

## The Book Of Revelation Study 47

We have been talking about the unfolding of the sixth trumpet in chapter 9 and we said that it unfolds in three stages;

1. ~~The release of demons~~
2. ~~The return of death~~
3. **The reaction of defiance**

In this study we will now look at the last stage;

### THE REACTION OF DEFIANCE

*Rev 9:20-21*

*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.*

The death of one-third of the earth's remaining population will be the most catastrophic disaster to strike the earth since the Flood. Yet in an amazing display of hardness of heart **the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent.**

It is unimaginable that after years of suffering and death under the terrifying judgments from God, coupled with the powerful preaching of the gospel by the 144,000 Jewish Evangelists (7:1-8), and the two witnesses (11:1-14), an angel in the sky (14:6-7), and other believers (Matt 24:14), the survivors will still refuse to repent.

Like those who rejected Jesus despite seeing His miracles, hearing His powerful preaching, and the preaching of His resurrection, they will fulfill the word of Isaiah the Prophet;

*John 12:38-40*

*38 that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?"*

*39 Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:*

*40 "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."*

Having failed to heed the Bible's warning;

*Heb 4:7*

*"Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts."*

They will perish;

*Rev 16:9, 11*

*9 And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.*

*11 They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.*

Tragically they will choose to worship the dragon and the beast (Antichrist) instead of the Lamb.

*Rev 13:4-8*

*4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"*

*5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.*

*6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.*

*7 It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.*

*8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

As he concludes his account of this amazing vision, John lists five sins representative of the defiance of those who refused to repent.

1. **Worshiping the works of their hands, Idols, and in the process God says they are worshiping demons.**
2. **Murder, murder will be rampant. Bereft of any sense of morality, evil, unrepentant people will imitate the demon horde's murderous blood lust. Believers will be their prime target**
3. **Sorceries, this is a Greek word from which the English words "pharmacy" and "pharmaceuticals" derive. Drugs were and still are believed to induce a higher religious state of communion with deities. (*Pharmakon* can also refer to poisons, amulets, charms, séances, witchcraft, incantations, magic spells, contacting mediums, or any object that is tied to pagan idolatry to elicit lust or to seduce.) People will dive deeper into the satanic trappings of false religion.**
4. **Immorality, Greek word *Porneia*, is the root word of the English word "pornography." It is a general term describing sexual sin of every variety, including fornication, adultery, rape and homosexuality. Indescribable sexual perversions will be running rampant in that day.**
5. **Thefts, like morality, honesty will be nonexistent as people compete for the increasingly scarce supplies of food, clothing, water, shelter and medicines.**

Under the influence of the massive demon forces the world will descend into a morass of false religion, murder, sexual perversion and crime unparalleled in human history.

It is a sobering thing to realize that the Lord will one day come;

*Jude 15*

*15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."*

In the light of that coming judgment is the responsibility of all believers to faithfully proclaim the gospel to unbelievers, thereby;

Jude 23

*23 but others save with fear, pulling (snatching) them out of the fire,*

## WHEN GOD BREAKS HIS SILENCE

*Rev 10:1-11*

*1 I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.*

*2 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,*

*3 and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.*

*4 Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."*

*5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven*

*6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer,*

*7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.*

*8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."*

*9 So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."*

*10 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.*

*11 And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."*

A question that has troubled God's people throughout history is why God has allowed evil in the world.

The wicked often appear to prosper. Sin seemingly runs wild and unchecked. Why, people ask, does God not stop all the carnage, corruption, and chaos in the world?

When will divine justice prevail and the righteous be delivered and the wicked punished?

In the midst of his trials Job complained;

*Job 12:6*

*6 The tents of robbers prosper, And those who provoke God are secure*

*Job 21:7*

*7 Why do the wicked live and become old, Yes, become mighty in power?*

The Psalmist frequently asks why God tolerates evil men.

