

<sup>3</sup> Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near. —  
Revelation 1:3 (NKJV)

A man with a long white beard and hair, wearing a simple brown robe, is seated in a rocky, arid landscape. He is holding a scroll in his left hand and a quill pen in his right, writing on it. The scroll has some text written on it, including the words "KANA" and "TENT". The background shows rolling hills and a clear sky.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)*

“THE 6TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN CONTINUED” (9:13-21)



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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- The **imagery** and **symbols** in Revelation are necessary in comprehending the **BIG PICTURE** - but if we focus too much on the imagery and symbols we can easily **MISS** the **BIG PICTURE**.
- The **BIG PICTURE** in chapters 8:2-11:19 is clearly **GOD WILL BRING CALAMITY** upon those who persecute His people.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)*

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- A series of three “7’s” — 7 seals (6:1-8:5); 7 trumpets (8:6-9:21); and 7 bowls of wrath (15:1-16:21).
- These run parallel to each other in a recapitulation pattern with God’s judgments being increased in intensity.
- John describes them one after the other by revealing from different viewpoints the judging and restraining action of God.



**7 TRUMPETS** - Rev. 8, 9  
God's Call To Repentance



**7 SEALS** - Rev. 6-8:1  
God's Judgment Is Coming



**7 BOWLS** - Rev. 16  
God's Wrath Is Full



**THE WICKED**



All three series of sevens are simultaneous, although the trumpets and the bowls of wrath are more limited in time as they deal only with the “things which must shortly come to pass” (1:1).



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)*

### “THE 6TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN CONTINUED” (9:13-21)



- 7 ANGELS & 7 TRUMPETS (8:2-6)
  - ▶ The urgent pleas and prayers of the saints have not gone unheard (cf. 6:10).
  - ▶ This vision is letting those who prayed so intensely for help in their distress know that God was indeed listening - it would be their prayers that initiate divine judgment.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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“THE 6TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN CONTINUED” (9:13-21)



## ■ 7 ANGELS & 7 TRUMPETS (8:2-6)

- ▶ The natural calamities symbolized by the first four trumpets have weakened the Empire, but did not bring it down. (8:1-13)
- ▶ The fifth and sixth trumpets seem to introduce these last two factors that contributed to the demise of the Roman Empire.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)*

### “THE 6TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN CONTINUED” (9:13-21)



- HOW GOD WILL ULTIMATELY BRING AN END TO ROME’S POWER
  - ▶ Crisis of the 3rd Cent. AD (235–284).
    - **Civil wars** - at least 26 claimants to the title of emperor.
    - **Natural disasters** - Antonine & Cyprian Plagues, (165-180; AD 249 to AD 262); extreme weather events, agricultural instability; famine; volcanos, - economic collapse
    - **Barbarian immigrants / and numerous invasions.**



## Revelation 9:13–21 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, <sup>14</sup> saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> Now the number of the army of the horsemen *was* two hundred million; I heard the number of them. <sup>17</sup> 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.



