

Trumpet 6 taught by Brother Dick Button

How It All Ends

By Dick Button

sermonaudio.com

Bible Text: Revelation 9:13-22
Preached on: Sunday, April 14, 2012

Berean Baptist Church
517 Glensford Drive
Fayetteville, NC 28314

Website: www.bereanbaptistchurch.org
Online Sermons: www.sermonaudio.com/bereanbaptistch

Chapter 9:13-21. Now, I'm not going to necessarily read straight through this and so we're going to start with verse 13 and it says, "And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God." Pastor Bill had found a bunch of slides that had some pretty fantastic artwork that goes with it and so here we have an artist rendition of the altar. It depends on what your interpretation of that altar is and I'm going to lead you down a path here in just a second but this altar looks quite large in the artist's rendering here but I wanted to point out that it is the horns of the altar and in this passage it says, "of the golden altar which is before God" there are the voices that speak out and talking to the sixth angel which had the trumpet.

Now, the altar, again, reminding us that John is sharing with us his vision of things that have already been exposed or revealed to us in the Old Testament. And if we go back to Exodus 30 and Exodus 27, we see that in the law, when Moses was given the law and the preparation for the worship and for the various events of the tabernacle, there were two altars that were described that should be created. The one altar that we have here in the lower right portion of the picture, is the brazen altar and that altar was to be for the blood sacrifices. Now, the size of that altar, at this point, is not that big of a deal for what we're talking about but it was an altar that was approximately 7 ½ feet square and about 4 ½ feet tall which was where they made the blood sacrifices for the atoning of the sins of the people in the tabernacle.

The second altar and, again, this one was the bronze altar. It was made of acacia wood and covered with bronze and was used for the burnt offerings. The second altar was also made of acacia wood but somewhat smaller. My proportions of my slides here are not exactly to scale but the second altar was about 1 ½ feet square, 18 inches square, and 36 inches or about 3 feet tall. This one was for the burning of incense prior to going into the Holy of Holies, before the Mercy Seat. And here is a depiction of the tabernacle as presented to Moses and we see that the brazen altar was out here in the outer court. This is where the sacrifices were made for the people, for their sins on a regular basis and then, of course, the various sacrifices that the law required where an animal was slain and the blood was used.

Now, part of the blood of some of the sacrifices were then used to mark the golden altar on the horns but primarily the golden altar was just outside of the Holy of Holies where

the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat were which represented God's presence in the temple. And so we see that this altar, the golden altar, was before the Lord as its placement in the tabernacle. The golden altar was, again, made of acacia wood, they both had horns. I don't know if you can back up here. They both had horns one on each of the corners of the altar and this one was, as I said, covered with bronze, where this one was covered with gold, pure gold. And so, we have the bronze altar, the golden altar and their placement within the temple.

Now, the golden altar in some of what I was being able to read and observe, was symbolic or a type of Christ as being the sweet-smelling savor that goes up before the Lord after the sacrifices, after the blood atonement for sins. Now, the savory incense and, by the way, the incense had to be a particular type and there were those incenses that were forbidden but the incense and the savor going up before the Lord or before God's presence, it also could be used as or a symbol of the worship of the saints in the New Testament. After those of us that have trusted Christ as personal Savior and are worshiping our God, worshiping our Savior, this altar before God could represent that worship.

Now, one of the questions that Pastor Bill threw out to me as we were preparing or as we were looking forward to this lesson is: is the altar that we're looking at in this passage in Revelation 9:13, is it the same as in the fifth seal which is back in Revelation 6? Well, I wasn't sure because if you look back at chapter 6:9 it says, "and when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell in the earth? And white robes were given unto everyone of them and it was said unto them that they should rest yet for a little season until their fellowservants also and their brethren that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."

