - Scene in heaven – Ch. 4-5
 - - **Tribulation – Ch. 6-18**
 - - Second Coming – Ch. 19
 - - Kingdom – Ch. 20
 - - Eternal State – Ch. 21-22

Right now, we are living in the PRESENT Church Age, which is addressed at length in Revelation 2-3. But after chapter 3 the church is pictured as being in heaven as represented by the 24 elders. This is in contrast to the judgment scene, which then takes place on earth.

The Bible has this HUGE portion in the OT that looks forward to the coming judgment day. This is seen in sections such as Isaiah 24-27 which is called, “Isaiah’s Little Apocalypse.” It is seen in huge sections in Daniel and Zechariah and so forth. In the OT there is forecast this unparalleled time of trouble that is dubbed “the time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jer. 30:7).

We see it is a time when God will judge the world and Israel will be right in the middle of the crucible, but the Church is not represented in the OT. It was not revealed until the NT (Eph. 2:20; 3:5-6). Everything about the church was a MYSTERY not revealed previously including the start of the church and how it would conclude in the Rapture. This is all unique to church truth (cf. 1 Cor. 15:51-58). It has nothing to do with Israel.

Never in the NT do we find that the destiny of the Church is to face the wrath of God in the last days judgment. That is completely foreign to the whole Bible. In fact, we are told just the opposite.

Slide # 2

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NKJV)

10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who **delivers us from the wrath to come.**

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NKJV)

9 For God **did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Church is not waiting for the Antichrist but for the Christ. We are not looking for the Day of the Lord judgment, but rather for deliverance from it.

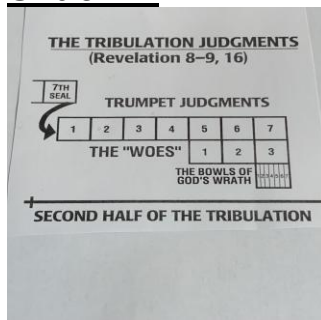
So then why did Christ give the Church all this detailed information about the coming Tribulation Period as found in the Book of Revelation? Well, it is our job to warn the world of coming judgment. The Church is the pillar and support of the truth (1 Tim. 3:15).

For now, understand that the next event on God's prophetic calendar is the Rapture of the Church. It is an imminent event, meaning that it could happen at any time, which is why we constantly emphasize LIVING READY!

Slide # 3



Following the Rapture comes the Day of the Lord Judgment, commonly called the 7-year Tribulation Period. This involves three series of judgments, namely the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments, which come with increasing frequency and intensity until the end. This is what is in view in Revelation 6-18.

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The last three trumpet judgments come in the second half of the tribulation (the great tribulation), and they are especially severe, being called “Woe” judgments.

With the blowing of the 5th trumpet, a whole host of demons was released from the bottomless pit. They went forth to inflict unbelievable torment on the unsaved of the world for five months. It is so bad that they will want to die, but will not be allowed to die. Revelation 9:12 says that this was the first woe, but two more woes are coming. Today, we consider the next one, which is the 6th trumpet, corresponding to the second woe.

Revelation 9:13–21 (NKJV)

13 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

This altar corresponds to the altar of incense placed right in front of the holy of holies (cf. Ex. 27:2). As incense was offered up, it represented prayer ascending up before God. This altar is not to be confused with the brass altar in the outer court that was used for bloody sacrifices. This golden altar was in effect an altar of PRAYER.

In Revelation 6:9, we find the souls of the martyrs under this altar, where they are prayerfully waiting on God to avenge them. Then, in 8:3, in connection with the Trumpet judgments being introduced, we find the prayers of the saints being offered up in conjunction with this golden altar. Out of that evolves the WOE judgments we are currently studying.

The identical language related to this altar is found back in 8:3. So, apparently, the voice in view ties back to the angel in 8:3 who was involved in the transmission of these prayers. Again, the thought is that what is happening has a prayer connection associated with the altar. The prayers of the saints had called for vengeance, and now, in answer to those prayers, God is releasing judgment in these WOES.

14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”

These four angels are different than those in Revelation 7:1. Those in chapter 7 are holy angels – God’s angels. These in chapter 9 are fallen angels.