## Revelation 9:13–21 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

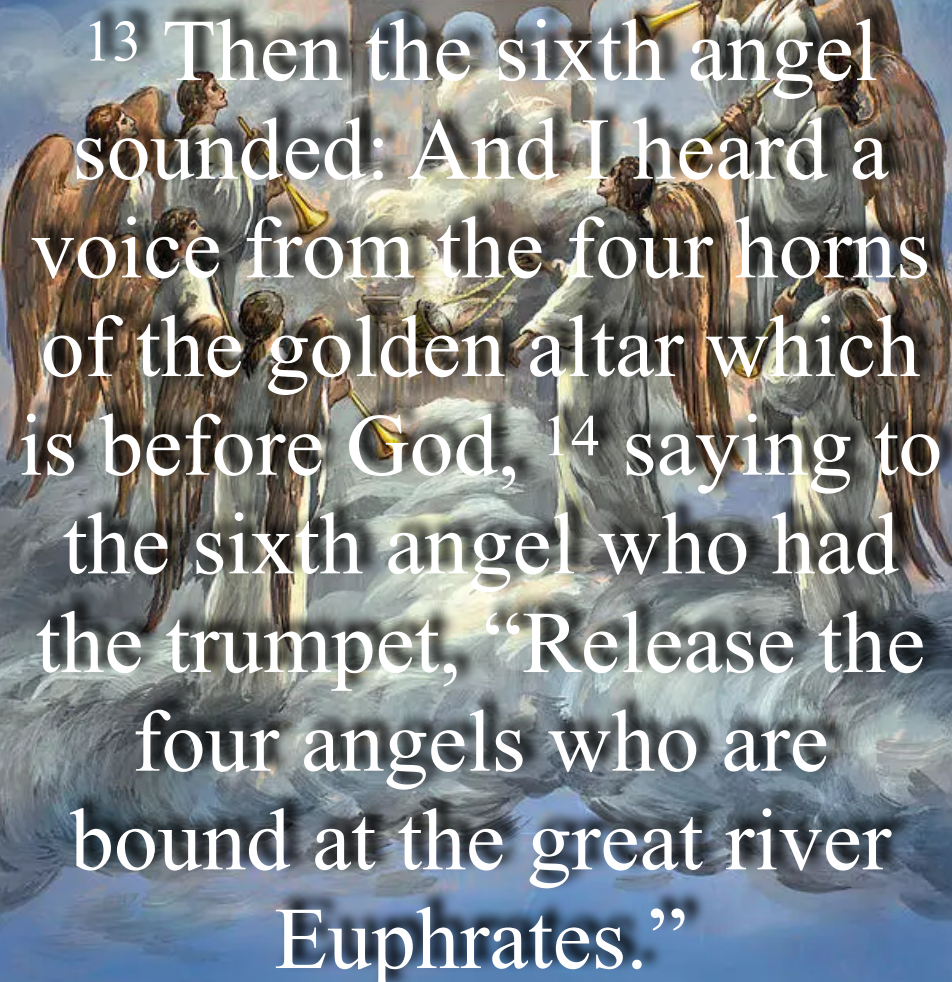


# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)*

### “THE 6TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN CONTINUED” (9:13-21)

#### Revelation 9:13–14 (NKJV)



<sup>13</sup> Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, <sup>14</sup> saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”

- THE 6TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:13-21)
  - ▶ This voice can be construed only as an answer to the prayers offered up as incense (Rev. 5:8; 6:10; 8:3-5).
  - ▶ By God’s authority, the four angels, which are bound at the great river Euphrates, will stir up enemies to fight against the Romans (16:12).
  - ▶ The figure of a massive army from across that ancient waterway was one that was well understood and in fact very familiar to the apostle’s audience.