Now, Pastor had dealt with this in one of our previous lessons but I wanted, first of all, for you to notice that in chapter 9 where we're at today, when it talks about the altar, it talks about the golden altar. And when we look at the passage in Revelation 6, it doesn't call it, there is no adjective there, it just says the altar that is before the Lord. And so, I may be taking a little bit of liberty here, but if you look at the passage in chapter 6, it says that there was those that were slain for the word of God that were under the altar and they cried with a loud voice saying, how long O Lord, holy and true. What I'm wanting you to pay attention to here at this point, they cried with a loud voice. Now, in chapter 9 it says "I heard a voice from the horns of the golden altar which is before the Lord crying out saying to the sixth angel." So, could it be that these that were crying out in the sixth chapter and asking for God to avenge their death, these are martyred saints, could it be that they're crying out and asking for vengeance on those that brought about their death or their demise, possibly could be the voices that are coming out from the horns or the voices spoken of in chapter 9 in which now the angel of the Lord is being released, or being told to go release, the angels which are bound? And as we see as we continue on in chapter 9, that there is going to be a mass of death. Maybe this is the vengeance or it could be the same altar. I'm not going to specifically say. When you look at some of the

cross references in various Scriptures, you take the word “altar” if you have a Bible that has the cross references to the different terminologies for altars. The term “altar” used with the golden altar and the term “altar” used without the adjective golden is the same word. But when the chain references reference back, they don't always reference to the same group of passages that have the word “altar.” So, I couldn't really find a direct connection between the altar in chapter 6 and the altar in chapter 9 other than the voices crying out from under the altar could be the voices that we're hearing in chapter 9. The passage in chapter 8, where the angel was before the altar and the incense, yes, it very easily could be.

Now, we get into when the voices call out and the angel goes to the angel in verse 14, “Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound,” and in the King James it says “bound in the great Euphrates.” That word “bound in” or “at”; in some translations it's related as “bound at the river Euphrates.” Now, first of all, let me comment on the angels that were bound. Obviously these are demonic angels because angels that are godly angels or of God's army, we have no references anywhere that they are bound. But we do know that God did bind, and this is the passage that we looked at from the opening up of the bottomless pit, a part of the angels that fell with Satan had been bound. And so this definitely, in my mind, is referring to angels that were bound which are demonic angels and they are now going to loose the forces that come from, I guessed you'd say, restrained at the river Euphrates.

Look with me also into Revelation 16:12. We're looking ahead and, again, not necessarily are all the references that we're looking at chronological. In other words, some of what we look at in Revelation is referring either forward or backwards from the point from which we're specifically at in our text. But in chapter 16:12, it says, “And the sixth angel,” and this is with the bowl judgments. I'm not going to take too much out of the passage of whoever is going to be teaching that come when we get to that area, but verse 12 says, “And the sixth angel poured out his bowl upon the great river Euphrates and its water was dried up that the way may be prepared for the kings from the east.” And so, it's very logical in my thinking that as these angels that are restrained and the forces that are restrained with them at the river Euphrates is leading up to, and the events that follow, are similar to what happens in chapter 16:12 and following.

And it says that those “were loosed which were prepared for an hour and a day and a month and a year for to slay the third part of men.” And, again, the word “men” comes from a Greek word which means “mankind” or “all mankind.” Not just particularly a male person but all of humanity. And so, a third of the humanity is going to be slain by the events that happen as these angels are loosed.

“And the number of the army of the horsemen,” verse 16, depiction of the armies and the horsemen being loosed, “And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand and I heard the number of them.” Well, two hundred thousand thousand is 200 million and you think about that, that's a pretty sizable army.

Greg was just talking with me a little bit before the service and he said that he was looking this last week and the total number of, was it WWII, the total number of troops and people involved in both sides of WWII were about 70 million. So, you have 70 million people involved in WWII and you're going to have 200 million people involved with this movement of armies and whatever troops, armies, horsemen, whatever John was seeing. And, again, there are some people that would say that he is depicting some of the mechanisms of modern warfare: tanks, guns. I don't know. We can imagine, we can think about it. Just remember that what John was writing, based on what he was seeing, would have no words to describe in that timeframe things that were of modern warfare that we know of today. So, it's very possible that he was seeing some of these things. I don't know.

The other possibility is that there are a lot of conspiracy theories going around today, but not only conspiracy, there is some good evidence that when you look at how much we depend upon the computerized world, our power system is controlled by computers, our grocery distributions is controlled by computers, my banking system is controlled by computers. And there are, like I said, some theories that all it would take is some massive magnetic disturbance. I still don't know what it would be to create that. Nuclear? And so, what you end up with is the inability of any of this equipment to work. So, now you're back to horses again. Okay?

So, I'm not saying that it couldn't be literal horses, but whatever it is, it's pretty massive and this force is moving in such a way that a third of mankind is slain or murdered.