Essentially, all the conservative commentators agree these FOUR angels are undoubtedly evil angels – that is, demons. A main reason for holding to this is that holy angels are NEVER said to be bound, but evil angels are. Also, when these angels are released, they head up what appears to be a huge army of demons. So it would appear these are like Demon Generals who head up a whole army of Under Demons.

At the blowing of the 6th trumpet, they are released, showing that they can only function as allowed by God. This is always true of Satan and his demons.

God sovereignly permits some things; He sovereignly prevents some things, and He sovereignly promotes some things, but He always sovereignly controls all things to a pre-determined end in accordance with His plan and purposes.

These four wicked angels were bound at the great river Euphrates. They are bound in a very specific place. Why are we not told, but this location is known as the “**cradle of civilization**,” going clear back to the garden of Eden in Genesis 2:14.

“...the prominence of this area in Scripture cannot be overlooked. The Garden of Eden was somewhere in this section. The sin of man began here. The first murder was committed here. The first war was fought here.

Here was where the Flood began and spread over the earth. Here is where the Tower of Babel was erected. To this area were brought the Israelites of the Babylonian Captivity. Babylon was the fountainhead of idolatry. And here is the final surge of sin on the earth during the Great Tribulation.” - **J. Vernon McGee**

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.

Again, note the SOVEREIGNTY of God over what is happening. These FOUR angels had been held back and “prepared” for just this time in the history of the world.

Now the exact time has come. Again, this is all happening according to God's timing and ultimate control.

God has His calendar and everything happens with exact precision in terms of what He has foreordained. In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son (Gal. 4:4). Jesus died precisely on Passover, being the perfect fulfillment of the Passover Lamb (cf. Mt. 26:2; 1 Cor. 5:7). Acts 17:30 says God has appointed a day on which He will judge the world. This judgment here in Revelation will come at just the exact hour, day, month, and year as determined by God. Jesus will come at a precise day and hour that no one knows (Matt. 24:36).

"The expression 'an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year' designates not the duration of their activity but the fact that this judgment comes exactly at the hour of God's appointment. On the basis that the article [the] is used only before the word hour in the Greek construction, it should be translated "the hour, and day, and month, and year..." – **John Walvoord**

In other words, it will happen at the **EXACT APPOINTED TIME!**

And speaking of God's appointed time. Unless Jesus comes in our lifetime, we have a precise appointment with death!

Slide # 5

Job 14:5 (NKJV)

5 Since his days are determined, The number of his months is with You; You have appointed his limits, so that he cannot pass.

Psalms 139:16 (NKJV)

16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV)

27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

"An old legend tells of a merchant in Baghdad who one day sent his servant to the market. Before very long, the servant came back, white and trembling, and in great agitation said to his master:

“Down at the market place I was jostled by a woman in the crowd, and when I turned around, I saw it was DEATH that jostled me. She looked at me and made a threatening gesture. Master, lend me your horse, for I must hasten away to avoid her. I will ride to Samarra, and there I will hide, and Death will not find me.

The merchant lent him his horse, and the servant galloped away in great haste. Later, the merchant went down to the marketplace and saw DEATH standing in the crowd. He went over to her and asked, “***Why did you frighten my servant this morning? Why did you make a threatening gesture?***

That was not a threatening gesture, DEATH said – It was only a start of surprise. I was astonished to see him in Baghdad, for I have an APPOINTMENT with him tonight in Sammara. – ***Peter Marshall***

God has His appointments, and they cannot be avoided! The world is on a collision appointment with God’s judgment, they just don’t know it!

Slide # 6

1 Thessalonians 5:2–3 (NKJV)

2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

3 For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. **And they shall not escape.**

The Woe judgments as seen in Revelation 8:13 are specifically targeted to “earth dwellers” who live for this life and what they can get out of it.

