

Revelation 9: 20 and 21: “The Sounding of the 6th Trumpet” (Part 3),
Sermon # 76 in the series – “The Faithful and True Witness”,
Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on October 21st, 2007.

With this sermon we have now come to a transition in the sounding of the 6th Trumpet. We are beginning to move toward the 3rd major time period of Church history; the time period of the 1260 days, the period which we are still living in, as the Church of Jesus Christ. The announcement of this time period will come in Chapter 11, verse 3. The 1260 days prophecy is a part of the prophetic announcements which fall under the 6th Trumpet. Incorporated under the 6th Trumpet will be the full manifestation of the Antichristian powers and the pouring out of the vials upon them so that they are destroyed. The seventh Trumpet is the announcement of the Millennium. The Trumpets, except the 7th one, bring the announcement of certain definite calamities and spiritual plagues which come upon the visible Church of Jesus Christ; plagues of false doctrine entering in and calamities which come to all of mankind as a result of it. This began in the 2nd time period of the history of the Church from 323 A.D. to 756 A.D. but the influence of each of these plagues continues until this very day.

We have looked at the plague of Arianism which was the first Trumpet. It is a denial of the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have looked at the plague of Nestorianism in the sounding of the 2nd Trumpet; the awful heresies concocted in relation to the person of Christ. And in that time period there were also heresies related to the Deity of the Holy Spirit as well. They were a “great mountain burning with fire that was thrown into the sea”. We saw that the Church did eventually come forth with the correct doctrine of Christ, being 2 natures, both God and Man in one blessed Person. In the 3rd Trumpet we looked at the calamities which Pelagius brought to the Church with his false doctrines of the denial of the Original Sin of Adam being passed on to all mankind, and his false doctrine of men having sufficient grace to merit favor with God. How destructive this heresy has been, ever since, in the visible Church. In the 4th Trumpet we looked at the advent of the dark ages, in the visible Church; the “darkening of the Sun and Moon and Stars so that a third of them did not shine”. The doctrine of the Church itself was corrupted. There were so many things coming into the doctrine, the worship, and the practice of the churches of that day that were false, that the cause of Jesus Christ shining forth, was hindered greatly.

Then in the 5th Trumpet we see the beginning of woes. “Woe, Woe, Woe, to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!” (Revelation 8: 13) We saw that the 5th

Trumpet was the rise of the Papal Power within the visible Church with its attendant plague of locusts, the false authorities set up in the visible Christian Church at every level. This was the days of monasticism with its Abbots and friars everywhere, and the decline of the preaching of the pure Word of God to the people in the churches everywhere in the Western Roman Empire. And then in the last few weeks I have shown you that the 6th Trumpet is the woe of Mohammedanism, which came as a scourge to the visible Church of Jesus Christ. It was a scourge to the visible Church then, and it is a scourge today. Mohammed taught the false doctrine of the unity of God to the exclusion of having a Son or Partner. He denied that Jesus Christ was God made manifest in the flesh, and sought to establish a religion of religious works of submission to the God of his own mind and imagination – Allah.

I showed you last week that there is a great temptation to think that those who worship and pray to Allah are praying to the same God that we worship. But this simply cannot be the case. “He who does not have the Son, do not have the Father either,” it says in the Bible. Islam does not recognize God as a Father having a Son at all. It does not recognize the need of the blood atonement of Jesus Christ as a satisfaction to the perfect justice of our God. And Mohammed’s goal, the end of his religion, is not “love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and a sincere faith”, as it says in 1st Timothy 1: 5. But it is rather that he has turned aside to fables and idle talk, desiring to be a teacher, not understanding that the things that he said and the things which he promoted are very, very destructive. He would conquer with his sword for his false God. But this is not the way of Christ, and not the way to God.

And this leads us to verses 20 and 21 of Chapter 9. It says in verse 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.” What we want to look at, this afternoon is the subject of repentance in relation to God's judgments. We want to ask 1st – Who is it who needs to repent. Then 2nd – We want to look at the specific sins that needed to be repented of and how we can apply this to ourselves.

