

A scenic autumn landscape featuring a pond surrounded by trees with vibrant orange, red, and yellow foliage. In the foreground, there are tall green reeds and lily pads on the water. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

*Welcome To
Sunday Night Bible Fellowship*

“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28

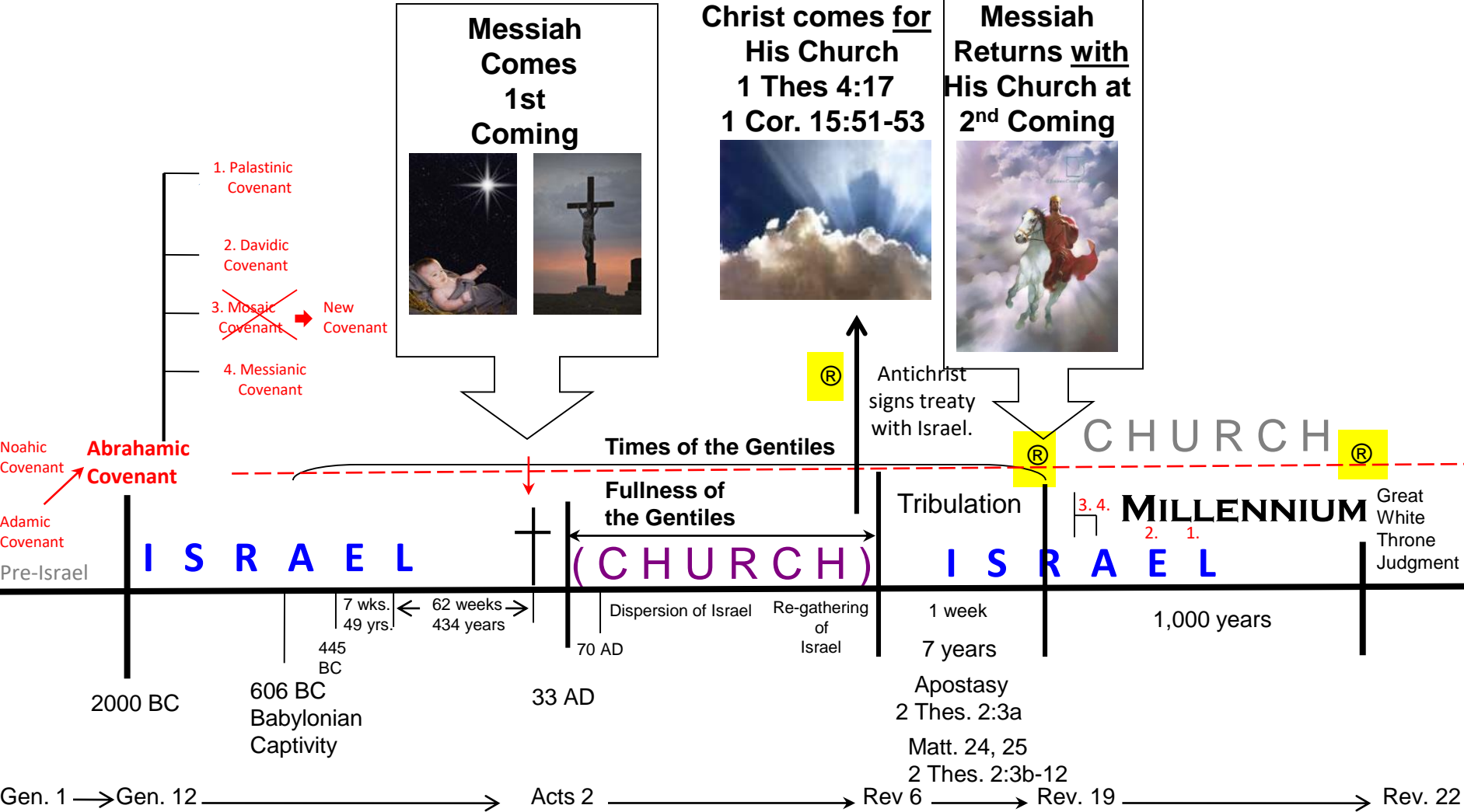
“The 7 Trumpet Judgments”

