

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study #45: Sixth Trumpet's Mass Casualties & Armageddon
Revelation 9:12 - 21
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

“The power of the Holy Ghost must be upon us, and the Captain of the Lord's host will stand at the head of the angels of heaven to direct the battle. Solemn events before us are yet to transpire. Trumpet after trumpet is to be sounded, vial after vial poured out one after another upon the inhabitants of the earth.” {Ellen White - 14 Manuscript Releases p. 287.1}

Summary of the first four plagues comparing Seven Plagues and Seven Trumpets

Revelation 8: Seven Trumpets - CAUSE	Revelation 16: Seven Last Plagues (What happened) - EFFECT
First Trumpet (EARTH) – Verse 7: “hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth...” 1/3 trees and all green grass burned up	First Plague - Verse 2: “<u>fell</u> a noisome and grievous sore upon the men”
Second Trumpet (SEA) – Verses 8, 9: “a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the <u>third part of the sea became blood...</u>” 1/3 sea creatures and ships destroyed	Second Plague – Verse 3: “Sea (Ocean) became <u>as the blood of a dead man</u>: and every living soul died in the sea.”
Third Trumpet (DRINKING WATER)– Verses 10, 11: “fell a great star (Wormwood) from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the <u>third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters...</u>” many men die from bitter undrinkable water.	Third Plague – Verse 4: “<u>rivers and fountains of waters</u>; and they became blood.”
Fourth Trumpet (HEAVENS) – Verse 12: “fourth angel sounded, and the <u>third part of the sun was smitten</u>, and the <u>third part of the moon</u>”	Fourth Plague – Verse 8: “And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.”
WOE # 1 - Fifth Trumpet (WICKED TORMENTED) - Revelation 9:2-5 Satan and His demons are given permission to torture the wicked on the earth for five months! 2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the <u>sun and the air were darkened</u> by reason of the smoke of the pit. 3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither	Fifth Plague – Revelation 16:10-11 10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his <u>kingdom was full of darkness</u> ; and <u>they gnawed their tongues for pain</u> , 11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads

5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their **torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.**

6 **And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.**

What did John hear after he saw the first woe pass in the fifth trumpet (the wicked tortured by the Devil and his angels for five months)?

Revelation 9:12

12 One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

What is the second woe (sixth plague) that the sixth trumpet blows? What was the first thing the prophet John heard and saw in vision after the sixth angel blew his trumpet?

Revelation 9:13

13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God.

Whose voice did John hear? The golden altar with four horns is the altar of incense right before the throne of God. The voice is from Jesus Christ, our High Priest, ministering on our behalf during the day of atonement (time of judgment) before the throne of God.

What did Jesus say to the sixth angel that blew his trumpet?

Revelation 9:14

14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

Jesus gives the sixth angel permission to free four angels that were bound in the great river Euphrates. In the next verse we will find out who these four angels are and their mission. But first we need to understand the significance of these four angels coming loosed from the great river Euphrates.

Are these four angels going to come out of the literal great river Euphrates? Or is the river Euphrates used in a symbolic sense here? From our previous studies the Bible has already made it clear that the destruction and events of these last days plagues are literal even though at times mental images and comparisons are used. **But anytime a proper noun of a specific place or location is used in the book of Revelation, we need to first look at its historical significance and then see if it has any symbolic relevance within the context of the prophecy.**

Euphrates (Greek) Euphratēs

Thayer Definition:

Euphrates = **“the good and abounding river”**

1) a large, famous river which rises in the mountains of Armenia Major, flows through Assyria, Syria, Mesopotamia and the city of Babylon, and empties into the Gulf of Persia

Abound = “existing in or providing a great or **plentiful quantity** or **supply**.” - Merriam-Webster.com dictionary

According to the Smithsonian Magazine, The river Euphrates is “the longest waterway in Western Asia, the Euphrates runs 1,700 miles from the mountains of eastern Turkey to the Persian Gulf. - <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/what-does-future-euphrates-spell-middle-east-180967224/#mF0R0P2I4LYoeX34.99>

[Show map]

What are some historical facts about the great river Euphrates?

According to Bible history, after the flood during the time of Noah, the world’s first city, Babel also known as Babylon in the Hebrew was built on the banks of the great river Euphrates. Ancient Babylon is located about 50 miles south of the modern city of Baghdad, Iraq. It was there where thousands of people began to build the famous tower of Babel, but God confused their language and caused them to be scattered to different parts of the earth according to their language.