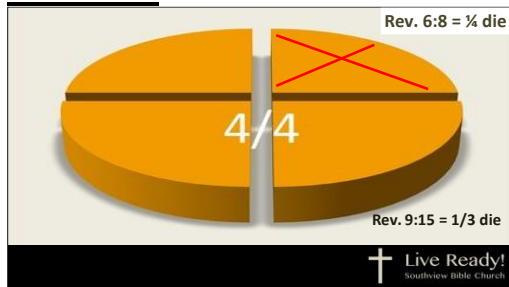
Under the 5th judgment, we saw that terrifying locust demons will be allowed to mercilessly torment the unsaved for 5 months, and they would not be allowed to die, thus giving them a little taste of hell, and yet evidently with the possibility of repenting, as the goal is to bring them to repentance as seen in 9:20.

However, if they won’t repent the sixth trumpet calls for a massive death judgment where a third of mankind living on the earth will die.

In Revelation 6:8 we saw that in relation to the 4th seal judgment that one fourth of the world’s population will die. Now in 9:15 we find that one-third of the world’s population will die. Add to this what we saw in Rev. 8:10-11 when the third trumpet angel sounded and a third of the fresh waters were made poisonously deadly, and then it says, “***many men died from the water.***”

Putting this altogether, we find that well over half the world's population will have died by the time the 6th trumpet judgment is concluded.

Slide # 7



There are about 8.2 billion people in the world today. Just for the sake of simplifying, let's imagine 200 million of them are raptured at the coming of Christ for the Church. That would leave 8 billion people still on the planet.

Now imagine half of them die! That means 4 billion people dead in less than 7 years. That is a lot of death! And that is just between the two judgments, namely the 4th seal and the 6th trumpet judgments. Add to that the MANY others who die in the other judgments!

By the time all is said and done FEW people will survive the great tribulation period. Most are going to die! Some are going to die and go to heaven, but most are doing to die and go to hell.

Slide # 8

Isaiah 24:6 (NKJV)

6 Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, And those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, And **few men are left.**

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

Two hundred million is a very large army! It is estimated that this was probably about the entire population of the whole world in the days of John the apostle.

The question is this: Who is this army? Are they humans, are they demons, are they demonically controlled humans? There are differing views, but most of the commentaries I read believe this is probably descriptive of a demonic army. There are three supporting reasons to think this.

- 1) The fifth and the sixth trumpets are tied together because they are both “woe” judgments. Clearly, the beings in view in the fifth are “demonic locusts.” This would argue that very possibly the weird, grotesque figures presented in the sixth trumpet are also demons.
- 2) This army is led by four fallen angels (Rev. 9:14-15). It would make sense that fallen angels are leading fellow demons in this onslaught.
- 3) The spewing forth of fire, smoke, and brimstone is connected with hell four times in the book of Revelation, leading to the conclusion that just like under the fifth trumpet, these are demonic representatives associated with the underworld characterized in this way (cf. Rev. 14:10-11; 19:20; 20:10; 21:8).

“The fact that the horses, rather than the riders, are the destructive agents and that they and their riders wear brightly colored breastplates matching the destructive forces proceeding from their mouths suggests that the combination of horse and rider is of superhuman origin. The determining aspect in favor of these being demons is the description of the horses that differs so greatly from any ordinary horse that these horses must be of another order.” – **Robert Thomas**

Without being dogmatic, in my view, most probably this 200 million army is demonic in orientation and is therefore figuratively represented in the way that it is.

Certainly, the language has to be symbolic. Just as the shape of the “locusts” released under the previous trumpet depicted the characteristics of the demons they symbolized, so the shapes of the “horses” here indicate the warlike, ferocious nature of the demons they represent. – **John Phillips**

“Commentators, at this point usually leap over to Rev. 16:12-16, where a second reference is made to the Euphrates, and where the kings of the East are mentioned. This military campaign here is arbitrarily equated with that one, whereas the two are actually distinct.” - **John Phillips**

To force this into Revelation 16:12 smacks of eisegesis. The whole context is different. Here in Revelation 9, the 6th trumpet judgment is in view, whereas in Revelation 16, the 6th bowl judgment is in view. They are two different things.

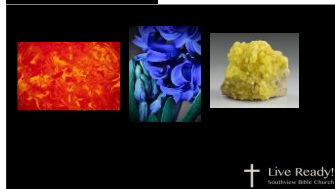
17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.

The connection between the horsemen and the horses is very close, and yet the power to kill actually comes from the horses and not their riders. Yet, they are intimately associated.

