

10/1/23 "Stubbornness," Revelation 8-9, NLT

INTRODUCTION: word most associated with Revelation? Terror? (Chunk of wood, maul, chisels)

3 sets of judgments: seals, trumpets, bowls—each becoming increasingly more devastating

MAIN IDEA: Be a person of prayer. For what should I pray? Pray for two main things.

I. First, for God's justice and goodness to reign (8:1-9:19)

Bring to him your anguish and pain because of injustice, evil

A. He answers: now, soon, some "saved"

B. Saved prayers are being collected for a special time

- Incense mixed with prayers of the saints, smoke arose to God

- Incense burner with fire from the altar & thrown onto earth

C. God will respond powerfully to those collected

- Thunder, lightning, earthquake; initiate further judgments

- Silence for ½ an hour...when 7th seal broken; expectancy

- Judgments (6 of them) listed in these two chapters

- Ch. 8 ...4 natural disasters affecting people: 7, 8-9, 10-11, 12

1. 7: hail/fire/blood...1/3 earth/trees/green grass burned

2. 8-9: mountain of fire into sea...1/3 of sea to blood, 1/3 sea life died, 1/3 ships destroyed

3. 10-11: great burning star falls...1/3 rivers/springs of water become bitter, 1/3 of water bitter; many people die

4. 12: 1/3 of sun/moon/stars darkened (1/3 of day & 1/3 of night)

- TRANSITION (13): Eagle (or angel) announcing woe woe woe terror terror terror

- Ch. 9...2 more: direct attacks on people who are not sealed

5. 1-11: Demonic forces portrayed as locusts given power to torment for 5 months with pain but not kill; people wish to die but not can't

6. 13-19: 4 angels released (prepared for this hour, day, month, year) bound at Euphrates River (boundary between Israel & Assyria & Babylon, to kill 1/3 of people with 3 plagues: fire/smoke/burning sulfur & with army of 200 Million ... theologians disagree: demonic forces or literal army gathered

ILLUSTRATION: squirrels when 6, but waited... afternoon

II. Second, for God to save the unbelieving (9:20-21)

Bring to him your anguish and pain for the unbelieving

A. in love, God uses suffering

1. to attempt to move people to repent

Repent: to change one's attitude toward God, admit one's sin, turn from one's own way, submit to God & follow His purposes rather than one's own (*NLT glossary*)

2. to move people from what will "kill" them

B. in love, God will extend suffering

1. giving people time to repent

2. allowing them full pain to motivate them

3. we need to be careful: What God is trying to do?

EX:

C. but some will not turn to God

1. will not stop evil practices

EX: murders, witchcraft (*pharmakeia*, sorcery with drugs, incantations, charms, magic), sexual immorality (*porniea*, outside God's intention of sex within marriage between 1 man & 1 woman for life), or thefts

2. will not bow to Him

Lessons: 1) God is life, 2) God works hard to save people, 3) some will never turn to Him, 4) our stubbornness can hurt us

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION: Many of us complain to others about things that are wrong. But do we to God? Do we really care about others—their eternity?

ALTAR: Pray for our burdens.