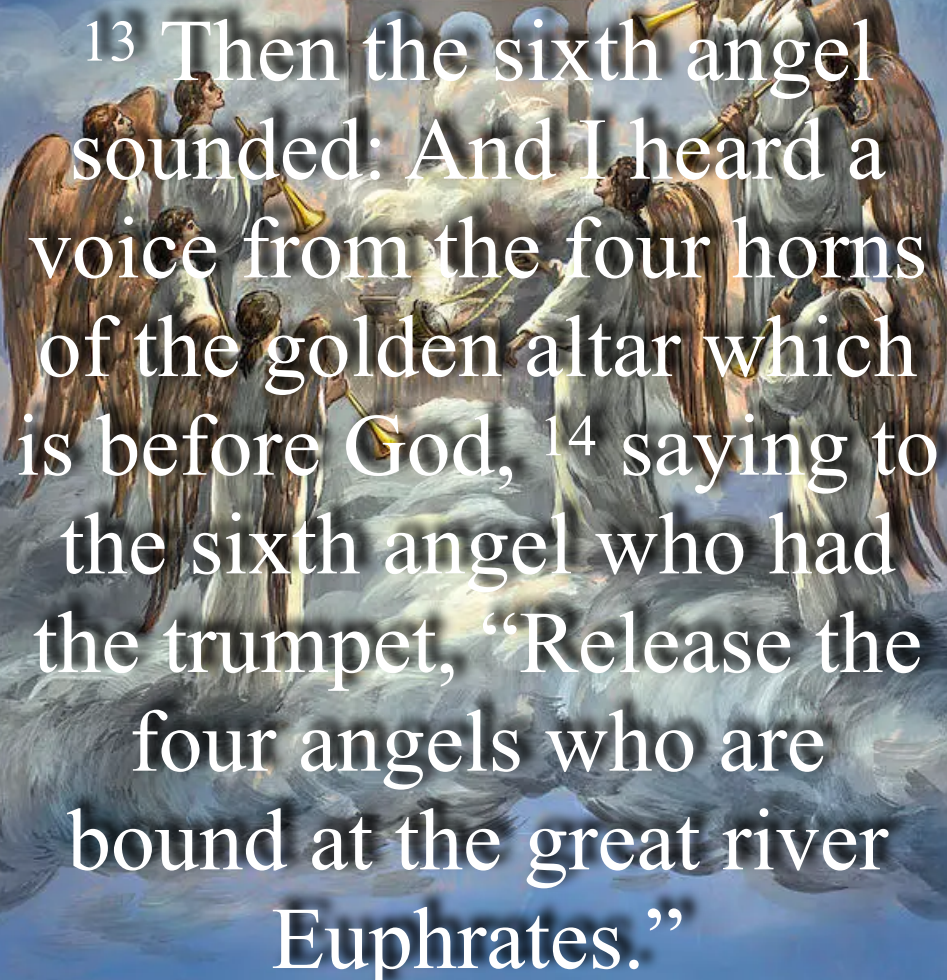


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### ■ THE 6TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:13-21)

- ▶ In the Old Testament, Israel was threatened by the Assyrians and then the Babylonians from beyond the River Euphrates.
- ▶ The external invasions of the Parthians did arise from beyond the region of the Euphrates and did in fact contribute to the fall of the Empire.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)*

### “THE 6TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN CONTINUED” (9:13-21)

#### Revelation 9:15–16 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup>

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

#### ■ THE 6TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:13-21)

- All of this is said to be laid out in advance, minutely and immutably planned by God (cf. Wisd. 11:20).
- The writer does not mention that this 1/3 of mankind that are killed are those who have not been sealed by God for protection, but that is apparently assumed to be the case (cf. 9:4).
- 200 million horsemen - symbolic of an army impossible to repulse, even mighty Rome.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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#### ■ THE 6TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:13-21)

- ▶ “... Summers calculated they would cover an area one mile wide and eighty-five miles long. The literalist cannot find the space to fit an army this size into the valley of Jezreel for a battle of Armageddon!” (Dan King - I Saw The Heavens Opened”)
- ▶ “This utterly bewildering number might have been sufficient to keep interpreters from looking for some slavishly literal fulfilment” (Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers)

