

Revelation 9

Good Morning church.

This morning we will continue our study of Revelation. We are in chapter 9 this morning.

I must admit right up front, according to some standards in society, this teaching this morning will be highly offensive and extreme according to some standards.

Today issues like 'sin' and 'hell' are considered topics of hate and discrimination.

It is believed that only the unenlightened still talk about these kind of things.

And people's feelings and emotions today are put above truth.

A Church of England primary school has found itself thrust into an unexpected controversy over an essential doctrine of the Christian faith.

What would seem like a perfectly normal religious instruction to children has a group of parents complaining such teaching is "extremist".

Bowing to pressure, Dan Turvey, the headmaster of St. John's School in Tunbridge, Wells, has broken off the 16-year working relationship with CrossTeach, an educational charity group.

What is the "potentially damaging ideology" that the children were exposed to? A group of 25 parents have signed their names to a letter complaining that the children were being taught about our sinful nature and, that because of sin, if they didn't believe in God, "they would not go to a good place when they died." The students were said to have been "upset and disturbed emotionally" by this lesson,

Read more at http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=1763#6FBok8DKQ4xZ0K85.99

This world is increasingly growing hostile to God and His truths.

Our culture everyday seems to be captivated by the satanic deception at work all around us.

Humanity has lifted itself higher and higher in its relation to God.

People's comfort and convenience has usurped conviction and correction.

The more our days are lived out, selfishness and rebellion are increasing all the more.

There is even a form of godliness, an outward religion, but it is only lived out as long as it does not interfere with a person's lifestyle, and the power of God over sin is denied and rejected.

And all of this is leading up to a sad pinnacle within human history.

Where the treachery to a holy God reaches its demonic climax.

Now, last time we were together, we entered into the final half of the tribulation, a time in History Jesus referred to as the 'Great Tribulation.'

The severity of God's wrath against a Grace rejecting world has been intensified.

The seventh and final seal was opened, and in that final seal, seven angels were revealed holding the seven trumpets of judgment.

As each angel blew its trumpet, God righteous wrath struck one third of the earth's vegetation, then the second trumpet, meted out judgment upon one third of the oceans water and vessels.

The third trumpet poisoned one third of the fresh water, and the fourth trumpet struck a third of the skies light.

And after these dreadful warnings from God, He sends an ominous signal to mankind, as an eagle flies through the heavens pronouncing 3 woes upon the earth.

God is looking for repentance, of any kind before the last three trumpets sound, bringing these three terrible woes upon humanity.

Now this morning we will look at the first two woes, the fifth and sixth trumpets.

And we will go from cosmic, judgments of nature, to unnatural, supernatural judgments.

The terror of the next two judgments are like nothing this world has ever seen.

Perhaps Pre-flood mankind had a different view of the spiritual world then we do today.

But for us, God has for some reason separated the natural plain from the spiritual plain, and today we are for the most part shielded from the spiritual realm, and the reality of this unseen world.

We take much of our spiritual life today by faith.

Those of you who have had a history of drug use or a background in the occult perhaps have a clearer perception on the realities of the darkness of that spiritual realm.

The Apostle Paul speaks clearly to believers on the realities of this unseen world.

Eph. 6:10-13 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against

powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

You see right now there is a spiritual battle happening, the powers of darkness are constantly working against the work of truth.

And this battle over souls, is for the most part taking place in the unseen world.

2 Cor. 10:3-4 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds

Now, we believe this by faith, rarely has the believer been exposed with all clarity to this assault of the demonic realm.

But, there is coming a day, when man will reject God long enough, and the restraint God has put on the demonic world will be released for a time, and this

material world will be fully engulfed and attacked by these principalities of darkness.

These next two trumpets will seem like a horror movie written by Stephen King.

But once again, I must explain, and warn.

You will be tempted to put these images and pictures into the movie or fiction part of your imagination.

You must at all cost, fight to understand that these events will happen one day; this is the reality of where the world is headed.

You see Satan uses the movie industry to work against the truths of the Word of God, and he tries to delude the truths found here.

But this is no movie this morning, these things will take place.

And if you look honestly at this world, through the lens of scripture you will undoubtedly see things are quickly heading toward this direction.

The stage is being set today for this full embrace of Satanism...