Part 5

Rev. 9:13-19

Nov. 19, 2017

Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events



® = Resurrection

Sin, punishment, and eternity in hell -

1. Demons of the abyss are examples of the fact that “the punishment fits the crime.” (Rev. 12:9)
2. They committed a vile crime so they get a more severe punishment. (Gen. 6:1-4; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6)
3. Under God’s sovereign rule the “punishment always fits the crime.” (Rev. 20:13)
4. Sins against the infinitely holy God are infinitely wicked. (2 Thes 2:8)
5. Infinite sins against an infinite God deserve an infinite punishment. (2 Thes 2:9)
6. Just 1 sin will send you to hell. So the amount of time a sinner sins is irrelevant. (James 2:10)
7. These demons as well as unbelieving sinful man, will spend eternity in the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:10,14,15)
8. They never repent. (Rev. 9:21; Luke 16:22-31; Rev. 6:15-17; Rev. 9:6; 16:10:11)
9. So hell is not remedial justice. (doesn’t provide a remedy or a cure) (Rom. 2:5; Jude 1:7)
10. Hell is retributive justice – something given and exacted in recompense for something done. (2 Thes. 2:8)

11. Those in hell will never cease to sin. People don't go to hell and then never sin forever but just get punished forever. They will continue to reject His will, His plan, His Word, His standards, His Law. In hell they continue to hate God. In hell they continue to curse God. In hell they continue to mock God, blaspheme God and the Holy Spirit, and hate Christ. (Gal. 5:19-21; Rev. 16:10,11)
12. Therefore the punishment never catches up with the sin because the sinning never ceases. That is why there is infinite punishment. (Dan. 12:2; Matt. 10:28, John 3:36)
13. They not only will continue to rebel but in hell they will continue to get worse. In hell they can be as wicked as they want to be without restraint because no influence of God is there. No believers. No Holy Spirit. No Bibles, No moral law. No common grace. Like moving from Church age to Tribulation, only worse. (Matt:25:41; 2 Thes. 1:9; 2 Thess. 2:6,7,11,12)

Note: Therefore: 1. In heaven believers are instantly better. In hell unbelievers get progressively worse. 2. On earth believers are as bad as they are ever going to be. On earth unbelievers are as good as they are ever going to be.

14. The demon-locusts in Rev. 9 are an example of that. They have been pent-up in a hot furnace of fire and smoke with the most vile demons, and when released they want to kill, to destroy, to wipe out the human race. They are filled with hate and violence and every despicable and detestable trait known to hell. That's why God puts limits on what they can do. (Rev. 9:2,5)
15. To match what they are inwardly, God gives them a body externally to reveal who they have become and who they really are. (Rev. 9:7-10)

Rom 2:5

- 5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

1st trumpet - fire and hail mixed with blood thrown to the earth and burning up 1/3 of the land and trees and all the green grass, which caused widespread fires, destruction of crops, the death of many animals, the destruction of massive amounts of wood and a drastic reduction of air quality.

2nd trumpet - huge asteroid the size of a mountain falls into the ocean turning 1/3 of the sea water to blood, killing 1/3 of the sea life, and destroying 1/3 of the ships.

3rd trumpet - another asteroid which breaks up over the earth's fresh water supply poisoning 1/3 of the drinking water with a deadly poison by which many men died.

4th trumpet - 1/3 of the sun, moon and stars to be darkened. As a result the temperatures would plummet severely disrupting the earth's weather patterns and sea tides, leading to violent unpredictable storms, tides, the destruction of crops, and further deaths.

5th trumpet - the unlocking of the abyss and the release of a demonic locust plague. This plague will wreak widespread pain and suffering upon the inhabitants of the earth to the point that men will vehemently seek to kill themselves, but they will be unable to.