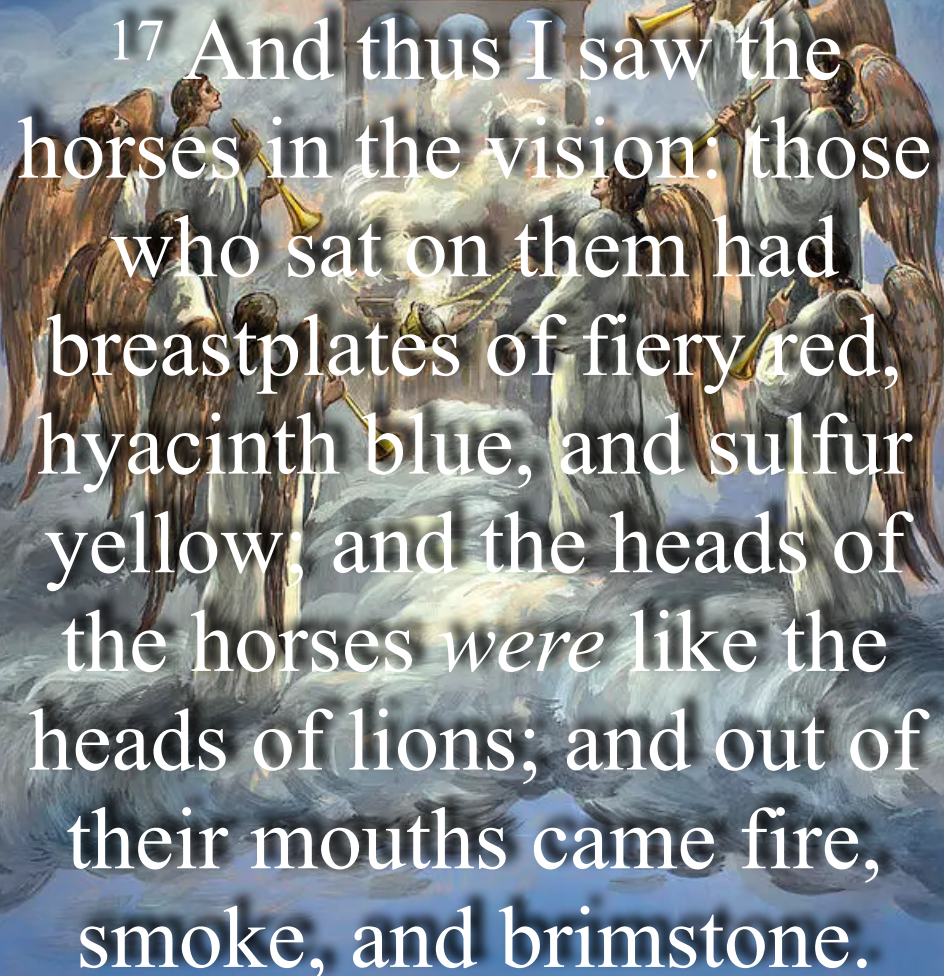


# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)*

### “THE 6TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN CONTINUED” (9:13-21)

#### Revelation 9:17 (NKJV)



<sup>17</sup> 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 6TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:13-21)

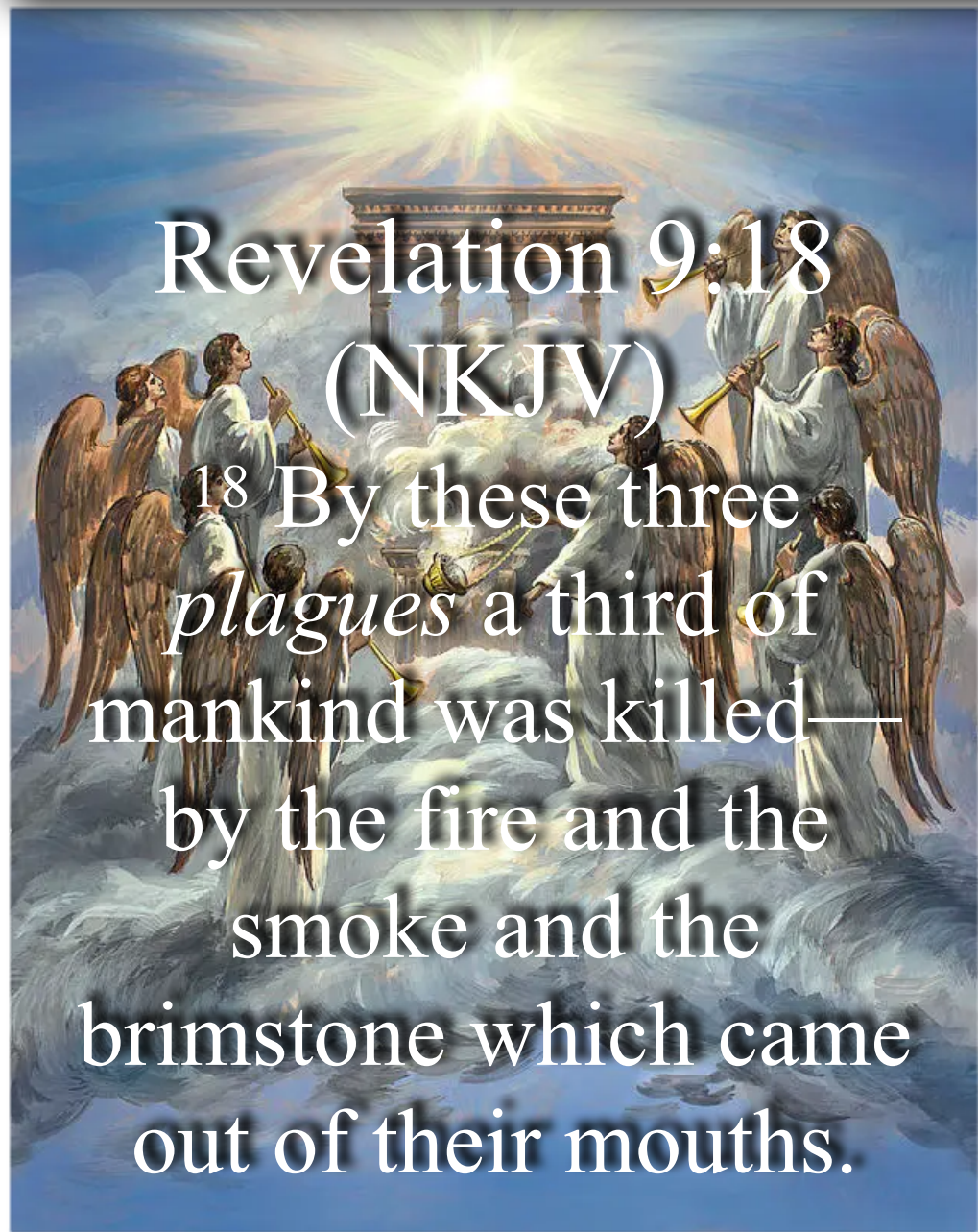
- ▶ Like the locust plague before them, they are demonic forces.
- ▶ Their breastplates were the colors of hell (fiery red, smoky blue, and sulfurous yellow).
- ▶ A lion portrays strength and power, whereas the three elements they breathe out, fire, smoke, and brimstone (sulfur), illustrate the overwhelming, all-consuming destruction wielded by this power.