According to history and the Bible, Babylon grew into a great and powerful empire under King Nebuchadnezzar. The river that ran through the city of Babylon was not only the great source of Babylon’s prosperity, but it was vital for their survival. Because it did not rain much in Babylon, the river Euphrates was a major source of water for drinking, bathing, and food crops. Without the vitality of the river the city of Babylon would not have grown into a mighty empire.

Now that we understand some historical significance about the river of Euphrates let’s see if there is any symbolic relevance in the context of the sixth trumpet plague.

From the days of Nimrod, Ancient Babylon was centered on sun worship. Sadly the great majority of Israelites in their history adopted sun worship from Babylon. God warned the people of Israel against this time and time again, but many failed to listen. Because of their rebellion against God, Israel was taken by Babylon as captives for 70 years.

When we study the second half of Revelation beginning in chapter 12, we will see that Satan has set up a false church system of Christian worship that is actually very similar to the worship of Babylon’s sun god. Now the name of Babylon means confusion. Many people have become spiritually confused by the mixed doctrines of this false church system. Satan’s false church system in the last days appears to be genuine and the authentic church of God. But the only way to know it is false is through the diligent study of the Bible. **So in the context of Bible prophecy the name Babylon symbolically represents a false church system that causes a lot of spiritual confusion.**

When you connect the symbolic significance with the river Euphrates you will get a better understanding of Revelation 9:14.

What does God warn us about Babylon, in the second half of Revelation?

Revelation 14:8

8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Revelation 18:2-3

2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

Babylon is full of devils and demonic spirits. It is also very wealthy. The spiritual river Euphrates that runs through spiritual Babylon is abounding and plentiful. It is what gives Babylon its wealth.

Water in its symbolic context of prophecy, according to ***Revelation 17:15***, [water] represents multitudes of people and nations.

Revelation 17:15, "And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." We already know that the literal river Euphrates was ancient Babylon's life line.

Symbolically the political power, wealth and life of the modern spiritual or symbolic Babylon are the people who are in spiritual Babylon. They are symbolically the great river Euphrates that is the "life-line" to spiritual Babylon in the last days.

So going back to the scene of Revelation 9:14 the four angels are loosed from the symbolic river of Euphrates which represents the nations or the people that support spiritual Babylon.

Do you think the four angels, that are loosed from the Euphrates river, are evil or good angels?

What is Babylon full of based on Revelation 18:2? It is a habitation of devils! So there is no doubt that the four angels loosed from Euphrates river are evil.

What is the main mission of these four angels loosed from Babylon's Euphrates river?

Revelation 9:15

15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to **slay [kill] the third part of men.**

It is apparent that these demonic four angels have been planning and organizing for many years for an event like this. During the second woe, they are loosed to execute their plan to kill one third of the wicked on this planet. Based on population estimates, that is at least 2 billion people that will be killed during the second woe, sixth trumpet!

This catastrophic second woe will happen in one day that has been scheduled and allowed by God because Revelation 9:15 says "prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year." These four evil angels that have been planning for this event are like four generals of an army.

Who will accompany these four evil angels in killing one third of the wicked?

Revelation 9:16

16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were **two hundred thousand thousand**: and I heard the number of them.

“Two hundred thousand thousand” is $200,000 \times 1,000 = 200,000,000$. The army of 200 million are NOT humans, but evil demons who accompany the four evil angels in the destruction of one third of men. They are given orders from the four angels and like an army of horsemen going throughout all the earth to complete its mission of a mass killing!

What will this army of evil forces use to kill at least 2 billion people on this earth during the plague of the sixth trumpet according to the Prophet John's vision?

Revelation 9:17-19

17 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 (sulfur).

18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

19 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.

It is clear that this army of 200 million demons are using modern weapons of warfare that have the ability to afflict mass casualties in ONE DAY!

Keep in mind that the weapons used for war in John's day were mainly spears, bow and arrows, and fire torches. Bow and arrows can't kill about 2 billion people in one day! John does his best to describe our modern weapons of war in the last days.

John is describing our modern weapons like breastplates of iron in which fire comes from. The heads of “horses” that the demons were using were like lions that have the ability to hunt and kill its prey. What comes out of their mouths are fire, smoke, and brimstone! **It is obvious that John is describing modern day weapons that have the ability to cause mass casualties such as nuclear, hydrogen, chemical weapons.** Nuclear weapons have the ability to kill millions of people in an instant! When these nuclear weapons are launched they come out of a launching vehicle. It issues out fire and smoke with a tail of fire that looks like a tail of a serpent as it travels through the air until it hits its target. The power of nuclear weapons are in the head of the weapon, known as the nuclear warhead, where the nuclear explosion takes place.