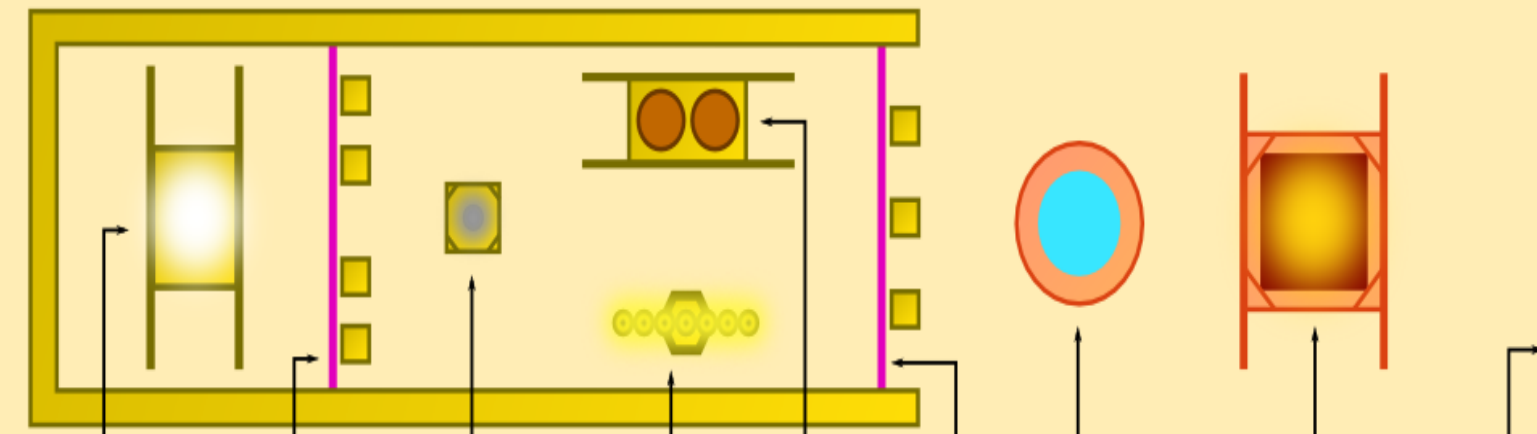
Rev 9:13-19

- 13 Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,
- 14 one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."
- 15 And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind.
- 16 The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.
- 17 And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: the riders had breastplates the color of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone.
- 18 A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths.
- 19 For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm.

Holy of Holies

Holy Place

Outer Courtyard



Ark of Covenant with "Szekhinah"

Veil

Altar of Incense

Menorah

Table of Shewbread

Door

Laver

Altar of Burnt Offerings

Entrance Gate



Ex 30:1-10

- 1 "Moreover, you shall make an altar as a place for burning incense; you shall make it of acacia wood.
- 2 "Its length shall be a cubit, and its width a cubit, it shall be square, and its height shall be two cubits; its horns shall be of one piece with it.
- 3 "You shall overlay it with pure gold, its top and its sides all around, and its horns; and you shall make a gold molding all around for it.
- 4 "You shall make two gold rings for it under its molding; you shall make them on its two side walls — on opposite sides — and they shall be holders for poles with which to carry it.
- 5 "You shall make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold.
- 6 "You shall put this altar in front of the veil that is near the ark of the testimony, in front of the mercy seat that is over the ark of the testimony, where I will meet with you.
- 7 "Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it every morning when he trims the lamps.
- 8 "When Aaron trims the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense. There shall be perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations.
- 9 "You shall not offer any strange incense on this altar, or burnt offering or meal offering; and you shall not pour out a drink offering on it.
- 10 "Aaron shall make atonement on its horns once a year; he shall make atonement on it with the blood of the sin offering of atonement once a year throughout your generations. It is most holy to the Lord."

Rev 9:13-19

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“a voice from the 4 horns of the golden altar”

- Golden altar is where intercession or the prayers from the saints lifted upward to God, as symbolized in the burning of incense.
- The 4 horns were at each corner of the altar and the blood from the Altar of Burnt Offering was once a year applied to the horns.
- So 2 items came from the Altar of Burnt Offerings: 1. Coals. 2. Blood Why? because all intercession is based on the sacrificial blood of the Lamb.
- Therefore believers cry out to God for 1 of 2 things in their prayers: 1. Mercy and grace for the salvation of unbelievers based on the blood of the Lamb. Or if that blood (salvation) is finally rejected – 2. For judgment to come from the Lamb based on His blood.
- So now the altar of mercy becomes the altar of judgment.

Heb 10:29

29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant . . .

Rev 9:13-19

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“great river Euphrates”

Why the river Euphrates?

- It is the longest and most important river of western Asia.
- It begins in Turkey and ends in the Persian Gulf, extending nearly 1900 miles.



TURKEY

Karasu River

Murat River

Tigris River

Euphrates River

I R A Q

SYRIA

JORDAN

ARMENIA

AZERBAIJAN

Caspian Sea

Yerevan

Baku

Erzurum

Van

Diyarbakir

Tabriz

Kayseri

Adana

Gaziantep

Linou

Rasht

Aleppo

Mosul

Erbil

Qazvin

Latakia

Kirkuk

Beirut

Homs

Kermanshah

Arak

Damascus

Baghdad

Golan Heights

Jerusalem

West Bank

Amman

Dead Sea

Ahvaz

An Nasiriyah

Al Basrah

Ahmadan

Lowest point of Asia: -4100 m

Al Wajbah



TURKEY

GEORGIA

ARMENIA

AZERBAIJAN

SYRIA

IRAQ

IRAN

CYPRUS

LEBANON

ISRAEL

JORDAN

BAHRAIN

QATAR

Ankara

Tbilisi

Yerevan

Baku

Kayseri

Diyarbakır

Tabriz

Tehran

Damascus

Baghdad

Arak

Esfahan

Amman

Al Basrah

Ahvaz

Kuwait

Manama

Ad Dammam

Doha

Asyut

Luxor

Hail

Buraydah

Hafar al Batin

Al Jubayl

Bushehr

Dubai

Abu

Sokhumi

Samsun

Bat'umi

Trabzon

Erzurum

Van

Sumqayit

Turkmenbashi

Nebitdag

Konya

Antalya

İcel (Mersin)