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)*

### “THE 6TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN CONTINUED” (9:13-21)



#### ■ THE 6TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:13-21)

- ▶ Like the first 4 trumpets affecting nature, only 1/3 part of mankind was affected, thus not the final judgment, but a warning for men to repent!
- ▶ This was the case with the locust-horses of Joel (2:12-14); The demonic cavalry of Gog (Ezek. 38:18-23); The locust swarm of Amos (7:1, 2).
- ▶ Repentance on the part of wicked men is always the object of God's judgment (cf. Rom. 2:4-5; 2 Pet. 3:15).



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)*

### “THE 6TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN CONTINUED” (9:13-21)



Revelation 9:19  
(NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> 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 6TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:13-21)

- ▶ Many commentators suggest that this army John sees in this vision symbolize Parthian cavalry, Rome's most dreaded military enemy. Parthians were celebrated horsemen.
- ▶ The “sting” that John says is in the tails of these frightening horses is probably an allusion to the “Parthian shot” (or “parting shot”) as it came to be called: a light horse military tactic customarily employed by them.



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#### ■ THE 6TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:13-21)

- ▶ This is symbolical language that dramatize the pageantry of a culture collapsing on itself, — the demise of the foundational institutions of society, i.e, government, family, & commerce.
- ▶ Invasions from insects and armies, like organized military forces, represent the heavy toll that sin exacts upon society.
- ▶ This collapse finds its main cause in man's rejection of God. Men bring this killing curse upon themselves.