*Psa 10:1-5*

*1 Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide in times of trouble?*

*2 The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.*

*3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; He blesses the greedy and renounces the LORD.*

*4 The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.*

*5 His ways are always prospering; Your judgments are far above, out of his sight; As for all his enemies, he sneers at them.*

Asaph laments;

*Psa 74:10-11*

*10 O God, how long will the adversary reproach? Will the enemy blaspheme Your name forever?*

*11 Why do You withdraw Your hand, even Your right hand? Take it out of Your bosom and destroy them.*

In another Psalm Asaph pleaded;

*Psa 83:1-2*

*1 A song. A Psalm of Asaph. Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, And do not be still, O God!*

*2 For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head.*

In *Psalm 94* an anonymous psalmist complained to God;

*Psa 94:3-4*

*3 LORD, how long will the wicked, How long will the wicked triumph?*

*4 They utter speech, and speak insolent things; All the workers of iniquity boast in themselves*

Jeremiah Echoed the cry of the Psalmist;

*Jer 12:1-3*

*1 Righteous are You, O LORD, when I plead with You; Yet let me talk with You about Your judgments. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are those happy who deal so treacherously?*

*2 You have planted them, yes, they have taken root; They grow, yes, they bear fruit. You are near in their mouth But far from their mind.*

*3 But You, O LORD, know me; You have seen me, And You have tested my heart toward You. Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, And prepare them for the day of slaughter.*

Habakkuk's affirmation and question;

*Hab 1:13*

*13 You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he?*

The tribulation martyrs in heaven cried out to God, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will you refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth? (Rev 6:10)

All the pain, sorrow, suffering, and evil in the world cause the godly to long for God to intervene.

A day is coming when He will break His silence, a day when all the purposes of God concerning men and the world will be consummated.

At that time, the Lord Jesus Christ will return and establish His earthly kingdom. He will rule righteously, with "a rod of iron" (Psa 2:9)

And;

*Isaiah 11:9*

*<sup>9</sup> For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.*

All the atheists, agnostics, and scoffers who mocked the thought that Christ would return will be silenced.

*2 Pet 3:3-4*

*<sup>3</sup> knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,*

*<sup>4</sup> and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."*

The millennia of sin, lies, murders, thefts, wars, and the persecution and martyrdom of God's people will be over.

Satan and his hosts will be bound and cast into the abyss for a thousand years (Rev 20:1-3) unable any longer to tempt, torment, or accuse believers.

The desert will become a blossoming garden;

*Isaiah 35:1*

*<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose;*

*Isaiah 51:3*

*<sup>3</sup> For the LORD will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, And her desert like the garden of the LORD; Joy and gladness will be found in it, Thanksgiving and the voice of melody.*

*Ezek 36:34-35*

*<sup>34</sup> The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by.*

*<sup>35</sup> So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.'*

People will live long lives;

*Isaiah 65:20*

*<sup>20</sup> "No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old,*

And there shall be peace between former enemies at all levels of society, and even in the animal kingdom

*Isaiah 11:6-8*

*<sup>6</sup> "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them.*

*7 The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

*8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.*

The ravages of sin, broken hearts, broken relationships, broken marriages, broken families, broken dreams, broken people will be healed.

Sorrow, sadness, mourning, and pain will vanish like the morning mists before the noon day sun;

*Rev 7:17*

*17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."*

*Rev 21:4*

*4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."*

The sounding of the seventh trumpet, which heralds the imminent return and reign of the Lord Jesus Christ, will usher in that long anticipated day;

*Rev 11:15*

*15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"*

The seventh trumpet will release the seven rapid-fire bowl judgments that immediately precede Christ's return to earth (16:1-21).

But before the seventh trumpet sounds there will be an interlude, which stretches from 10:1 to 11:14, allowing John (and present day readers) to pause and assimilate the startling truths that have just been revealed to him.

The interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpets parallels such interludes in the seal and bowl judgments.

Between the sixth and seventh seals came the interlude of *chapter 7*:

Between the sixth and seventh bowls come the brief interlude of *16:15*.

These interludes encourage God's people in the midst of the fury and horror of divine judgments, and remind them that God is still in sovereign control of all events.

During the interludes God comforts His people with the knowledge that He has not forgotten them, and that they will ultimately be victorious.

This is especially true in the longest (in terms of the amount of material devoted to it) of the three interludes, this one between the sixth and seventh trumpets (10:1-11:14).

Believers alive during that time will endure the unimaginable horrors of a demon assaulted sin mad world.

Like the believers of Malachi's day;

*Mal 3:16-17*

*16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name.*

*17 "They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him."*

They will fear being swept away by the divine judgments that are ravaging the earth. God will comfort and reassure them that He has not forgotten them and that He still controls events and protects His own.

*Chapter 10* describes the opening events of this interlude preparing for the final trumpet blast.

It does so by describing five unusual features:

- 1. An unusual angel**
- 2. An unusual act**
- 3. An unusual answer**
- 4. An unusual announcement**
- 5. An unusual assignment**

We will begin with an unusual angel in our next study