Adana

Gaziantep

Mosul

Irbil

Karkuk

Zanjan

Qazvin

Nicosia

Aleppo

Latakia

Hims

Beirut

Haifa

Jerusalem

Port Said

Gaza Strip

Al 'Aqabah

Tabuk

De Facto Boundary

An Najiriyah

Abadan

Shiraz

Bandar 'Abbas

Persian Gulf

Dubai

Abu

Caspian Sea

Sea

Gulf of Aqaba

T







“great river Euphrates”

Why the river Euphrates?

- It is the longest and most important river of western Asia.
- It begins in Turkey and ends in the Persian Gulf, extending nearly 1900 miles.
- ***The Euphrates was a landmark of firsts:***
 1. The first sin. (Gen 2:10-14)
 2. The first of Satan’s assault on man. (Gen. 3)

Gen 2:10-14

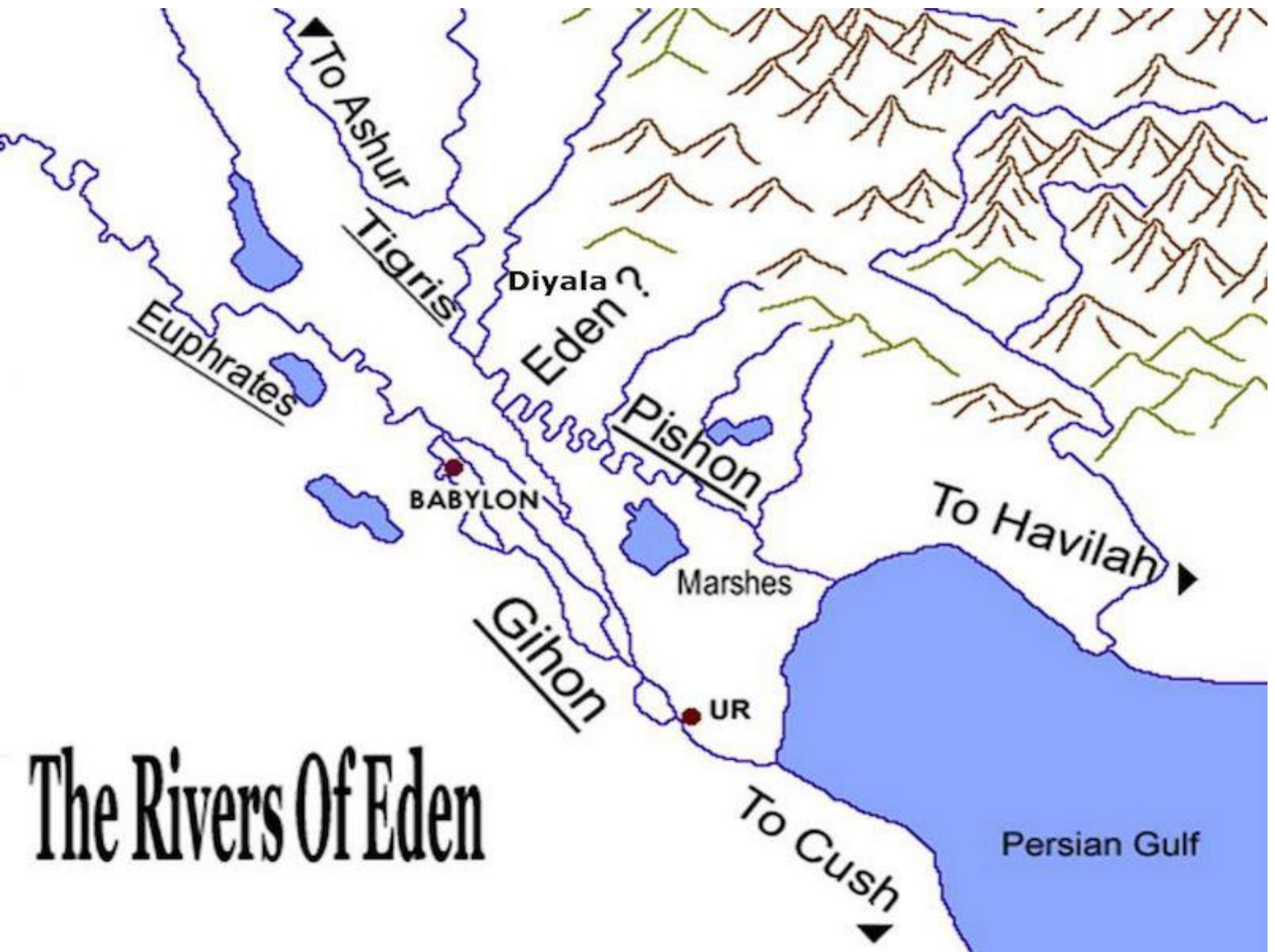
10 Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers.