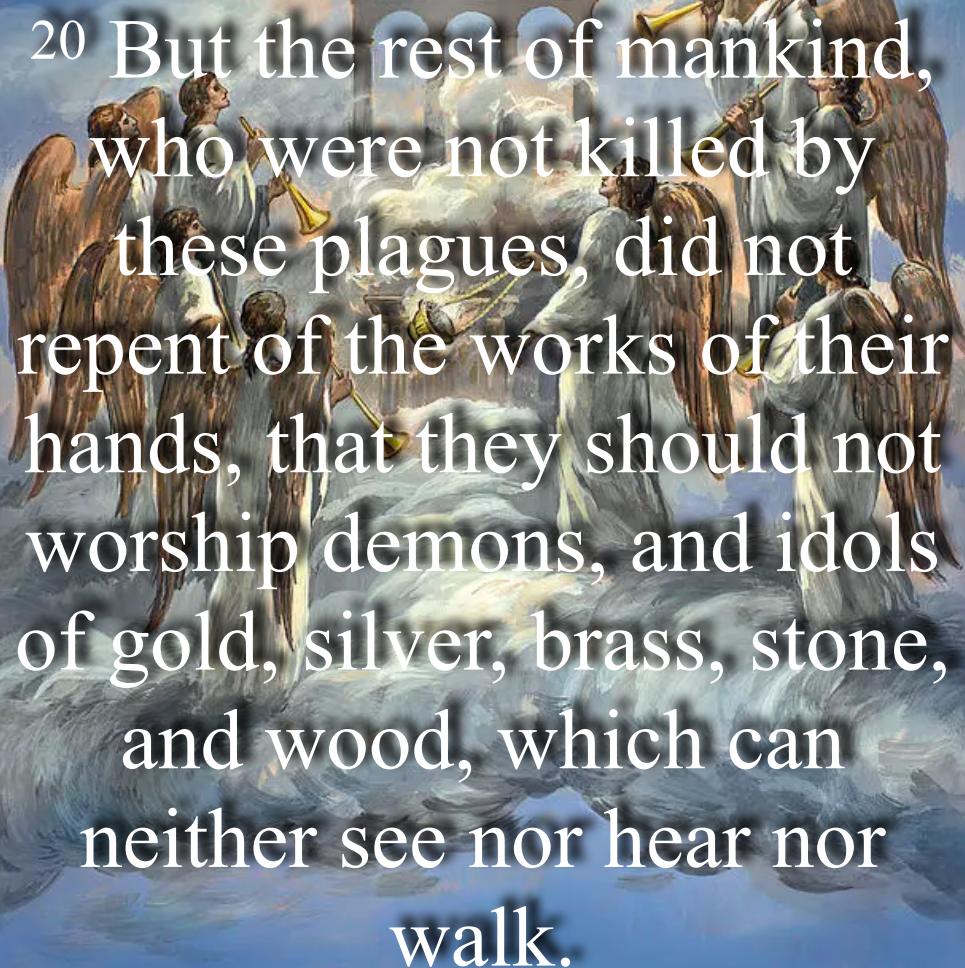


# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)*

### “THE 6TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN CONTINUED” (9:13-21)

#### Revelation 9:20–21 (NKJV)



<sup>20</sup> 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.

#### ■ THE 6TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:13-21)

- ▶ The purpose of God in sending various judgments on mankind is always to elicit repentance from those who suffer these painful indignities (2 Pet. 3:1-9)
- ▶ How sad it is when men who see the power of God remain so hardened in spirit that they will not repent.
- ▶ This text associates idolatrous practices with the worship of demons (Lev. 17:7; Deut. 32:17; Ps. 106:37; 1 Cor. 10:20).



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## *Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)*

### “THE 6TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN CONTINUED” (9:13-21)

#### Revelation 9:20–21 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> And they did not  
repent of their  
murders or their  
sorceries or their  
sexual immorality or  
their thefts.

- THE 6TH ANGEL SOUNDS (9:13-21)
  - ▶ “Sorceries” are commonly linked with the worship of demons — The two go hand in hand.
  - ▶ John, like Paul, saw the varied practices of pagan worship as springs of moral and spiritual corruption, — we BECOME like what we worship! (cf. Rom. 1:18ff.).
  - ▶ God’s judgment against sinful man is JUST! (Rom. 1:18-2:11)



This world has repeatedly brought suffering to the people of God, but the day will come when God will avenge His saints, and glorify His people.

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)*

“THE 6TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN CONTINUED” (9:13-21)



The consequences of sin most certainly will bring about pain and suffering, and those given to evil are powerless against its destructive forces!

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“THE 6TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN CONTINUED” (9:13-21)



Mercy is still greater than judgment since a longsuffering God extends every opportunity for men to return to God. (2 Peter 3:9)

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)*

“THE 6TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN CONTINUED” (9:13-21)



# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)*

**“THE 6TH TRUMPET: WOES UPON MAN CONTINUED” (9:13-21)**

**HEAVENS DOOR HAS BEEN OPENED  
FOR YOU - WILL YOU ENTER?**

**Believe — John 3:16;**

**Repent — Acts 17:30;**

**Confess — Romans 10:9,10;**

**Be baptized — Acts 2:38;**

**Endure by faith — I Corinthians 15:58**







# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

*Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)*

**“5TH & 6TH TRUMPETS: WOES UPON MAN” (9:1-21)**

**Charts by Don McClain**

Preached July 24, 2022

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# Joel 2:1–11 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the Lord is coming, For it is at hand: <sup>2</sup> A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning *clouds* spread over the mountains. A people *come*, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any *such* after them, Even for many successive generations. <sup>3</sup> A fire devours before them, And behind them a flame burns; The land *is* like the Garden of Eden before them, And behind them a desolate wilderness; Surely nothing shall escape them.