There are currently over 15,000 nuclear bombs worldwide. United States and Russia owns about 92% of them. All those bombs together have the ability to destroy this planet several times over. The tremendous blast of these bombs have the power to vaporizes everyone in their blast zone path!

Just to get a scope of how powerful these modern nuclear bombs are, the two atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 that ended World War 2 killed between 129,000 to 226,000 people. One of the world's most power nuclear bombs is owned by Russia known as the Tsar Bomba. It has the explosion force of 3,800 Hiroshima explosions.

According NukeMap if only one Tsar Bomba was dropped on New York City, it would kill over 8 million people instantly with over 6 million people injured! - <https://nuclearsecrecy.com/nukemap/>

This is the type of weaponry that was devised by the Devil and demons. They inspired men to make weaponry that would be used against them at the blast of the sixth trumpet, the second woe! Now you see why it is called a WOE!

What will be the response of the wicked who were not killed?

Revelation 9:20-21

20 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:

21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries (pharmakeia), nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

When the seven last plagues start, probation for all the world has ended. The surviving wicked of the second woe are all those who received the mark of the beast, they have the demonic character of the one they have chosen as their leader, Satan. Verse 21 reveals some of the top evils that the wicked were doing. One of the most notable among the list of evils is sorceries.

What are sorceries?

Sorceries = Pharmakeia (Greek Word)

Pharmakeia

Thayer Definition:

- 1) the use or the administering of drugs
- 2) poisoning
- 3) sorcery, magical arts, often found in connection with idolatry and fostered by it
- 4) metaphorically the deceptions and seductions of idolatry

Pharmakeia is a description of our modern medicine that treats people with poisonous drugs. We will learn at a later study that Pharmakeia was developed by Satan to deceive and kill billions of people!

Remember, in general the trumpets reveal the cause of what is revealed in the seven last plagues.

As a result of the plague of the sixth trumpet of mass casualties worldwide of about 2 billion people how does the sixth plague of Revelation 16 describe the response?

First, what is God's response?

Revelation 16:12

12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

Notice that the great river Euphrates is mentioned here and in the sixth trumpets showing that they both correspond with each other. Again, in general, the trumpets in Revelation 9 are the cause and the plagues in Revelation 16 the effect.

Remember what the great river Euphrates represents spiritually; it is the "life-line" and support of spiritual Babylon.

In summary, in verse 12 we see that the symbolic river Euphrates in which the four angels came out of in Revelation 9:14 will be dried up. History tells that the reason why the Mede and Persian kingdom conquered the literal Empire of Babylon was because their army was able to secretly divert the Euphrates River that ran through the city of Babylon. When the river beds dried up, the Mede and Persian army was able to enter the city through those dried up river beds and surprise attack Babylon and conquer the Babylonian Empire.

Prophecy of Cyrus' quest over Babylon

Isaiah 45:1-2

- 1 Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;
- 2 I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:

Like the literal Ancient Empire of Babylon, God will cut off spiritual Babylon's support, God will dry it up in preparation to totally destroy spiritual Babylon, Satan, and his followers. We will study about Babylon's civil war at another study?

Who are the kings of the east?

Jesus will also dry up the Euphrates river to Babylon in preparation of His second coming. He is the King of kings and Lord of Lords. Who is equal to Jesus as king? Only God the Father and the Holy Spirit. They make up the Godhead; three co-eternal beings same in character, purpose, and mission. They are the kings of the east.

From which direction will Jesus be coming from?

Matthew 24:27

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

What will Satan's response be after one third of the wicked are killed on this earth?

Revelation 16:13-14

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 For they are the **spirits of devils, working miracles**, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

In Revelation 14, Jesus gives us three angels' messages that reveals the true versus Satan's false church. Here, in Revelation 16:13, is the counterfeit three angels' message from the spirit of devils in Babylon. Instead of being described as angels this false message is described as frogs. At a later study we will study in more detail the mouth of the dragon, beast, and false prophet.

As a result of mass casualties of about 2 billion people do you think Satan will take the blame for it? No, Satan, his demons, and ministers will come as angels of light to the world and kings of the earth.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

They will blame the great calamities and mass killings on the “wrath of God.” Satan’s ultimate goal is to kill ALL God’s faithful who refuse to submit to the false Sunday “sabbath”. Satan, his demons, and ministers will perform great wonders and miracles.

