

# REVELATION

The Sixth Trumpet:  
No Repentance  
(Revelation 9:13~21)

*Gospel Meditations for the Church:*

“While an awareness of our sin is necessary, we must resist seeing sin as ‘normal’ for the Christian.” (Chris Anderson)

We must never get comfortable with our own sin.

*Romans 7:21-25: So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.*

God is working to conform us to the image of Christ, which includes turning from sin.

Sin may feel natural and appealing to us because we have a sin nature, but that is exactly why we need to be changed.

As we seek to follow God, we must  
turn from sin.

# 1. The Sixth Trumpet Judgment

❖ Main point: judgment should lead to repentance

A. When the sixth trumpet is blown, a command is given from the altar in heaven.

❖ Revelation 9:13-14: Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”



# 1. The Sixth Trumpet Judgment

A. When the sixth trumpet is blown, a command is given from the altar in heaven.

- ❖ Where else has the altar been mentioned?
  - ❖ Revelation 6:9-11: souls of martyrs praying under the altar
  - ❖ Revelation 8:3-5: angel offers incense with the prayers of the saints
- ❖ Who speaks from the altar?

# 1. The Sixth Trumpet Judgment

B. At the command from the altar, the four angels in the Euphrates are released.

- ❖ Revelation 9:15: So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind.
- ❖ When the Bible speaks of angels who are imprisoned, it refers to fallen angels.

# 1. The Sixth Trumpet Judgment

B. At the command from the altar, the four angels in the Euphrates are released.

- ❖ Why were they at the Euphrates?
  - ❖ Scripture does not definitively say
  - ❖ The Euphrates was a boundary of the Promised Land
  - ❖ Jews faced invasions from across the Euphrates.
  - ❖ The Euphrates was Rome's boundary with the Parthians.



# 1. The Sixth Trumpet Judgment

B. At the command from the altar, the four angels in the Euphrates are released.

1. We see God's timing in this judgment.

❖ Revelation 9:15: God planned this judgment for an exact hour on an exact day in an exact month in an exact year.

❖ Revelation 6:10: The martyrs asked “how long?”

# 1. The Sixth Trumpet Judgment

B. At the command from the altar, the four angels in the Euphrates are released.

## 2. Sometimes we wonder “how long?”

❖ Psalm 73:1-3: Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

# 1. The Sixth Trumpet Judgment

B. At the command from the altar, the four angels in the Euphrates are released.

2. Sometimes we wonder “how long?”

- ❖ Why did Asaph almost stumble?
- ❖ We struggle with doubts/fears, but God is good and His timing is perfect.
- ❖ Psalm 73:28: But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

# 1. The Sixth Trumpet Judgment

C. When the angels are released, a massive army of horsemen attacks the people of earth.





❖ Revelation 9:16-19: The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number. And this is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them: they wore breastplates the color of fire and of sapphire and of sulfur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths. By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths. For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like serpents with heads, and by means of them they wound.



# 1. The Sixth Trumpet Judgment

C. When the angels are released, a massive army of horsemen attacks the people of earth.

1. John saw an army of 200,000,000.

- ❖ What are the two biggest specific numbers recorded in Revelation?
- ❖ When both of these numbers are given, John specifically said that he heard the number.

# 1. The Sixth Trumpet Judgment

C. When the angels are released, a massive army of horsemen attacks the people of earth.

2. This army seems to be a demonic army similar to the locust attacks.

3. One-third of the earth's population is killed in this judgment.

❖ The severity of judgment is increasing.

# 1. The Sixth Trumpet Judgment

D. The demonic attacks of the fifth and sixth trumpets have contrasting effects on mankind.

- ❖ God is clearly working: neither judgment can be explained away.
- ❖ No one is killed in the fifth trumpet: they see what judgment is like.
- ❖ Many are killed in the sixth trumpet: they see the brevity of life and the need to turn to God in repentance.

## 2. The sad result of this judgment reveals the depravity of mankind.

A. Despite everything they have seen, mankind still refuses to repent.

❖ Revelation 9:20-21: The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.



## 2. The sad result of this judgment reveals the depravity of mankind.

A. Despite everything they have seen, mankind still refuses to repent.

### 1. Mankind refuses to worship God.

- ❖ Sad irony: demons bring much suffering and death in these judgments, yet mankind still worships them.
- ❖ God's working is clear, yet mankind has set itself against Him to its own destruction.



## 2. The sad result of this judgment reveals the depravity of mankind.

A. Despite everything they have seen, mankind still refuses to repent.

2. Mankind refused to turn from sin.

❖ John 3:19-20: And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and **people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil**. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

## 2. The sad result of this judgment reveals the depravity of mankind.

B. As believers, we have been saved from wrath, but God still calls us to turn from sin.

- ❖ Revelation 9 focuses on the refusal of mankind to repent despite God's judgment.
- ❖ When we as believers see God's hatred of sin, we should turn from the sin we do have in our lives.

## 2. The sad result of this judgment reveals the depravity of mankind.

B. As believers, we have been saved from wrath, but God still calls us to turn from sin.

- ❖ Five of the seven churches were called to repentance.
- ❖ We struggle with sin, but we must repent and seek to turn from it.
- ❖ “While an awareness of our sinfulness is necessary, we must resist seeing sin as ‘normal’ for the Christian.”

Romans 1:29-32: They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are **full of envy**, **murder**, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are **gossips**, slanderers, **haters of God**, insolent, haughty, boastful, **inventors of evil**, **disobedient to parents**, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know *God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die*, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.



## 2. The sad result of this judgment reveals the depravity of mankind.

B. As believers, we have been saved from wrath, but God still calls us to turn from sin.

- ❖ We *should* see sins like murder and hating God as terrible sins.
- ❖ We must see our own sin as just as terrible.
- ❖ “I’ve struggled with that my whole life. That’s just the way I am.”
- ❖ Sin feels natural, but God calls us to change.



# Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- Have we grown comfortable with our own sin because it doesn't seem too embarrassing or because it seems like too much trouble to give up?
- What sin do we struggle with? Are we willing to be changed?
- As we seek to follow God, we must turn from sin.

NEXT TIME:

REVELATION 10:1-11

- The Angel and the Scroll