11 The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.

12 The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there.

13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush.

14 The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.



The Rivers Of Eden



“great river Euphrates”

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 2. The first of Satan’s assault on man. (Gen. 3)
 3. The first murder. (Gen. 4:16)
 4. The first organized revolt. (Gen. 11:1-9)
 5. The first apostasies before and after the flood. (Gen.6-10)

6. The origin of:

- The tower of Babel – was the source of an entire complex of false religions that spread across the world.
 - “The loss of a unified language led to the loss of unified religion ; every people and nation now deviated to worship its own national god” - Simon Turpin
 - When the languages were scattered, they took the false religion of Babel (Humanism) and populated the world with it.
 - Out of Babel came astrology, pantheism, polytheism, idolatry, spiritism, naturalistic philosophy, humanism, atheism, Satanism.
- Satanic fable of “the queen of heaven.”

7. The Euphrates River was the scene of the rise of Israel's greatest and most oppressive enemies – Assyria, Babylon, and Medo-Persia.

8. The area around the Euphrates River was the scene of the long years in which Israel spent some horrible days of captivity.

9. In Revelation 17 and Revelation 18 both the one world religion and the one world government are called Babylon.

10. This part of the world today is utterly pagan. Anti-Christian. Without Christian influence.



Black Sea

Caucasus Mts.

Caspian Sea

ASIA MINOR

Çatal Hüyük

Taurus Mts.

Cyprus

PHOENICIA

Tyre

PALESTINE

Jordan R.

Jericho

Dead Sea

Jerusalem

LOWER EGYPT

SINAI

Nile R.

Sahara

Red Sea

FERTILE CRESCENT

ASSYRIA

Nineveh

Assur

AKKAD

Ebla

Tigris R.

Euphrates R.