And God in the tribulation says “if you want Satan, you can have him,” and he allows his unrestrained tormenters to have their way with humanity.

Fifth Trumpet: The Locusts from the Bottomless Pit

9:1 Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.

Now, we have already seen two stars in the trumpet judgments.

And we understood those to be literal stars or meteor's that brought havoc upon this earth.

Last week, looking at those stars literally seemed to be the best way to look at them.

But here, John describes this one differently than the other two.

This star is referred to as already fallen from heaven to earth.

And this star is much different.

John refers to the star as 'him.'

This is a person or created being.

We see he is able to receive keys to the bottomless pit.

Remember in Chapter 1 of John's vision, Jesus assured John in **Rev 1:18 And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.**

Jesus has authority over this place, and for this moment, another allowed momentary authority over Hades or the bottomless pit.

Now we have common misunderstandings of the different places we call hell.

I passed out a diagram of the different places and compartments of hell, or the underworld in scripture.

Understand that hell is not a made up place, if you do away with the belief of hell you do away with an important truth.

Now, to be accurate there is a final Hell, or place of eternal damnation, it will be called Gehenna or the

Lake of Fire, we will deal with that after the Great White Throne Judgment later in Revelation.

Now, there is another place called Hades in the scripture.

After Jesus died on the cross, He descended into the lower parts of the earth, at that time Hades was separated into two compartments.

One side was Paradise, or Abraham's Bosom, the other side was a dreadful place where the wicked dead await the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the 1000-year reign of Christ.

Jesus describes this place in great detail when he tells the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31.

In that story, Jesus explains that there is a great gulf that separated the two compartments in Hades or as it is known in the Old Testament as Sheol.

Now, after Jesus died, the scriptures tell us that He first descended into the lower parts of the earth.

Jesus then set the captives free, and Abraham's Bosom or Paradise was emptied out as those who waited in faith for the Messiah were lifted into heaven where they await their resurrection bodies.

Now this bottomless pit in Revelation seems to be attached somehow to Hades.

The Abusso or **Abyss** may be used synonymously with Hades. McGee

Now, this bottomless pit, or Abyss seems to be the place that was used to imprison many of the fallen spirits and demonic hoards.

Why are they imprisoned? Well, if they were left unrestrained the terror of such beings would bring dread like no other on humanity.

Peter uses a word Tartarus, but in English we read hell, he identifies Tartarus as a place of imprisonment for these angels.

2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment.

That prison is Tartarus which in the Diagram it is separate from the Abusso or bottomless pit.

But the very word means the deepest abyss of hades.

So you can connect those two in the diagram.

It is in that place, that many evil beings have been held.

Perhaps the fallen angels that caused so much defilement before the flood, as Jude explains.

Jude 6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day.

Now, this place seems to have a long shaft somewhere here on earth, that can only be unlocked from one side.

And I have to say, that this place we refer to as Hades or Hell is no joking matter.

It is such a place of torment, that as soon as this star-being unlocks this place, hordes of demons race out of it quickly, they are hurried in their escape.

Remember the fear the demons had of this place when Jesus dealt with the demoniac of the Gadarenes.

Luke 8:30-31 Jesus asked him(the demon), saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. 31 And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

Remember they pleaded to be cast into the herd of swine, instead of going to this dreaded place.

This bottomless prison will also hold Satan for the 1000 years of Christ reign on earth.

The references seem to put this place somewhere in the heart of the earth.

Now, this star John's sees, who is given a temporary authority, who is it?

Remember John sees this star already fallen, this already separates it from the two literal stars we have seen.

So, remember our approach to any symbolism John presents.

The Bible must be the key... And Isaiah the prophet uses the same terminology as seen here in John's vision.

**Isa 14:12 "How you are fallen from heaven,
O Lucifer, son of the morning!"**

Lucifer, or Satan is described as fallen.

Remember what Jesus said after the 70 disciples came back from casting out demons and healing many.

They were pumped up after such enormous displays of power.

Luke 10:18-20 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by

any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

Jesus explains He saw Satan fall from heaven.

We see in the Book of Job, in our dispensation the Devil still has access to heaven, but only to report to God.

He is known as the Accuser of the Brethren, and he accuses us day and night.