Josie? (...) It's very possible that we have demonic forces possessing the armies. Take a look at one of our North Korean persons right now. How many of us would call him level-headed or logical? You know, mankind left to his own devices, true, I think some of it is spawned by demonic or Satanic influence, but the Scripture is pretty clear: "the heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it?"

Pastor Bill has said it before, I have said it before. It's real easy to say, "Well, Satan made me do it." Some of you have been around as long as I have and some of you haven't but back in the days when I was still quite young there was a guy by the name of Flip Wilson that his big thing is, "The Devil made me do it." Well, I'm sorry to say, the devil cannot affect everybody all at the same time. He is not omnipresent like God is. He is still a limited being compared to God and, therefore, we don't want to give him too much authority. Granted, the Scripture tells us that he "is like a roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour" and he has demons, other demonic powers at his disposal but to think that he's interested in any one of us all the time is a little far-fetched, or affecting anyone of us. And the Bible does tell us that because of our sin nature, we're able to affect our own evil without his influence. And so, I'm not going to say, it's very possible that the demonic influence here is going to affect these 200 million.

Also, you notice that it says that they are "bound at the river Euphrates." Now, Pastor Bill has some comparisons between the things of Revelation and Exodus and one of his comparisons is these famous waters. Well, the Euphrates would be a famous water.

Euphrates is also the boundary in which it was the eastern boundary of the Roman Empire. It's also symbolic of the separation of the east from the west and so it is very possible that the armies from the east, which there has been a lot of speculation over the years and I'm only going to say it from the standpoint that it is a speculation, that it is the Chinese army marching against Israel or against the forces of God at this point. Or, in this case, it appears that it's against anybody. Who knows who's in the way? But there are over 2 billion Chinese right now so a tenth of the Chinese population wouldn't be far-fetched to be the armies. It could be. At this point, I don't have any specific tie-in Scriptures that are specifically saying this one is one or the other but I'm just throwing this out here. Understanding, be careful with putting into the Scripture something that's not there. But it's always fun to speculate sometimes. It's future stuff.

Going on then in verses 17 and forward, "And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone," these are the devastations, the plagues that come upon mankind. "For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts."

Well, in verse 21 the term "sorceries" comes from a word which is pharmakeia in the Greek which is drugs or the use of drugs and the term "fornication" of course from the word porneia which is pornography and the illicit sex. I won't go into it, but I had a copy of an article this last week that I shared with Pastor Bill and Pastor Shawn that, and again, I'm not, if anybody is interested, it's a pretty long article but coming from a Christian perspective, we have a predisposed, and properly predisposed, view of the world and the events of the world. I'm not saying it's wrong, I'm saying it's good, I'm glad I have it but we forget that the Scriptures don't affect everybody from the beginning of time. We know that God already destroyed the world once by a flood because of probably sexual immorality, things that were just blatantly pungent in the nose of God and putrid. And then afterwards, it wasn't several hundred thousand years later that Moses then presented the law. And this article that I read said that it was Judaism and ultimately Christianity that made marriage a proper and sanctified institution. And they mentioned all the other religions and all the other cultures in the world prior to Judaism and even continuing parallel to Judaism. Sex was just something that you did with anybody that you could do it with or anything you could do it with. That was just the culture of many, many, many people and it was Judaism and God's command to have one man and one woman. I realize it was Moses that wrote in Genesis 1 and said he created male and female but Moses wrote that some couple thousands years after the beginning of time and it was the cultures of the world that had, again, up to the flood and then after the flood, deviated to the point that God was creating a unique people to demonstrate his unique practice

amongst humans where marriage became sanctified and a particular place in God's mind to represent the relationship that would later come between God, Christ and the church.

And so, here we see at the end of Revelation or at the end of this passage, people back to what they had been doing from the beginning of time. Anything goes. So, it's no wonder that we see the kinds of things happening around us today with the sexual perversion and while it's probably going to get worse as I've said to our Pastors, we're still not going to quit resisting it. We're still going to hold to the biblical principles and as Pastor has shared with us in several passages, or several messages, it probably means that those of us that are going to stand are going to be persecuted. The immorality, the idol worship, even with a fourth of the world in a previous seal of mankind being destroyed, now a third of the remaining being destroyed and the people still don't turn from their ways. It says they refused. I believe that the implication here is that there is an indication there's an awareness on the part of these people that these judgments are coming at God's hand and they still refuse to repent.