In the Bible, horses are most often spoken of in connection with military warfare (cf. Job 39:19-25). Note that here the horses are presented as doing the actual destruction, but really, we think that just like the “locusts” in the 5th trumpet were actually demons, these most likely are also demonic entities.

The riders had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, which is a dark blue like that of a flame, and sulfur yellow. Some translate “sulfur” as “brimstone”. Sulfur and brimstone in the Bible consistently depict JUDGMENT (cf. Gen. 19:24; Isa. 30:33; 34:9; Rev. 14:10).

Slide # 9



The idea of “breastplates” would emphasize the idea that in this endeavor, they are invincible – unstoppable.

The heads of these horses were like lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone (sulfur).

Slide # 10



This was demonically horrifying! Some people have a hard time with this and insist that it can't be real.

But they don't understand that this is going to be a whole different time. This is the day of the Lord with all sorts of supernatural phenomena taking place that are not normative today.

The underworld is now making war on mankind. These creatures from the underworld are unnatural. – **J. Vernon McGee**

Footnote: Some think that the 5th and the 6th trumpet are actually dealing with the same demonic forces. However, while there are similarities, there are also significant differences. Those under the 5th trumpet were not allowed to kill – only to torment. In contrast, those under the 6th trumpet have as their major mission to kill a third of mankind.

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.

By these three plagues (that is by the fire, smoke, and brimstone which came out of their mouths) a third of the human race was killed.

These three things, named as fire, smoke, and brimstone, are said to be plagues. Plagues kill people in mass (cf. Sodom and Gomorrah).

The word plagues echoes the idea of God sending plagues on Egypt in the OT (cf. Ex. 7-11). This is the first use of the word in the book of Revelation but after this it will appear frequently (cf. 9:20; 11:6; 13:3, 12, 14; 15:1, 6, 8; 16:9, 21; 18:4, 8; 21:9; 22:18).

A biblical plague describes widespread painful physical ailments or large-scale destruction brought about by the judgment of God.

Note this is the last “**limited judgment**”. Here, only one-third of mankind is affected, but after this, the whole of surviving humanity will be affected and afflicted. From here on out, there are no holds barred. When the 7th angel sounds the 7th trumpet it will bring to conclusion the whole matter in rapid succession.

Slide # 11

Revelation 10:7 (NKJV)

7 but in the days of the sounding of the **seventh angel**, when he is about to sound, **the mystery of God would be finished**, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

This means that we are getting close to the end!

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.

The destructive power of these demonic horses is found in their mouth and in their tails. They have it going on - on both ends. They have fire, smoke, and brimstone coming out of their mouths, and they have tails with serpent heads able to strike, both with killer effects!

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.

These are the hardened survivors! They have seen well over half of the world's population die in short order, and yet they will not repent! These are HARD core sinners steeled in their depravity!

One would think they would give serious pause to their ways. Many of them were probably afflicted by 5 months of torment under the 5th trumpet, where they couldn't die. This would have given them plenty of time to think about the seriousness of their rebellion (cf. Rev. 9:5-6). This is then followed up by a period of mass death where one-third of the earth's population will die!

If that doesn't get your attention – what will?

But those not killed by these plagues (in particular the plagues of the 6th trumpet judgment) did not repent.

The word repent literally means ***“to have a change of mind.”*** It is to have a change of mind about sin and a change of mind about the Lord resulting in a change of behavior. And the one inherently involves the other. You change your mind about sin – you change your mind about the Lord. You change your mind about the Lord – you change your mind about sin. Where you have one, you have the other.

Repentance is always involved in saving faith. We are saved by faith alone, but the very nature of a saving faith involves a change of mind with regard to sin. We admit our sin. We, in effect, say to God, “You are right – I am wrong,” and this change of mind then looks to God for salvation. That is the very nature of saving faith.

And then a series of things are mentioned that are indicative of no repentance. We are not saved by changing our behavior, but if there is true repentance, it will change our behavior!