Babylon

Umma

Lagash

SUMER

Uruk

Ur

Eridu

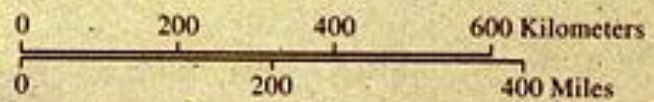
IRAN

Zagros Mountains

Syrian Desert

Arabian Desert

Persian Gulf





**Israel's
Borders**

Greece

EGYPT

SAUDI
ARABIA

SYRIA

IRAQ

CYPRUS

LEBANON

ISRAEL

JORDAN

Rasht

Zanjan

Qarvin

Kermanshah

Arak

Eslamabad

Abvaz

Ahvaz

Abadan

Kerwan

Kerwan

Hafar al Bait

Al Jubayf

Ad Dammam

Dhahran

RABUL

Medina

Riyadh

Yanbu al Bahr

Hala'ib

Antalya

Konya

Isfahan

Diyarbakir

Taher

Tabriz

Alandap

Adana

Alat

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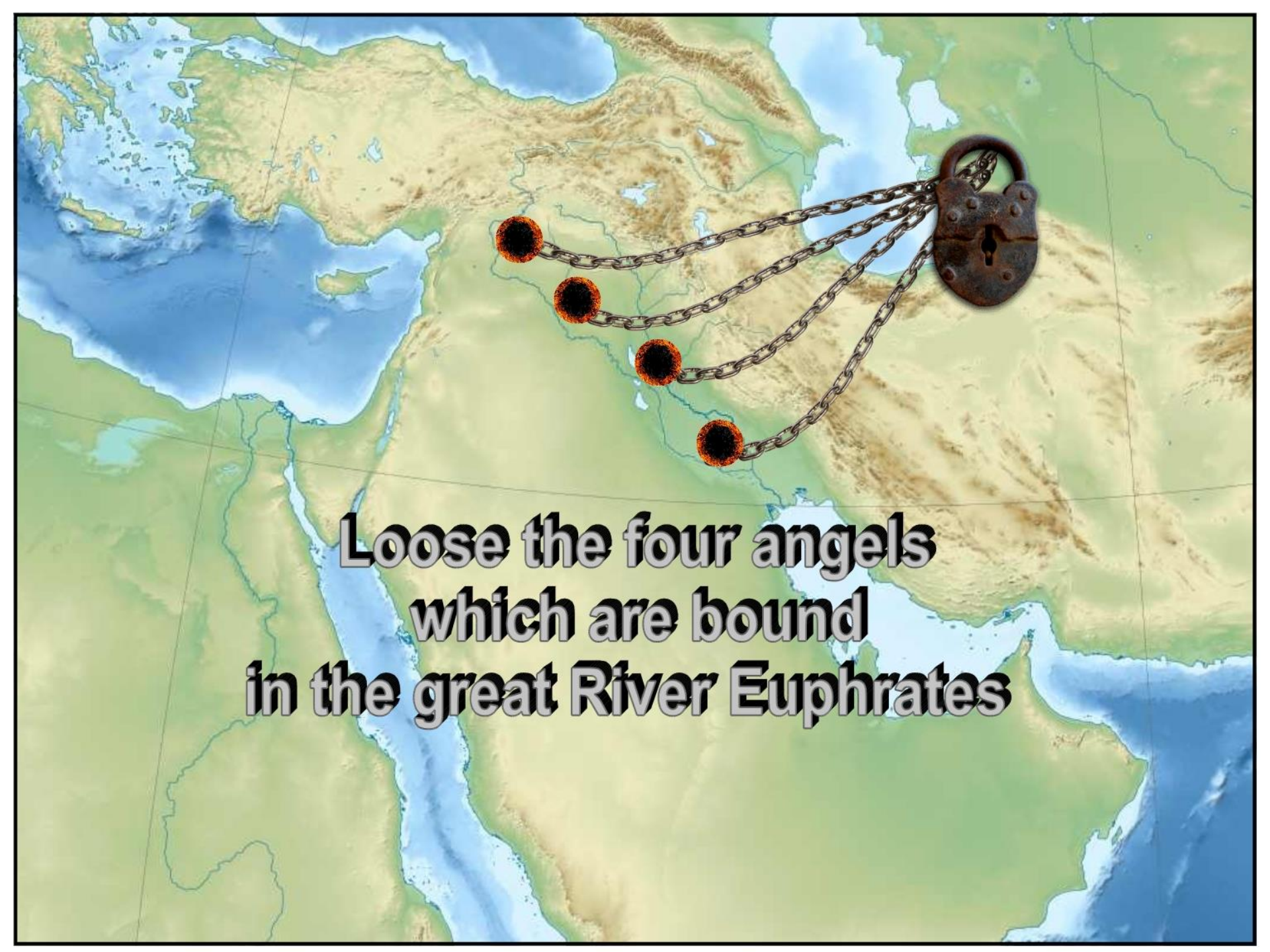
Alat

Dan 10:1-21

- 10 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Belteshazzar; and the message was true and one of great conflict, but he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision.
- 2 In those days, I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks.
- 3 I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all until the entire three weeks were completed.
- 4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I was by the bank of the great river, that is, the Tigris,
- 5 I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in linen, whose waist was girded with a belt of pure gold of Uphaz.
- 6 His body also was like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult.
- 7 Now I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, while the men who were with me did not see the vision; nevertheless, a great dread fell on them, and they ran away to hide themselves.
- 8 So I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength.
- 9 But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.
- 10 Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.
- 11 He said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling

- .12 Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words.
- 13 "But the **prince of the kingdom of Persia** was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.
- 14 "Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future."
- 15 When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless.
- 16 And behold, one who resembled a human being was touching my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke and said to him who was standing before me, "O my lord, as a result of the vision anguish has come upon me, and I have retained no strength.
- 17 "For how can such a servant of my lord talk with such as my lord? As for me, there remains just now no strength in me, nor has any breath been left in me."
- 18 Then this one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me.
- 19 He said, "O man of high esteem, do not be afraid. Peace be with you; take courage and be courageous!" Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, "May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."
- 20 Then he said, "Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold, **the prince of Greece** is about to come.
- 21 "However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince.

Something to think about: These 4 bound demons therefore could very well be the very demons who controlled Babylon of old, who controlled Medo-Persia of old, who controlled Greece of old, who controlled the Roman Empire of old.

A topographical map of the Middle East and surrounding regions, including parts of Asia, Africa, and Europe. The map is overlaid with a large, dark metal padlock on the right side. Four chains extend from the padlock to four glowing, fiery spheres positioned along the Euphrates River. The text is centered in the lower half of the map.

**Loose the four angels
which are bound
in the great River Euphrates**

Rev 9:13-19

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- 14 one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."
- 15 And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind.
- 16 The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.
- 17 And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: the riders had breastplates the color of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone.
- 18 A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths.
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“prepared for the hour and day and month and year,”

- The one article and one preposition before the four time periods unites them – “the appointed hour of the appointed day of the appointed month of the appointed year.”
- This is a moment known only to Christ and demonstrates His complete control.
- *“It is an amazing thing how God chooses in His elective purpose to run this universe. Evil will continue, sin will continue, and God seemingly overlooks it. But at a certain place, at a certain time, at a certain day, and at a certain month, in a certain moment, in a certain second, God has ordained a judgment upon it.”*

“so that they would kill a third of mankind.”

- Again this is a precise directive by Christ, the Lion of Judah.
- Death now returns. Earlier people tried to kill themselves, but God wouldn't allow it. Demon-locusts wanted to kill people but God wouldn't allow it. But now God does.

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“two hundred million”

δισμυριασ μυριασ – two hundred thousand thousand.

“an indefinite number of incalculable immensity”

Rev 16:12

12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east.

- A human army this size has never been seen. The total size of all armies – on both sides – at the height of the Second World War was only 70 million.
- There are only currently about 58 million horses on the planet right now. Decreasing by about 1 million per year. China has 7 million.
- These are no ordinary horses.

“A literal army consisting of 200 million of cavalry need not be thought of. The main idea in the passage is a vast and overwhelming army, one beyond human computation, and exceeding by far any before witnessed.”

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“breastplates”

- their breastplates are the color of fire, hyacinth, and brimstone.
 - The color of fire is red
 - hyacinth, dark blue or black like smoke;
 - brimstone, a sulfurous yellow."
- So these breastplates will be the colors of red, bluish black, and yellow.

“out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone”

- They are not actual horses.
- Their heads are like lions.
- Out of their mouth comes fire and smoke and brimstone - the elements of hell and damnation.
- Death will come by three means: fire, smoke, and brimstone. They will incinerate and asphyxiate 1/3 of mankind.

“The weapons of this army are fire, smoke, and brimstone (which are weapons of hell and may further indicate that the army is made up of the inhabitants of hell—demons.”

- Charles Ryrie



Brimstone

- Brimstone is a lemon-yellow colored stone. Brimstone means, "burning stone" or, "the stone that burns. When a plain brimstone is exposed to the air nothing happens--but if a match is put to it, it will burn in a peculiar way, like a liquid fire, and it emits noxious fumes. The stone melts like wax but the dripping is a peculiar thick fire, like a piece of wax on fire. As it burns, it has a rich, fluorescent-type deep cobalt bluish color. It is an interesting, sticky, "acidic"-type burning fire. Ancient peoples sometimes used brimstone as a type of match.

- The fumes from burning sulfur are toxic and dangerously irritating.
- Sulphur Dioxide, that which is given off when it burns, in small quantities gives a choking feeling. In excess, it can lead to permanent respiratory problems and death due to choking.
- Too much sulfur dioxide in the air can kill people when they breathe it in, not only causing choking but also suffocation. It causes the throat and breathing passages to become irritated and close up.

Summary:

1. They are led by four fallen angels.
2. They are released at the exact moment.
3. The number of the army that they lead is innumerable.
4. The location of the army is stated to be the Euphrates, where Babylon is located , the future headquarters of the Satanic trinity.
5. The description given, rules out this army's being human. They are an army of demons.
6. They kill 1/3 of mankind.

Rev 9:13-19

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- 14 one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."
- 15 And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind.
- 16 The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.
- 17 And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: the riders had breastplates the color of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone.
- 18 A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths.
- 19 For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm.

“Never since Noah has such a substantial proportion of the earth’s population come under God’s righteous judgment.”

- John Walvoord

“The terrible slaughter will completely disrupt human society. The problem of disposing of the dead bodies alone will be inconceivable. The sickly stench of decaying corpses will permeate the world, and it will take an enormous effort on the part of the survivors to bury them in mass graves or burn them.”

7 Year Tribulation

Messiah Returns
2nd
Coming

ABOMINATION
OF
DESOLATION
(Matt. 24:15)

Antichrist is World Ruler
(Defeats all Kings and nations)

10 member Roman
Confederacy
Rev. 13:1; 17:12

VS

King of the South - Egypt+
King of the North -
Russia+
King of the East - China
Dan. 11:40-44

GREAT WAR
OF
ARMAGEDDON
Rev. 16-19

Israel is
to flee
to mountains.
(Matt. 24:16-20)

3 1/2 years

Nations gather
in Israel to do
war with God.
Rev. 17:14; 19:19

Church
Age

Antichrist Ascends to Power

3 1/2 years

Earthquakes
(Matt. 24:7)

Famines
(Matt. 24:7)

Satan Worship. Rev. 13:3,4

Worldwide
evangelism
Matt. 24:14
Rev. 14:6,7

Two Witnesses Begin Their
Ministry Rev. 11:3-6

144,000 Jews are Saved & Sealed
Rev. 7:4-8

False Prophet
Rev. 13:11-15.

Wars & Rumors of Wars (Matt. 24:6,7)

Trumpet

Judgments - Rev. 8,9,11

Bowl Judgments - Rev. 16

Seal Judgments - Rev. 6

- *Deception, Wars, Famine
- *1/4 of pop. will die
- *Earthquakes
- *Sun darkened, moon becomes like blood, stars fall.
- *Mountains & islands are moved.
- *Panic & Terror

- *Hail & fire mixed with blood.
- *1/3 of earth burned up.
- *1/3 of sea turns to blood & 1/3 of life in sea die.
- *Great star falls from heaven & poisons waters & kills many.
- *1/3 of sun, moon, & stars are darkened - affects light & temperatures.
- *Another 1/3 of world's pop. die
- *Earthquakes.
- *Great hailstorm.

- *Malignant sores on the unsaved..
- *Seas become blood & everything in them dies.
- *Rivers & springs become blood.
- *Sun scorches men with fire.
- *Greatest earthquake ever - cities of the world destroyed.
- *Every mountain & island disappear.
- *100 pound hailstones fall on men..

Millennium

Example:

Population of earth	6,000,000,000
1/4 die	<u>1,500,000,000</u>
Remaining	4,500,000,000
1/3 die	<u>1,500,000,000</u>
Remaining	3,000,000,000

Less those who died from wars, famine, disease, wild beasts, earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, volcanoes, hail, asteroids, polluted air and water, fire, those on ships.

- ?

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Martin Rinkart
1586 - 1649

MARTIN RINKART was the son of a poor coppersmith in Eilenburg, Germany. By hard work, thrift, and the use of his musical talents, he scraped together enough to pay his own way through the University of Leipzig. He studied theology, intending to become a pastor. In 1617, shortly before the Thirty Years' War broke out, Rinkart became a full time pastor at a church in Eilenburg. Eilenburg was a walled city, and as the war developed, refugees flooded in as political and military fugitives. Armies overran Eilenburg three times. The Rinkart home became a refuge for the victims. Overcrowding led to food shortages in the city. By 1637, the situation was so bad that refugees fought in the streets for dead cats and birds. Plague soon followed. Some of the famous cities of Germany like Brandenburg lost upwards of forty or fifty percent of their population during The Thirty Years War.



Martin Rinkart
1586 - 1649

Each of the city's four pastors held ten or more funerals a day. Overwhelmed, one ran away. The others died, leaving Rinkart to bury them. During the height of the severe plague in 1637, Rinkart was therefore the only surviving pastor in Eilenburg, conducting as many as 50 funerals in a day. He performed more than 4000 funerals in that year. The plague of 1637 decimated the town, killing 8,000 people. This included his own wife who died from starvation and disease. He survived the entire war of 30 years, pouring himself out in charity, giving away all the food and clothing he had obtained, except just enough to try to preserve his own hungry family. After the Swedes had besieged the city for several months, they agreed to leave if an enormous ransom was paid. Rinkart pleaded for better terms, but the Swedish army was inflexible.



Martin Rinkart
1586 - 1649

Knowing the sum could not be raised, Rinkart said to his congregation, "Come my children, we can find no mercy with man. Let us take refuge with God." So they knelt and prayed fervently. The Swedish commander was so impressed with the confident Christians that he withdrew the ransom.

It was a horrendous time, and some think that this hymn had been composed in its final form when the peace treaty that ended The Thirty Years War, was finally signed. When it finally appeared that there would be peace, Rinkart wrote this hymn of gratitude for his children to sing at the dinner table. There's an air of tremendous gratitude to God in this hymn, through what was an enormously difficult period in his life and the life of his country. The hymn that he wrote was . . .

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

1. Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills, in this world and the next!

3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
The Son and Him who reigns with Them in highest Heaven;
The one eternal God, whom earth and Heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.