1st of all – Who is it here that needs to repent? (Verse 20a)

We need to understand at the outset of this study, why God permitted and ordained that the Church of Jesus Christ would have to endure these spiritual plagues of the second and third time periods which we are studying. It is so that people would come to repentance. It was so they would learn righteousness. The kindness and goodness of God are meant to lead us to repentance, it says in Romans chapter 2. But here we find, implied in verse 20, the idea that when these plagues were experienced by unbelieving people, that God expected them

to repent. This a principle of the righteous expectation of God; that people repent of their sins when they see His judgments. But they did not repent. Those who did not repent are called, “the rest of mankind”. As we think about this phrase, we need to refer it back to the “third of mankind” which are mentioned in verses 15 and 18. There were a “third of mankind” who were killed by the spiritual plague of Mohammedanism. That is; they perished eternally by being overcome by the falsehoods propagated by this false religion; or they perished eternally, having been put to death physically by Islamic forces, having never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation from their sins. And thus they perished eternally. Who are the other two-thirds? They are the rest of mankind, who looking and seeing what was happening to those who fell by this plague, were not induced to prepare themselves to meet their maker by repentance and true faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I think that we can quite easily apply this to our situation now, we who are living in 21st Century United States of America. Every person who has not come to repentance and to saving faith in the Lord Jesus must come while they are still alive and consciously in a position to do that very thing. God has fixed a day in which He will judge the world through a man whom He has appointed; the Lord Jesus Christ. He now commands all men everywhere to repent. It takes the grace of Christ to repent. But it is the conscious action and decision of the one who comes to realize the seriousness of their sins. All of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. All mankind needs to repent or they will perish eternally. Each of us has to come to terms with our own particular and peculiar sins. We come to Christ first by looking to Him for grace. But in the process of coming we are deliberately turning from those thoughts, those habits, those practices of sin that we have cherished and pursued all of our life.

When we see a tragic situation of judgment come upon our land, such as what happened on September 11th, 2001 when Islamic men had commandeered planes and slammed them into the World Trade Center in New York, and into the Pentagon in Washington; and when we saw so many people’s lives taken by those actions, our immediate response is to feel pity for those who died. Among the dead there were probably many true Christians. And among the dead there were no doubt many unbelievers, and many who had said that they believed in Christ, but had not repented of their sins. The question of Jesus should immediately come to our minds; the question that He posed in Luke Chapter 13, which I will put into the context of all Americans. Verse 2 would read this way. “Do you suppose that these Americans were worse sinners than all other Americans because they suffered these things?” “I tell you no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

The purpose of repentance is that we will turn from what God has told us in His Word is sin, and that we will learn righteousness. When you see the damage that the Antichristian Islamic forces are doing in the world today, does it lead you to think about repentance? The question that I should ask myself is this: What is it that I might be doing that is so provoking to God that He would bring His judgments to the society that I live in; even to people that I love? Perhaps I am tolerating sins in my life that are provoking to God. Perhaps I am one of the too many people who do not believe that the doctrine of Christ, the doctrine of salvation by faith, the doctrine of the Church, the doctrine of conversion, the doctrines of sanctification and holiness, are not important at all. Perhaps I am not being salt and light in my generation as I should. Perhaps I really love my sins too much to give them up. God will bring His judgments. He will discipline His own whom He loves. In the time period that we are studying this is exactly what happened. God was provoked to bring His judgments. He will do it, and He will be righteous in doing so.

