

>>>>>> Lesson 14 <<<<<<<

- 1) One note before we begin studying the actual trumpet event results.
- 2) I touched on this at the end of last week's session, but I think it bears repeating.
- 3) As we continue, we will discuss some of the theories of what the actual mechanisms are for these catastrophic events BUT, the mechanisms are NOT IMPORTANT!!
- 4) What is important is that these events are God's rath and that they are intended as such on the remainder of sinful mankind.
- 5) They are also opportunities for those who will, to repent and turn to God and Christ for salvation.
 - a) We saw this clearly in our study last time as the elder explained about the multitude of worshipers from the tribulation.
- 6) Though in many cases, these event parameters, again, cannot be taken literally, we will look at them as such just to get an idea of the scale and magnitude.
- 7) These are the end times and the fulfillment of God's promise and warnings which He has given us in scripture throughout the ages.

Rev 8:7 (NIV)

- 8) The shocking result was that a third of the earth was burned up and we can easily get a perspective on this one.
 - a) Recall if you will the amount of acres that were burned in this last series of California wildfires.
 - b) Now, looking at present day "earth" as we know it – 1/3 of the earth is equal to the number of acres contained in Russia, Canada, China, and the United States combined.
 - c) As with the California fires, we must assume everything would be destroyed – houses, businesses, churches, crops, animals ... you name it, and it would be gone.
 - d) Additionally, since we truly have no real scientific reason for the mixture of hail and blood with the fire, we can only assume that it will be as stated – God is in control!!!!.
 - e) Some commentators put forth that the combination would render the soil in which crops are cultivated unusable.
 - f) The impact on food supplies would be horrendous!
- 9) Unfortunately, this is only the beginning!

Rev 8:8-9 (NIV)

- 1) Not dwelling on it but one obvious source of the "huge mountain" could be an asteroid.
- 2) Regardless of what the "mountain" is, the result that happens as this trumpet sounds is literally translated, "the third of the sea became blood"

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- a) The indication here is that the sea became blood first and that in turn, the living creatures die.
- 3) Looking at the devastation, the number of fish in the world's oceans is currently estimated at 3.5 trillion (that's 35 with 11 zeros after it) BIG NUMBER!!!
 - a) Combine that carnage with oceans that are 1/3 blood, and we are talking a major environmental disaster.
 - b) Frankly, I don't think we can imagine how terrible this will be.
 - c) Not to mention the impact on world food supplies and the economy.
- 4) As to 1/3 of the ships being destroyed, looking at some statistics for today we find:
 - a) Current commercial sailing ships is over 90,000.
 - i) This would include tankers and cargo.
 - b) Current US Naval ships over 600.
 - c) If we assume other countries to have proportionally significant navies, we can see we are looking at probably in excess of 100,000 ships.
 - d) 1/3 would of course, be 33,000 and we must assume we are speaking of the crews being destroyed as well.
 - e) We have seen recently what an impact worldwide shipping disruption can have on our supply system.
- 5) Scripture does not mention it but one would probably not be far off by also considering the results of the tsunami that would result.
- 6) Imagine the devastation that will be caused when this trumpet is sounded.
- 7) Of course, with all of this in any historical period including the current one – economic chaos will follow shortly behind all these events.

Rev 8:10-11 (NIV)

- 1) I found no commentary with any details describing what the actual mechanism would be here.
- 2) The mechanism for a meteor selectively breaking up and falling only on rivers and springs of water escapes me.
- 3) HOWEVER, again – God is in control!
- 4) Wormwood is a plant name.
- 5) Artemisia absinthium (its proper name) is a moderately poisonous species of Artemisia native to temperate regions of Eurasia and North Africa.
- 6) It is grown as an ornamental plant and is used as an ingredient in the spirit absinthe and some other alcoholic beverages.
- 7) If you look it up, you will find it for sale as over the counter remedies for many ailments.

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- a) Even as such, if you read about it the side effects are very unpleasant and if taken in large enough quantity probably could cause death.
- 8) It is mentioned 8 times in the old testament and is associated with bitterness, poison, and death.
- 9) Whatever the poison represented by the name here, it is obviously lethal and effects 1/3 of the world's fresh water so that those who drink of them are killed.
- 10) Again, it is hard for us to truly imagine the devastation that is taking place on this earth when God unleashes his rath as these trumpets are sounded.

Rev 8:12 (NIV)

- 1) And we think Daylight Savings Time is an issue?
- 2) Looking at Young's Literal translation of this verse we read:
12 And the fourth messenger did sound, and smitten was the third of the sun, and the third of the moon, and the third of the stars, that darkened may be the third of them, and that the day may not shine — the third of it, and the night in like manner.
- 3) Again, trying to interpret these events as literal is almost impossible.
- 4) The Bible Exposition Commentary gives what I think is a clue to the most logical explanation to this phenomena,

The judgments from the first three trumpets affected only a third part of the land and waters, but this fourth judgment affects the entire world. Why? Because it gets to the very source of the earth's life and energy, the sun. With one third less sunlight on the earth, there will be one third less energy available to support the life systems of man and nature.

(The Bible Exposition Commentary. Copyright © 1989 by Chariot Victor Publishing, and imprint of Cook Communication Ministries. All rights reserved.)