Worship always dictates works. If people worship God, they will do good works; if they worship anything or anyone else, they will eventually do the works of the flesh. – **David Jeremiah**

The very first thing mentioned that they did not repent of was IDOLATRY. They 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.**

Slide # 12

“They absolutely failed to change their conduct, their creed, or their attitudes toward God... [Repentance] in Revelation denotes a change of mind in rejection of something that is anti-God...”

– **Robert Thomas**

People historically are prone to idolatry. Romans 1 says that people in their depraved rebellion become fools and turn to idolatry! Idolatry is a totally mindless thing! And yet it is interesting that people, when they turn from God, still turn to worship something else. People were made to worship, and they will worship. The only question is what will they worship?

Their gods are the “**works of their hands.**” Think about this: If you have to construct a god, you literally have a god of your own making, which is no god at all. It is mindless!

An idol is anything one worships instead of God. It is anything that serves in the place of God! It can be an official shrine, or it may be anything one lives for instead of God!

Remember that these people, 10 times over in the book of Revelation, are called “**earth dwellers.**” They live for the STUFF of this earth! They live for NOW, and this is how it reflects in their lives.

Note here that IDOL worship is essentially synonymous with DEMON worship. They are a package. The fact is that behind IDOLS is the reality of demons. This is one reason mankind has always been so attracted to DUMB idols - there is a real spiritual power behind them.

Slide # 13

1 Corinthians 10:19–20 (NKJV)

19 What am I saying then? That an **idol is anything**, or what is offered to idols is anything?

20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they **sacrifice to demons** and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

Idols within themselves are nothing but a piece of wood or whatever. They are nothing! But there is demonic activity behind them.

Paul Kuhlman wrote of C.H. Suckau “Returning to the field [India] his health was greatly weakened by repeated attacks of malaria, and finally by a very severe illness which permanently damaged his heart. That illness he believed came as a result of Satanic influence. In his early zeal as a young missionary he had destroyed an idol to show how powerless it was. As he lay near death, in a moment of delirium, the scene in Job came to mind where God said to Satan “Only spare his life” From that moment he improved.” – ***Told in “The Story of Grace”***

Paul points out the absurdity of worshiping these DUMB things, which in and of themselves can do nothing. They are created by people and can’t see, hear, or walk! How foolish to worship such a thing? (cf. Deut. 4:28; Ps. 115:5-7; 135:15; Isa. 44:12-20; Dan. 5:23).

This shows the senselessness of idol worship, and yet there is the power of darkness influencing people in relation to these dumb idols. Even the unsaved people worshiping these dumb idols seem to realize there is an unseen “power” behind them. That is the real issue!

It is interesting that of the five sins of defiance that are mentioned, the first one – and the one dealt with most extensively is IDOLATRY! This is the major issue out of which all the other sins flow. This is a breaking of the 1st table of the law (The first four commandments, which are all God-oriented). The very first commandment was, “***You shall have no other gods before Me.***” And then, “***You shall not make for yourself a carved image...***”. (Ex. 20:3-4).

God is a jealous God! He will accept no other in addition to Himself! He will not share with any other supposed god. God demands that He alone be recognized as God for indeed He alone is God!

This is the Day of the Lord judgment. The key issue is the Lordship of God. God is taking a rebel world to task over His LORDSHIP authority!

Lordship and Repentance go together. In the reality of repentance is the acknowledgement of the Lordship of Christ. To really believe in Christ as Lord involves the element of repentance which then demonstrates itself in the life. That is why sometimes the Bible just speaks in terms of REPENTANCE and sometimes just in terms of BELIEVE. But the fact is, where you have one, you have the other.

Slide # 14

“Another proof of the conquest of a soul for Christ will be found in a real change of life. If the man does not live differently from what he did before, both at home and abroad, his repentance needs repented of, and his conversion is a fiction.”

- C.H. Spurgeon

The real issue is the NATURE of saving faith. There is a kind of faith that doesn't save – in other words, it is devoid of repentance – it is a kind of faith that has never really changed its mind about sin or Christ! It just wants fire insurance...forgiveness...eternal life...