Turn with me to Isaiah 26. Here we see the ways of the Almighty revealed. It is a song that will be sung by the nation of Israel after they are converted to Christ and added to His Church; a time when they will be praying to be delivered from all the Antichristian forces who would seek to destroy them. It can also be applied generally to the Church of Jesus Christ, Jew and Gentile, at any point in Church history in her battle with the forces of evil. "In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; God will appoint salvation for walls and bulwarks." "Open the gates, that the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in." "You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." "Trust in the Lord forever, for in YAH, the Lord, is everlasting strength." "For He brings down those who dwell on high, the lofty city; He lays it low, He lays it low to the ground, He brings it down to the dust." "The foot shall tread it down – the feet of the poor and the steps of the needy." "The way the just is uprightness; O Most Upright, You weigh the path of the just." "Yes, in the way of Your judgments, O Lord, we have waited for You; the desire of our soul is for Your name and for the remembrance of You." "With my soul I have desired You in the night, yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early; for when Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness."

This is the verse we need to contemplate. When God brings His judgments, it says, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. This does not mean that they will all repent, but it does mean that they will be forced to consider God's righteousness. In verse 10 it goes on to say, "Let grace be shown to the wicked, yet he will not learn righteousness; in the land of uprightness he will deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the Lord." "Lord, when

Your hand is lifted up, they will not see.” “But they will see and be ashamed for their envy of people; yes, the fire of Your enemies shall devour them.” This is exactly what is being talked about in the passage that we are studying in Revelation 9. God lifts up His hand in righteous judgment in permitting this scourge of Mohammedanism to attempt to take over the world with their false doctrines, and the inhabitants of the world, “the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues did not repent...” The “fire” of God’s enemies has devoured many, but those looking on did not see. They did not learn righteousness from it. From the passage in Isaiah we see that some did learn righteousness. They learned that righteousness is found in Jesus Christ. And those who know the Lord are those who pray knowing that God “weighs the path of the just”. He looks at the Christian’s heart and life and all the motives for what he does, and whether he is learning to mortify his flesh, and put to death its deeds. He weighs the desires of the Christian, whether they are holy, whether His child is waiting upon Him and desiring Him; whether he is seeking Him early. Repentance brings the true Christian to that place. Are you there, my friend?

Then 2nd – Let’s look at the specific sins mentioned here that were not repented of.

The specific sins that were not repented of were idolatry, murder, sorcery, sexual immorality, and theft. These were sins which the visible Church of Jesus Christ in the Roman Empire, the Church which was becoming Antichristian in so many ways, was not repenting of. It is the sins of those who profess to be Christian, which are unrepented of, which bring the worst calamities and judgments upon any given society or nation. The thing that we should learn from this is that each person needs to repent of their particular sins, specifically. It is not enough to talk about repentance in general. You must get down to specifics. Do you worship the work of your hands; the things that you do for a living, the things that you do to find pleasure or security, or happiness, more than God? Then you have an idol in your heart. And it needs to be dethroned in repentance. Are you, a professed Christian, angry with a brother in your heart, and this anger leads you to speak against them and judge them rather than going to them if you are offended by them? This needs to be repented of. Are you, a professed believer, willing to dabble in the occult and the Zodiac to try to discover the secret things of the future? This practice needs to be done away with. Are you a person who is secretly using pornography to satisfy your lust, or involved with someone sexually outside the bonds of holy matrimony? These practices will keep you from inheriting the kingdom of heaven if they are not repented of. Are you a person who is stealing from others when you think that

you can get away with it? God sees, and knows. and He will bring His judgments if you do not repent.

The more specific application of this doctrine of repentance goes to those who are in those in authority in the false Roman Catholic Church. Those who were in authority in the visible Church of the time period we are looking at, corrupted the visible Church and turned it into a false Church. For many people attended church then, and they thought that they were obtaining salvation through its false doctrines and teaching. We shall see in the Chapters to come how they did not repent, and how these sins still characterize that church which will not bring its doctrine and practice in line with the Word of God, but will nullify the Word of God by their traditions. In closing this sermon this afternoon, let me plead with you to first of all; repent of all and every sin that you find in yourself, and which know to be in existence in your heart and life. And then pray that Christ's kingdom would come in such a way, that all that is false in doctrine, in worship, and in practice, in all churches professing to be Christian, would be destroyed. Pray that true believers everywhere would unite under the banner of Truth which is Christ and the doctrines of His Grace.