

Revelation

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Notes From the Podium

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These notes are intended to augment your own reading and study of the lesson. Please use as an aid to help document the main message of the lecture.

Revelation 9:1-21

- I. “The fifth angel blew his trumpet...A Star fell from heaven to earth”
 - A. The Fall of man or of angels
 - 1. Ontological fall = you are lessened, your nature is damaged
 - a. Man is damaged
 - b. Angels are damaged
 - 2. Satan fell “like a star from the sky”
 - a. Like a fallen star, Satan lost his position as light bearer
 - b. He no longer has a place in the heavens
 - 3. The greater the nature the farther the Fall
 - a. the greater the capacity for goodness the greater the capacity for evil. Consider a dog vs. man vs. Lucifer.
 - b. The corruption of the greatest is the greatest corruption
- II. “...the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit”
 - A. Israel believed there was a bottomless shaft beneath the rock upon which the temple was built.
 - 1. Hell has long been thought of as being under ground.
 - 2. That which is more “dense” sinks deeper.
 - a. Dante’s Divine Comedy: Cosmology = layers of hell
 - b. Souls who prefer themselves to God are denser/heavier and fall through the earth to a level that corresponds to their weight
 - 3. Shoal/Hades– place of the dead, demons, and Satan himself *Lk 8:31*
 - 4. Over the shaft was a “rock”
 - 5. The angel’s key *unlocks* the shaft and will release all the demons.
 - 6. Of the temple the Jews believed:
 - a. It was the foot stool of God
 - b. It was the dwelling place of God
 - c. It covered the shaft of the abyss
 - 7. As long as the temple remained they believed they were safe



Notes From the Podium (cont)

8. Recall Jesus' words: "not one stone will be left unturned"

*Today on the site where the temple once stood, there is a rock, upon which is a Muslim mosque, "The Dome of the Rock". Muslims have taken over the belief that below the rock is the realm of the dead.

- B. "Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it"
 1. Interesting because gates do not attack, they defend.
 2. So the shaft is not concerned with covering itself
 3. Christ will descend to Hades
 4. Peter by virtue of the power of the keys, can unlock people who live in the death of sin and nothing can stop him from coming in.
- III. The pit is opened - smoke rose, sun and air are darkened
- IV. Locust
 - A. power of scorpions
 1. not to harm grass or any green growth of the earth
 2. Only to harm mankind who have not the seal of God upon their foreheads.
 - a. "Taw"
 - b. Those who refused to adore idols, who mourned over idolatry and destruction of the Lord's sanctuary.
 3. Here we see a union between human interaction and the diabolic
 - a. The locust representative of the Roman army coming in to destroy the Jews.
 - b. 5 months is both the life span of locust but also the length of time that the Roman General Cestius attacked Jerusalem.
 - B. Would God destroy His own people?
 1. Constant attempts made by OT Prophets as well as throughout New Testament to "save yourself", "come back to the Lord", "Don't do this", etc...
 2. Evil is waiting to attack but is stayed by God's hand.
 3. St. Paul says the antichrist is already in the world but a restraining hand holds him back.
 4. All God has to do to destroy is to do nothing
 5. Intercessory Prayer – the fidelity of God's people is the very thing that causes God to act on their behalf.
 6. If we remove ourselves from fidelity to God, we remove ourselves from his aid.
 7. God allows human elements to be enmeshed with the diabolic – to be agents of evil. Example: the unsuccessful Jewish rebellion against Rome in 66A.D.
 - a. Procurator Gessius Florus killed 3600 Jews just to insight a revolt so he could then attack.
 - b. In the midst of certain victory Gessius pulls out



Notes From the Podium (cont)

- c. The Jews, taking the retreat as a sign of God's deliverance, pursue, attack and kill many Romans thus causing Rome to send in the Legions.
- d. Results in the utter destruction of Jerusalem.
- e. Evil is allowed to pounce on God's own people, because they had removed themselves from God's own care.
- f. During the month of Tishri- feast of trumpets – *when the fifth trumpet blew all hell was unleashed.*
 - C. The angel that leads this army is Satan ("Abaddon")
 - a. "Abaddon" means "destruction"
 - b. Contrast to "Jesus", which means "God Saves"
- V. Vs. 12-21 "The first woe has past, behold 2 woes are still to come..."
 - A. "Release the 4 angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates" - Jerusalem, Israel, and Jordan were often attacked from the Euphrates (Assyrians, Babylonians, and Romans)
 - B. "...and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads and fire and smoke and sulfur issued from their mouths."
 - 1. You see the connection here between something real (horses) and something diabolic (sulfur, smoke, fire)
 - 2. If we could only see what was really happening....
 - C. "The power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails."
 - 1. According to one commentator, this is indeed a reference to the Roman Army – Had the Jews not risen up in pride and pursued the Roman Army, everything would have been okay. Instead, their pursuit (after the tails of the horses) led to their ultimate destruction by the Roman legions.
 - 2. One moment of success led to suicidal-pride.
 - D. "The rest of mankind..."
 - 1. Reminiscent of Scriptures that talk of idolatry
 - 2. Even the names "Image and Likeness" that God applies to us describe idols – we are made in His image, we look like Him
 - 3. The Fall is a matter of Idolatry is choosing to worship an "image" of God over God himself
 - 4. *Rom* – When we turn away from God, we give ourselves up to our own passions. We give ourselves up to ourselves and become slaves to a torturous heart.
 - E. This passage ends in great hope. We see later on in Rev. a connection – Satan will be shut up again, there will be an end to this.
- VI. More on Idolatry
 - A. This is the constant difficulty that the Father has with his Children
 - 1. Not only are they constantly worshiping the idols of the lands they enter, they are always worshipping themselves.
 - 2. How disgusting it is for one so perfect to choose to be like a beast over like the Father.



Notes From the Podium (cont)

- B. If we find it hard to accept the Jewish position in Jerusalem, we should realize that in some sense, we are in a worse position than the Jews were.
1. We have not only received the law and the prophets, but the very life of Christ.
 2. We can be called sons and daughters of the Father
 3. We share in the nature of Christ, the Divine Nature
 4. God became man that man might become like God.
 5. So we have risen not just to the level of humanity but to that of touching divinity.
 6. Should *we* turn to idol worship, the scripture that could be written to describe how grotesque it is would be much more horrific than what we read in Revelation.
- C. What do we do?
1. Love Him
 2. Serve God not ourselves
 3. Avoid idolatry – Chiefly Pride
 - a. Pride can make us very dense and we can sink very deep
 - b. The Virtues of Humility and Love can in contrast make us light – by making a gift of ourselves we proceed away from ourselves and Rise.