The continuation of demon worship enhances the irony of the situation: the very demons who were agents in inflicting such wide-scale death under the sixth trumpet continue to be the objects of worship for the remaining two-thirds of mankind. **(Kiddle quote by Robert Thomas)**

These people refuse to repent. They refuse to bow before the Lordship authority of God Almighty! They are like the Pharaoh of old who hardened his heart and refused to repent (cf. Ex. 7:22-23; 8:15, 32; 9:7, 34-35; Rom. 9:17-18).

God is very gracious and long-suffering, but if people in rebellion refuse to repent, eventually God gives them over to a reprobate mind as seen in Romans 1. Such people are so steeled in their rebellion that they are no longer able to think right in terms of spiritual realities. Thus, God gives them over to their own devices, and they are totally deceived.

It would seem in this context that much of this idolatry probably centers around the antichrist, who claims to be God. They will probably manufacture all kinds of images in his likeness and worship accordingly!

Slide # 15

2 Thessalonians 2:9–12 (NKJV)

9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

These are people who had plenty of opportunity to respond to the truth. To start with, God will have had His two special witnesses on the earth for three and ½ years performing all manner of miracles in the name of God the Most High, as seen in Revelation 11. They knew this! They have seen all manner of judgments, and yet in their rebellion, they follow the absolute HEIGHT of idolatry in the whole history of humankind as seen in the antichrist!

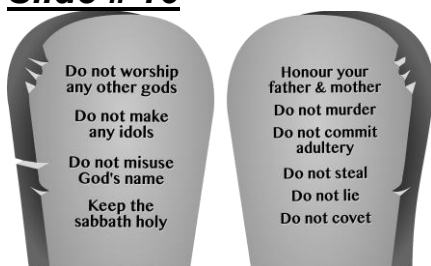
The most frightening thing about Revelation 9 is not the judgments that God sends but the sins that men persist in committing even while God is judging them. – **Warren Wiersbe**

Indeed, this level of rebellious depravity is shocking! It is scary to think there is a point of no return where people are so steeled in their rebellion that it doesn't matter what the evidence is, it doesn't matter what the truth is, it doesn't matter how much they are hurting, they are the sworn enemies of God to the end, and they will die right there. THAT IS STONE COLD HARD!

21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Verse 20 deals with sins related to the first table of the law, and verse 21 deals with sins related to the second table of the law.

Slide # 16



The first table relates to loving God, the second to loving your neighbor. The first is God oriented – the second is people-oriented in terms of how you should treat them. These people are breaking all the laws of God. They have no regard for God or mankind. They are a law unto themselves as is the Antichrist.

Slide # 17

Refuse to repent of...

First Table of the Law...

- 1) Idolatry (v. 20)

Second Table of the Law...

- 2) Murders (v. 21)
- 3) Sorceries (v. 21)
- 4) Sexual immorality (v. 21)
- 5) Thefts (v. 21)

Twice here, the issue is made to be repentance as seen in verse 20 and then again in verse 21. These people refuse to repent.

The point is clear: God wants these people to come to repentance! That is always the issue! It has always been the issue! Jesus, after His resurrection, said that *“repentance and remission of sins” should be preached in His name among all the nations* (Lk. 24:47). Paul, in summarizing his ministry, said in Acts 26:20 that he preached that people should *“repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.”*

Murders: Is the taking of human life in all its murderous ways. We are not talking about war or self-defense. Rather, murder is the premeditated taking of another person’s life for no legitimate reason.

Sorceries: The Greek word here is “pharmakeion” from which we get our English word “pharmacy”. Often, we call this the *“drug store”* (cf. Gal. 5:20; Rev. 18:23; 21:8; 22:15).

“Drugs in the ancient world were used to dull the senses and induce a state suitable for religious experiences such as seances, witchcraft, incantations, and cavorting with mediums...” – **John MacArthur**

This involves drug-induced altered states of consciousness related to occult experiences. It seems that through drug use and altered states of consciousness, barriers are broken down and people open themselves up to the realm of the demonic in ways they otherwise would not. Drugs and demons are closely associated.

When all hell breaks loose on the earth, people will undoubtedly turn to drugs all the more to help them cope!

Sexual immorality: Sex outside the bounds of God-ordained marriage between a man and a woman is forbidden. Sexual immorality shows a flagrant disregard for the God-ordained institution of marriage.