- 5) When we look at what causes the moon to shine, we really see the issue.
 - a) The moon shines because of reflected light from the sun.
 - b) The only way the moon would be less bright would be if the sun was also less bright.
 - c) Therefore, what I think is happening here is not that 1/3 of the sun and moon go dark but that the sun's energy and therefore its brightness is reduced by 1/3.
 - d) This in turn will cause the moon's brightness to be reduced by 1/3.
- 6) The impact on to mankind is far more serious than a reduction in light.
- 7) The world will become much colder and all life including food supplies will be effected drastically by this loss of energy.
- 8) As to the effect of all the stars loosing 1/3 of their energy, astronomically, this would be a very hard thing to predict.

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- 9) The one thing I think we can say for sure is that visibly, it would be much more noticeable to those to whom this was originally written. NO LIGHT POLLUTION.
- 10) One of the effects these first 4 trumpets beyond the obvious is that the world will be plunged further into chaos.
 - a) There will probably be international efforts and many, many, scientific conferences held to attempt to understand and solve the crises that will be generated.
 - b) All to no avail – God’s rath is being released and we will not be able to lessen it to any degree at all.

Rev 8:13 (NIV)

- 1) One twist here is when you look at the Greek, you find the word translated eagle in most translations is actually a word for messenger.
 - a) The KJV and a few other translations actually use the word angel here instead of eagle.
- 2) One way or the other, John is being told that this is a transition point.
 - a) The first 4 trumpets caused havoc and destruction throughout the ecosystem of the world
 - b) These next three trumpets herald the releasing of demonic forces on mankind.
 - c) Again, we see the term, “inhabitants of the earth” indicating sinful man.

Rev 9:1 (NIV)

- 1) First, we have to address who the “star that had fallen” was.
- 2) Once more, turning to the literal translation, “star out of the heaven having fallen to the earth”
- 3) Both of these translations (literal and NIV) indicate past tense.
- 4) The consensus of most if not all commentators is that the word star here represents an angelic or heavenly being.
- 5) As to who the angel is, there is much debate.
- 6) Some say that it is Christ or an angel of God’s choosing to whom he gives the key to the abyss.
- 7) Most however, believe the fallen star here is Satan.
- 8) For me, the key to the solution lies in the fact that this is presented in the past tense “star that had fallen.”
- 9) Isa 14:12-16 describes Satan’s fall.

Isa 14:12-15 (NIV)

- 10) We will see this further described in Rev 12 when we get there.
- 11) Satan being the source of all evil, it only makes sense that he should be the one that opens the abyss and unleashes the traumatic events that are the reason for the woe’s issued by the eagle.

12) The fifth trumpet events are described in four distinct parts of John's vision:

- a) The pit unlocked
- b) The power unleashed
- c) The tormenting evil described.
- d) The king of the Abyss identified.

The Abyss Unlocked

2 When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.

- 1) Here, we must remember, this black billowing smoke coming from the Abyss and blocking the sun that is already dimmed, is happening in a world that is already in chaos!
- 2) This is the insult to injury – but – that's not the end – not by a long shot!

Rev 9:3-6 (NIV)

3) Here, we have several interesting paradoxes.

- a) Locusts that normally eat grass and crops and are not directly harmful to humans are told not to harm the grass.
- b) Instead, they are given "power like scorpions" and were told to harm the people who did not have the seal of God on them.
- c) They are given power to torture but not kill these people and, for a specific period of time – 5 months (normal span of destruction of a locust swarm).

4) It is also interesting that they are told not to harm the grass since, in verse 7 of chapter 8 that all the grass was burned up.

- a) Most likely scenario here is that this trumpet was sounded after enough time that the grass had had a chance to recover and reestablish.

5) There are a couple of things that are probably obvious.

- a) **First** – the reason for the description "locust" is the idea that they are what we might call a weapon of mass destruction.
- b) In the 1950's – locusts devoured several hundred thousand square miles of vegetation in the middle east.
- c) The last large infestation was last year.
- d) **Second** – as we will see in the description we are about to read; these were not really locusts at all but demons.
 - i) In verse 11 we read.

11 They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon (the Destroyer)

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- a) The paradox here is found in the interpretation of who Abaddon is.
- b) There are several interpretations as to exactly who Apollyon is – Satan, the Antichrist, and even Jesus.
- c) One source has him as: "Abaddon, however, is an angel not of Satan but of God, performing his work of destruction at God's bidding".
- d) Personally, logic says that the destroyer would not be Satan or the Antichrist.
 - i) Here, the question comes as to why would they independently become instruments of torture bringing God's rath on the unrepentant people of the earth?
- e) If I had to choose one, it would be an angel of God who was in charge of the Abyss.
OPINION!

2) In verse 6, we see a clue to exactly how bad things are.

6 During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

- a) It is not just the demonic plague of locust-like creatures that is causing men to want to die.
- b) It is that all hope is gone; there will be no tomorrow.
- c) The earth people have loved and worshiped will have been utterly devastated.
 - i) The land ravaged by earthquakes, fires, and volcanoes.
 - ii) The sea filled with the putrefying bodies of billions of dead creatures
 - iii) Much of the fresh water supply turned into bitter poison.
 - iv) The atmosphere polluted with gases and showers of heavenly debris.
 - v) Then, worst of all, will come foul smoke from the pit of hell as the demons are released to torment wicked people spiritually and physically.
- d) It is possible that this verse infers that during this time, people could not even commit suicide. They were forced to continue to endure this situation.