But as we will see in Chapter 12 of Revelation, perhaps at the beginning of the tribulation, with a third of the angels Satan will be cast out of heaven for good to unleash hell on earth.

At this point in the tribulation, here in Chapter 9, we see Satan, this fallen star, is given the key, understand, Lucifer is not God's equal.

He even in his pride and arrogance is only a tool for God, and he is allowed here in the fifth trumpet judgment to release his wicked hordes of demons.

Again this is more than a literal star, because we see next...

2 And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

Now in the final hell, the lake of fire, we know there is eternal torment.

And here we see in the Abusso or bottomless pit a similar torment, as smoke from the flames of hades is released into our world.

Remember the Rich Man's plea regarding this place...

Luke 16:24 "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'

Now, I used to arrogantly say, "I don't mind going to hell, all my friends will be there, it will be a huge party."

Maybe you have heard similar phrases, taking this place of punishment lightly.

But we see here clearly this is not something to joke about.

No wonder man's heart is fearful of talking of this place? Scripture reveals the reality of the misery of hell.

No wonder even in these last days the Lukewarm Church is afraid to discuss this place.

It is such a horrible place we see next even the demonic creatures waste no time leaving it.

3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

Now, remember John is very limited on the imagery available to him in his day.

He is doing his best to make sense of the picture before him.

These creatures that resemble locusts, but have the ability to afflict harm like a scorpion are past explaining with the knowledge of his day.

Now at first glance, we can conclude that John might be describing a helicopter of some sort, right, they look like a locust flying, they have weapons that inflict harm on humanity.

But as we get further into John's picture here, the weapons and modern machinery clearly do not fit the image here.

These creatures have to be commanded to not do what locust naturally do, and eat the vegetation.

Locust are a farmer's worst fear, for they devour every single blade of grass.

And these creatures here are to also be restrained from hurting those who are the sealed of God.

We only know of 144,000 so far who received a special seal; they are those from the select Jews.

They will be supernaturally protected.

We see these locust are intelligent enough to know they cannot touch those with the special seal on them.

You see here, even the evil army that opposes everything holy and right; they are still subject to God Almighty and His Son's Authority.

The same God, who tells the ocean to go here, and go no further, gives these demons boundaries as well.

Many of the commentators believe that all who have put their faith in Jesus Christ will be protected, not just the 144,000.

Believers will have a similar authority as we who believe do today.

In Jesus Name they will be able to in faith withstand these demonic hordes.

There is so much power and authority in that Name.

I remember one time that I witnessed the power that one who speaks His Name can have.

When Jessica and I were in the world, we were both on drugs.

Understand the drug world opens up your life to the demonic realm.

When we were dating, we were far from having Jesus in our lives as our Lord and Savior.

One night Jessica opened up to me, in a methamphetamine induced conversation, one of those conversations you talk all night discussing nothing in hurry, you think it is a brilliant discussion, but in reality it is all irrelevant tweaker gibberish.

But I remember one part of the conversation, fear coming over her, as she began to tell me something she had kept secret for her whole life, for fear of people not believing her.

She began to describe what I understood very clearly as a demon.

I grew up in the church, and heard about the spiritual world often.

She explained for years this thing tormented her and never left her alone.

And you know, Jess even in the world, she was not a liar or a story teller, and the fear on her face told me she was not making this up.

Well, mind you we are not even saved at this point, and I remember what I learned in youth group in the church.

I told Jess, next time you see this thing, tell it, “In the Name of Jesus leave me alone.”

Now, I forgot about that conversation quickly, but she did not.

She did not know Jesus or who He was, but she hated this thing that tormented her.

She went home that night and spoke those very words I told her to say.

She came back the next day to my house, and she looked free of something, but I had no idea why.

She then told me, “I said those words you told me to say, and that thing fled, and it is never coming back.”

And even in the midst of the hell we were living in, that Name, Jesus, that my father tirelessly preached to me as a child, became very powerful in that moment.

Jesus’ Name put fear into my heart, as I saw the reality of His supremacy.

There were other times I witnessed Jesus put fear in the evil around us while I ran around in the world.

I imagine those in the tribulation who believe, will be able to protect themselves from these evil creatures by the same authority we use today.

Now notice next, God is still in control of these creatures, as they are not allowed to kill, just torment.