Slide # 18

Hebrews 13:4 (NKJV)

4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers **God will judge**.

Thefts: This is stealing, robbing from one another, taking what is not yours.

You would think that these WOE judgments would slow them down and maybe bring them to REPENTANCE in terms of how they have been living! But no, they keep right on going even when 1/3 of the population dies from the plagues going on around them.

Again, this speaks to the DEPRAVITY OF MAN! Some people are steeled in their position of “no fear of God” (Rom. 3:18). They can’t be scared into repentance. Nothing will change them! Only God can change people – but they must come to repentance, and for some, it doesn’t matter what happens, they are so hardened they will not repent!

“Murders, fornicators, sorcerers, and idolaters are in the lists of those excluded from the New Jerusalem in Revelation 21:8, 22:15, doubtless because of their failure to repent of their law-breaking.”

– Robert Thomas

What we see here at this point is a mass of people who WORSHIP – they have RELIGION, but it is tied to the demonic realm and has NO POWER to change them for good! It has no power to transform their lives. It provides no power that results in righteous living (cf. 2 Tim. 3:5).

The Bible says...

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

As the old preacher said: “***If you is what you was, you ain’t***”. That isn't very good English, but it represents good theology.

Do you know what it means to say I am a Christian?

It means that you are saying I have been changed! I am a different person! It is to say my mind/heart has been changed – I have become, as they say in Russia, “***a repent***”. In Russia, this is a common way to describe conversion: “***I am a repent***”.

There are lots of people who claim to believe. Jesus said MANY will say to Him on judgment day, “Lord, Lord,” but in truth they never knew Him (Mt. 7:21-23).

Titus 1:16 (NKJV)

16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

It's not enough to “Profess”, what are your “works” saying? Do they testify to true repentance? This is what James is talking about when he says that “***faith without works is dead***” (Ja. 2:20).

In **every dispensation, the NATURE** of saving faith has been the same – that disposition of faith in the heart that God requires has never changes. Revelation was progressive – but anyone who has ever been saved has been saved by faith – the right kind of faith as seen in Hebrew 11.

So also regarding the reality of repentance.

The prophets called for repentance.

John the Baptist called for repentance

Jesus called for repentance

The apostles called for repentance.

The book of Revelation calls for repentance in the Tribulation.

So do you suppose that in the church age we can now say, “***Well, repentance is not necessary?***” NO! Just as sure as repentance is necessary in the Day of the Lord for salvation, so now also!

Years ago, H.A. Ironside wrote a book titled “***Unless you repent***”.

He wrote:

“Fully convinced in my own mind that the doctrine of repentance is the missing note in many otherwise orthodox and fundamentally sound circles, I have penned this volume out of a full heart.”

“Fallen man is not simply an imperfect creature who needs improvement: he is a rebel who must lay down his arms.”

– **C.S. Lewis**

This involves the will/heart – this describes REPENTANCE!

Slide # 19

Acts 17:30 (NKJV)

30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now **commands all men everywhere to repent,**

Acts 20:21 (NKJV)

21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, **repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.**

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)

9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**

If people don't come to repentance, they will perish! There are no exceptions!

KONDRATY RYLEYEV

A man named Kondraty was sentenced to be hanged for his part in an unsuccessful uprising against the Russian czar Nicholas the I in December of 1825. But the rope broke and Kondraty fell to the ground bruised and battered but alive. He got up and said, “***In Russia, they do not know how to do anything properly, not even how to make a rope.***” An accident of this type usually resulted in a pardon – so a messenger was sent to the czar to know his pleasure. Nicholas asked, “***What did he say?***” “Sir, he said that in Russia they do not even know how to make a rope properly?” Well, let the contrary be proved – said the czar.

A change of mind reflected in a change of behavior makes all the difference!

Grace allows guilty sinners to go free, all depending on how they respond to His offer of grace. Grace is received on God's terms – and His terms are a repentant faith that from the HEART receives Christ as Lord and Savior!

If one continues to defy God, they will find themselves under the eternal judgment of God. If they repent and put their faith in Jesus, they can go free!

Where are you? What is your response to God's offer of pardon in Jesus?

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved!