

Invasion of the Demons – Lesson 7

June 29, 2025

What is the significance of the golden altar in the book of Revelation, and how does its purpose change over time?

The golden altar, first introduced in Exodus 30, is located in the holy place of the temple or tabernacle, just before the Holy of Holies. In the Old Testament, it was primarily associated with the offering of incense, symbolizing prayers for grace and mercy to God, based on the prior sacrifice made at the brazen altar (the altar of burnt offering). This meant access to God and the ability to plead for mercy were intrinsically linked to a blood sacrifice for sin.

However, in the book of Revelation, the golden altar undergoes a dramatic transformation. In chapter 6, it becomes an "altar of vengeance," where the souls of martyrs cry out to God for retribution against those who persecuted them. By chapters 8 and 9, it functions as an "altar of judgment," where angelic actions stemming from it unleash terrible plagues and violence upon the earth. This signifies a shift from a place of mercy and grace to one of divine judgment and terror, as humanity's rejection of God's salvation leads to escalating consequences.

What are the "second release of demons" described in Revelation 9, and what is their purpose?

The "second release of demons" refers to 200 million additional fallen angels who are freed from their long-term binding at the great River Euphrates. This release follows an earlier one from the "abusos" or "pit" earlier in Revelation 9. Unlike the first group of demons, who could only torment mankind without killing them, these 200 million demons are explicitly released with the purpose of killing a third of mankind. They are described as horsemen or cavalry, with breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow. Their horses have heads like lions, and from their mouths come fire, smoke, and brimstone, which are the means by which they destroy a third of the world's population through incineration, suffocation, and burning.

Why are these specific demons bound at the Euphrates River, and what is the historical and biblical significance of this location?

The Euphrates River holds significant historical and biblical importance as a focal point for evil and rebellion against God. It is one of the four rivers associated with the Garden of Eden, where humanity's first sin and deception by Satan occurred. This region was also the site of the Tower of Babel, from which all false religions of the world are said to have

originated and spread. Historically, it has been the location of vicious ancient empires like the Babylonians, Assyrians, and Medo-Persians.

God chose to bind these specific 200 million demons at the Euphrates River, an area consistently marked by human sin and opposition to Him. Their release from this historically evil location signifies God's strategic deployment of judgment through these agents, as they are part of His continuing destruction of the world before the return of Christ.

How does the speaker interpret the calculation of population reduction in Revelation, specifically regarding the "third" and "fourth" of mankind being killed?

The speaker references Revelation 6:8, where a fourth of the earth's population is killed, and Revelation 9, where a third of mankind is killed by the newly released demons. While acknowledging that precise numbers for intervening judgments are unknown, the speaker attempts to calculate the cumulative effect using a common denominator of 12. If $1/4$ equals $3/12$ and $1/3$ equals $4/12$ (the speaker incorrectly states $1/3$ equals $3/12$), then the combined death toll would be $7/12$. However, the speaker then states that "after these guys there'll be half of the world's population will be gone." The implication is that a significant portion, potentially half, of humanity will have perished by this point in the tribulation, yet the remaining population will still refuse to repent.

What is the persistent reaction of mankind to these severe judgments, and what does it imply about their spiritual state?

Despite witnessing widespread death, unimaginable devastation, and direct demonic torment, the rest of mankind who were not killed in these plagues "did not repent." This implies an extreme level of hardheartedness and an unwavering rejection of God. The speaker emphasizes that the gospel is still being preached during this time (by the 144,000, two witnesses, and an angel), meaning opportunities for repentance exist. However, these individuals appear to lack the capacity to repent, having become so entrenched in their sin and opposition to God. This serves as a severe warning against delaying a decision for Christ, as a point may come during the tribulation when repentance becomes seemingly impossible for some.

What are some of the other events and signs mentioned as precursors or parts of the "end times" and Christ's return?

The speaker highlights several other elements related to the "end times" and Christ's return:

- **Tribulation, Eschatology, Second Coming:** The future lessons will delve into these concepts from Gospels and Epistles, with less emphasis on Revelation.
- **Woman's Retreat:** A practical event signaling community gathering and support.
- **Lord's Supper and Baptism:** Regular church ordinances indicating ongoing spiritual life and conversions.
- **Access to the White House:** The speaker notes Christian organizations like "Intercessors for America" meeting and praying with President Trump and cabinet members, viewing this access as "very, very encouraging" and suggesting the President has "God on his mind."
- **Rain:** A prayer request for rain, indicating immediate environmental concerns.
- **Pianist Needed:** A practical church need.
- **The Rapture of the Church:** The speaker believes that the formation of the nation of Israel in 1948 was the last major prophecy to be fulfilled before the rapture, stating that "all we have to hear now is a trumpet once we hear that trumpet Jesus is here."
- **Antichrist, War, Famine, Death, Destruction:** These are mentioned as part of the broader judgments and chaos that will precede Christ's return.
- **Bowl Judgments:** The speaker notes that even more terrible judgments, the "bowl judgments," will follow the trumpets, including the greatest earthquake in history, hailstones weighing up to 75 pounds, and a reshaping of the planet for the millennial kingdom.

How does the passage emphasize the urgency of accepting Christ before the tribulation period?

The speaker strongly warns against the idea of waiting until the tribulation to "get saved." He describes such a theology as "tough" and "foolish," emphasizing that those who remain unrepentant during the severe judgments may lose the "capacity to repent." The text highlights that despite immense suffering and clear signs of God's judgment, a significant portion of humanity will remain hardhearted and refuse to turn to God. This serves as a stark reminder of the importance of accepting Christ now, as the consequences of delay during the tribulation could lead to a permanent state of unrepentance and eternal condemnation.

What historical and geographical details are provided about the Euphrates River Valley and its connection to past and future events?

The Euphrates River, flowing 1,700 miles to the Persian Gulf, is described as the most important river in the Middle East historically. Its connection to the Garden of Eden in Genesis 2 is highlighted as the starting point of sin, the first lie, and the first murder. The Tower of Babel, the origin of all false religions, was built near this river.

Geographically, the Euphrates was promised as the eastern boundary of the nation of Israel. Historically, it was the home of powerful and vicious empires like the Babylonians and Assyrians. In the context of Revelation, the Euphrates River Valley will serve as the crossing point for nations preparing for the Battle of Armageddon, which will take place in Megiddo. This reinforces the idea of the Euphrates as a perpetual "focal point for evil" throughout history and into the end times.