5 And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. 6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

Understand there are times when death is not the worst thing that can happen.

These creatures are allowed to torment mankind as a scorpion strikes.

Notice again this eliminates modern machines used for warfare, as they are created to kill.

These creatures only torment.

In fact, death will not be found. The pain and anxiety will be so much that people will try to commit suicide and death is on a five-month vacation.

Of course, many people find it fascinating that Hollywood is celebrating zombies, and shows like the Walking Dead are in fact desensitizing humanity for this event.

You see the deceptive work of Satan is already at work to prepare people for a day when people who are walking around, that should be dead.

Imagine people who try to commit suicide walking around with holes in their heads suffering from the agony of a failed attempt at killing themselves.

Now some modern day commentators think this is speaking about a virus that spreads through humankind during this judgment.

Whatever this is it is induced by demonic locust with a scorpion's sting.

Now, I have never been stung by a scorpion, but if you research it, it is one of the most painful things a human can endure, especially from the scorpions in the middle east.

It is said if you try to take medication it only amplifies the pain, the only way through it is to endure.

Nancy our pianist has fortunately for all of us been stung, she so graciously recounted this sensation for us.

She says...

Hi Pastor Gary,

The first time I was stung by a scorpion, I walked by a stack of newspapers we had tied up and ready to take to recycle. My little toe barely brushed the papers, but the hidden scorpion got me.

That night I stayed out on the couch instead of going to bed, something I never did. The pain was so intense I couldn't sleep. The pain came in

waves and felt like burning fire racing up my leg, over and over and over. Just when I thought there might be a respite, it started again. I have a high tolerance for pain, but this torment would bring me up off the couch. Even though I've given birth to five children, I've never been in a much pain as I was from that scorpion sting. This lasted from 8 to 10 hours and I can't imagine going through this for five months. No wonder they would want to die, but to not be able to escape would be horrible. Not everyone reacts to the sting the same way, but this was my experience. (In the morning I had to write a check for something for my son to take to school and I had to have him fill it out because I couldn't see. Everything was blurry. Still didn't go to the doctor though. lol)

So, imagine five months of this torment, if the pain was not enough, the fear of what these demonic creatures look like would be enough to terrify anyone.

Look at this picture...

7 The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. 8 They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. 9 And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. 10 They had tails like scorpions, and there

were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months. 11 And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

Now John is most definitely not seeing a literal locust, he is grasping for symbols to describe these creatures.

We have already seen they eat no vegetation.

Here we see they have a king, yet a man named Agur explains in Proverbs...

Prov. 30:27 The locusts have no king,

Yet they all advance in ranks;

They are separate altogether then a literal locust, for they also are described with parts of a lion, horse, scorpion, men and women.

These beings are hideous and frightening, for which we even today have trouble associating them with anything we know.

Some artists have undertaken a difficult job of trying to draw such a beast.

Picture

All I can say, is I am happy God did not appoint the church for this time.

I particularly do not like demons, and will be very happy to miss all of this.

Notice their king's name... in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

Abaddon means destroying angel, and Apollyon is destroyer.

Now this could be a high-ranking demon, however the name fits the bill for a certain enemy of God.

1 Peter 5:8 ...our adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

This devouring king perhaps is the same fallen star who opened the Abusso at the beginning of this picture before us.

Now, as with each trumpet blast the intensity gets more extreme, we made it through the fifth, let's get through the sixth this morning.

You all good? How many of you will be back next week?

12 One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

Now before we get into the sixth trumpet, we need to remember the fifth seal.

Rev 6:9-10 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

This prayer is about to be answered as we see the golden altar where the prayers of the saints are offered...

Sixth Trumpet: The Angels from the Euphrates

13 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great

river Euphrates." 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.

Rom 12:19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

God has four angels here, who have been bound and prepared for the exact time that they are needed.

They will enact a Holy Vengeance upon the earth dwellers who have vehemently defied all things dealing with God.

These angels seem to be fallen angels; I cannot imagine God restraining holy angels.

They are allowed to kill a third of humanity.

In the fourth seal, a quarter of life on earth was destroyed, now another third, over half of the world's population is killed up to this point in the tribulation.

Again, those who think we are in the tribulation now really cannot justify these numbers.

Remember World War 2 was the greatest loss of life, and only 3% of the world's population was killed.

This is over 50% of the population destroyed.

These angels are currently bound somewhere at the Euphrates River.

The same river were the Paradise of Eden once resided, where the first sin was committed, where the first murder was committed, where the first war was committed.

The flood started from this region, Babel rose to prominence in this region.

This body of water has been a landmark all throughout the Word of God.

Some have determined this is where west is separated from east.

Many powerful Kingdoms have bordered this river.

From the time Alexander the Great ruled and conquered this area, the west has remained the strongest.

Today the West is leading the world.

But now in the tribulation an army will be raised up possibly from the east, that will decimate a third of the world's population.

Now these four angels muster up, and lead a massive army.

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

Now this is a huge number, considering the population of the entire planet in John's day somewhere between 150 million to 300 million people.

So perhaps he is seeing an army bigger than the world population during his life.

This is a huge amount, considering the largest army today is China at a whopping 2.2 million strong.

So only 1 percent. Now in the 70's many thought China was going to present itself as this army.

They boasted, if they had too they could muster an army of 200 million soldiers. That is an interesting boast considering this passage.

Today, China is very, very far from that size of an army. But have you ever looked at population charts?

China and India both have about 1 billion people more than the U.S. who is the third most populous country.

The East could easily mobilize this size of an army if they came together.

Now this at first glance once again, looks as though this could be a human army, especially after we see John try to describe the horses.

Remember John has never seen a tank or modern machinery.

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. 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. 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.

Now the focus is not on the rider, but the horse, and it is described in a terrible way.

Perhaps a demon-possessed army might be seen, as the population of the east could easily come under the influence of the demonic hordes.

Many think perhaps this is John describing a tank.

But there is another problem with that, currently Russia has the most tanks, and guess what it is nowhere 200 million, try only 20,000.

This is not a mechanized division of an earthly military.

This once again seems to be the underworld unleashing a hell on earth that is unnatural and unlike anything, we know today.

This is a terror like no other.

They use three plagues, a literal fire, a real choking smoke, and the brimstone of God's fury.

Remember there was a prominent city in antiquity that was pummeled with a similar judgment.

Gen 19:24 Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the Lord out of the heavens.

So these are items of God's judgement, but this time they are unleashed on a third of the earth, not just a few cities.

Now many people right here began to put the book of Revelation in the fantasy part of their brain.

These pictures overwhelm and completely confuse people.

But understand it is simple, if you simply believe it.

I know for me, in the past working through all of this, trying to contemplate, and reason, and it all left me scrambling for answers.

And one day I resolved that this is the Word of God, and if my finite mind cannot put every picture together, well that does not negate the truth of it.

In fact, God owes us no such explanations, and when you understand that God said it, so be it, a weight and a burden just falls off your back.

I don't have to understand all of this with certainty, all I have to do, is know that God said this, and it will happen, whatever this is being described.

And today, we live in time, where it is all reversed. Humanity had placed itself as the authority.

Mankind believes if things do not align with our understanding then it cannot be truth.

You see the spirit of Babylon of old is alive and well today.

To exalt ourselves to the heights of heaven.

And this Babylonian rebellion will reach its full potential in the Great Tribulation.

If you think it is not at work today, you are greatly mistaken.

There are many evidences of the spirit of the antichrist at work all around us.

You must be aware of this.

Jess has been sick almost every day of this pregnancy. She is wiped out at night, and has been going to bed early.

On the nights I am home with her, we get through the rush of bath time and putting the kids to bed.

And then we sit on the couch with a nice snack and we watch something.

Well she has ditched our nightly date to sleep.

This has left me to find something to watch on my own.

Now I like history, so I usually watch a documentary or something historical.

I saw this movie the “Imitation Game” about a British Mathematician who broke the German Codes in World War 2.

Alan Turing was portrayed accurately; I am fact checking the whole movie as I watch it.

But throughout the movie there were subtle messages and ideas pushed through.

And the spirit of the Antichrist through the film gets you rejoicing at what man has accomplished and is capable of.

The movie finishes with its main agenda in one quote that sums up what the presentation and real purpose of the film was.

Alan Turing: Was I God? No. Because God didn't win the war. We did.

Because this man figured out this great puzzle.

But if you follow Alan’s post-war life, it was tragic and very incomplete. He was far from a godlike man.

But the film exalts man over God.

This is the heartbeat of the Babylonian system that has fought against God and His people, ever since the beginning.

You see man is on the quest to usurp any accountability to our Maker and God.

Understand and see through the deception about us, to lift ourselves up to a place we do not belong.

And this humanistic quest will reach its peak and with huge consequences in the Tribulation as we read next.

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

After all these, supernatural displays of God's power and justice.

After seeing over half of the life on earth decimated in God's righteous judgment.

Still, the pride of the heart of mankind has so highly exalted itself, there is no repentance in those who live in rebellion toward God.

No one during this time will be able to say God does not exist, their own mouths have already confessed that the wrath of the Lamb is upon them.

They know God exists, but the love of self is still all too great for them to turn from their wickedness.

We get some interesting clues here as to how Satan can control and consume these masses of rebellious people.

We see here their worship of demons and its attachment to idolatry.

1 Cor. 10:19-21 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. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

Idolatry is attached to demon worship.

We see their love for statues in the tribulation, which John mocks, as neither being able to see nor hear nor walk.

You see if you want to have your idol in the kitchen over your table to bless the food, then you have to physically carry that icon to put it there.

If you want it in your room to bless your sleep, you have to tote it over to that room.

These idols are powerless, and only pay homage to the demons they represent.

Understand I am not a sensationalist by any means, or an emotion arouser.

But we are living in the days where this demonic idolatry is fully embraced.

Even in the church. I have seen Christians with crucifixes in their homes still acting as an object of worship.

There was this little widow in Havasu, the sweetest lady, Jess and I helped here out often.

But to the day we left Havasu, no matter how much we pled with here, even after she was baptized a Christian, she could not part with her “little Jesus” off her wall that she prayed too.

She had to have it, and even was panicked when I told her she did not need it anymore.

I have seen those who go to church, and they mix their worship of Jesus up with Native American philosophies.

And they will not depart from the demonic influence of these spirits they worship alongside of Jesus.

One family asked me to come pray over their house, because the bad spirits were tormenting their home.

The grandmother was a Native American spiritualist, and when I got there, she was burning sage, and inviting ‘good’ spirits in to remove the bad.

This was Christian family, so I sat them down, and explained what the scriptures say.

I laid it out for them, Jesus Christ was the Stronger Man, He is greater than anything in this world.

They only need Him, not the assistance of these other spirits.

And you know they received this, and whatever was in their home left in Jesus name.

But the worship of demons is very prominent through idolatry today, it is even accepted in some Christian households.

Listen, if you have anything other than Jesus Christ in your life helping you deal with the spirits in your home.

Do this, go home and smash all those idols and demonic relics.

You have no need of them if you have Jesus Christ.

My wife was raised thinking dream catchers helped her dreams, and even after coming to Christ, early on in our walk, when bad dreams would come, her first instinct would be to reach for one of those spiritual relics.

But over time, she found Jesus was all she needed.

But this New Age demonic spiritual thinking is even okayed in the Lukewarm church today.

Why? Because man has exalted themselves above God, and there is a form of godliness in Lukewarm Christianity but it denies the power of God.

And this will again max out in the tribulation period, people will refuse to repent.

Look what else they refuse to repent of, and look at the culture today...

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

Remember the darkness of these days, will allow the evil in man's heart to work unabashedly and unchecked.

Murder in these days will make Chicago look like a schoolyard playground.

They held tightly to their sorceries, now understand this word is Pharmakeia, we get our word pharmacy from it.

This is directly speaking to drug use. The occults today usually have some sort of stimulant or drug to alter your mind.

Listen, today, even our government is okaying drug use.

It is so socially acceptable that many in the church even embrace things like smoking weed.

Prescription Drug addiction is sky rocketing even today.

What is the whole point of drugs? To ease the pain, to ease the realities of this fallen world.

Now, Paul told Timothy to drink a little wine for his ailments.

And medicine has its place.

I know many Christians who choose to live in pain instead of taking severe drugs to ease them.

I know others who are very disciplined in their consumption especially right after a surgery.

You know, they give you piles of painkillers now after surgery.

And perhaps some of you have been to that moment, where the pain Killer has served its purpose, it has allowed your body to heal, you have more pain killers, and your mind tells you one more, lets numb this a little longer, but another voice reminds you that you no longer need that severe of a pain killer.

You are in a dilemma; well the one more usually turns into a problem, because addiction quickly overwhelms you.

You must be vigilant to the numbing effects of drugs.

Medical Marijuana is another heated debate, and many Christians have justified it.

Although most have nothing more than a toothache, and they just want to get loaded, but the arguments get heated to justify their sorcery.

I will tell you this, Marijuana is known as a gateway drug, and it is not only a gateway to using more heavy drugs, but it is a gateway to opening up that spiritual influence.

I have dealt with people who only through smoking weed have opened themselves up to demonic influence.

And it is no wonder as Satan is preparing this world for his Antichrist and his system, this sorcery or Pharmakeia is becoming more and more normal.

There is no easier way for wickedness to overwhelm you, and for you to be controlled then by using drugs.

Understand anything you are using, cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, pain killers, anything that substitutes Jesus in your life, might be controlling you.

Eph. 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit

If your life is filled with the Holy Spirit then there should be no room for those other things.

It says here also sexual immorality will be rampant, understand anything outside the context of a godly biblical marriage is sexual immorality.

And today people, in this spirit of antichrist, think for some reason their situation is unique and God overlooks it somehow.

But this idea of anything goes, is another indication that man views themselves in higher regards than God.

We see Satan is conditioning even the church that these practices are ok, and people embrace their sins and even protect them.

Lastly, in their desperations of these days, thefts will rise to unparalleled heights.

There is no greater and more desperate thief today than the drug addict.

I am amazed at the amount of success they have, and what they are capable of in that state of mind.

I ran around with drug addicts all over this desert, and the work they put into taking other peoples things fascinated me.

I was a foolish drug addict, my dad so instilled in me a work ethic; I maintained a job, even through my addictions.

But I was a fool to all my friends, why work when you can steal and take from other hard working people.

I knew one person who could go in and steal a PlayStation, even though it was locked up in a display in the middle of Walmart.

Even then I used to think, if these guys used this much energy and time into a job they could be quite successful, some of them were even brilliant.

But those drugs opened them up to be controlled by the evil forces of this world.

And in the tribulation, the dirty desert tweaker will be so common, that no one's things will be safe from theft.

Listen, everything in this world's system is so vehemently working against God, and it is all setting the stage for the Antichrist, do not be deceived.

All the movies, all our TV shows, the politicians speeches, the pop stars music, all of it is designed to captivate your heart and mind to draw you away from the One True Living God.

Now perhaps you are offended that the Bible speaks against your lifestyle.

But here at Calvary Chapel we are not permitted to scratch itching ears.

And you know what happens if you get past that hurdle of thinking you might offend someone?

People actually repent.

We have one gentlemen who sat comfortably in his sins for a majority of his Christian walk, he said he even played on his former worship team, high, he loved to smoke weed.

He did not see anything wrong about it, of course culture helped ease his conscious.

But through the preaching of God's Word, this man found out Christ was all he needed.

He repented, and this guy is so full of joy, it so awesome to see someone free of the sins that they were so entangled in.

Listen, the Bible is clear, in the last days people will be lovers of themselves, and unchanged and unrepentant.

And today you really have to fight through a lot of this deception.

But if you are here this morning and you are struggling in addiction or sexual sin, you can be free.

Do not buy into this worlds lies, believe the Word of God, and repent, Christ will give you life, He will free you.

But you have to acknowledge you have a problem, that is the first step.

You have to admit you are in sin, and when you humble yourself before the Lord, He will lift you up.

I personally know the mountain of impossibility addiction can seem like.

But there is freedom at the cross, there is a way, it is by coming through Jesus.

If that is you know that God did not bring you here by accident.

Come to Him this morning and be free of the sin that so easily entangles you.

I would not wait much longer to surrender yourself to Jesus.

There will be some men up here after service, come up and pray with them.

Perhaps your life is experiencing spiritual warfare, and you have, out of fear never spoke about it, come up here and pray with these men.

This is a safe place, and we want to minister to you this morning.

Come up for prayer, whatever your prayer needs are.