Satan at this time will impersonate Jesus. But he will not be about to copy the manner in which Christ will come from the clouds.

“Fearful sights of a supernatural character will soon be revealed in the heavens, in token of the power of miracle-working demons. The spirits of devils will go forth to the kings of the earth and to the whole world, to fasten them in deception, and urge them on to unite with Satan in his last struggle against the government of heaven. By these agencies, rulers and subjects will be alike deceived. Persons will arise pretending to be Christ Himself, and claiming the title and worship which belong to the world's Redeemer. They will perform wonderful miracles of healing and will profess to have revelations from heaven contradicting the testimony of the Scriptures. {GC 624.1}

As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. Revelation 1:13-15. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: "Christ has come! Christ has come!" The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed. He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth.” (Great Controversy, p.624)

Satan will then convince nations to pass a universal death decree as prophesied in Revelation 13:15 that “as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.”

Going back to Revelation 16:14 not only will Satan be performing false miracles among the kings of the earth and world, but he will be gathering all his followers to battle against God Almighty, Jesus Christ at the real second coming of Jesus.

What does Jesus personally say in response?

Revelation 16:15

15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Jesus coming is only as a thief to the wicked who are not prepared. But the faithful who are sealed with the seal of the living God are greatly anticipating the coming of the Lord as they see almost the

end of the seven last plagues. They know that the seven last plagues last for only one year. They know that the universal death decree is one of the last acts of the end time events that will happen right before their deliverance! Jesus in verse 15 declares a blessing to the faithful who keep on the garments of His righteousness through it ALL.

What is Jesus' response to Satan's gathering to battle against God?

Revelation 16:16

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Who is he in verse 16? Not "they", but he. Who was speaking in verse 15? Jesus. So verse 16 is talking about Jesus!

Jesus gathers His faithful! Where? "a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon!"

Repeat verse 16 is NOT talking about Satan, it is Jesus who gathers his faithful for the great battle of God all mighty.

What does Armageddon mean in the Hebrew tongue and what is Jesus message to his faithful?

Armageddon [Har – Megiddon] in the Hebrew is a compound word (G717). - Strong's Dictionary

Ar or Har (H2022) = A mountain or range of hills (sometimes used figuratively) – hill. - Strong's Dictionary

Har is a shorten from of (H2042) is Harhar which means to loom up a mountain.

"Loom up" means to rise up!

Megiddo / Mgiddon (H1413) = rendezvous

Rendezvous = assemble or gather.

Now let's put it all together!

Armageddon = A mountain gathering!

Spiritually Jesus is the Rock in which His faithful church is built on and the gates of hell will never prevail against it. Jesus is the mountain in which He gathers His faithful people on the earth in preparation of their great deliverance on the great day of God almighty. He takes account of all His faithful at this time who are being hunted down by the universal death decree.

Can you imagine it? On one side gathered is Satan and his followers and on the other side is Jesus and His followers gathered at Armageddon, a mountain gathering. All those on this mountain gathering with Christ will be ready for deliverance and victory over Satan in the final battle!

Not only does Jesus gather his people spiritually on His mountain of truth, but he physically helps get his people up into the mountains and other safety places during the universal death decree! But

some will be thrown in prisons and dungeons. But God still has them spiritually gathered on Armageddon!

“As the decree issued by the various rulers of Christendom against commandment keepers shall withdraw the protection of government and abandon them to those who desire their destruction, the people of God will flee from the cities and villages and associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places. Many will find refuge in the strongholds of the mountains. Like the Christians of the Piedmont valleys, they will make the high places of the earth their sanctuaries and will thank God for “the munitions of rocks.” Isaiah 33:16. But many of all nations and of all classes, high and low, rich and poor, black and white, will be cast into the most unjust and cruel bondage. The beloved of God pass weary days, bound in chains, shut in by prison bars, sentenced to be slain, some apparently left to die of starvation in dark and loathsome dungeons. No human ear is open to hear their moans; no human hand is ready to lend them help.” Great Controversy p. 626

“Though enemies may thrust them into prison, yet dungeon walls cannot cut off the communication between their souls and Christ. One who sees their every weakness, who is acquainted with every trial, is above all earthly powers; and angels will come to them in lonely cells, bringing light and peace from heaven. The prison will be as a palace; for the rich in faith dwell there, and the gloomy walls will be lighted up with heavenly light as when Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises at midnight in the Philippian dungeon.” GC p. 627

At the second coming of the Lord, Satan will rise up against Jesus and all those who are spiritually on Armageddon.

This battle at the second coming of Christ is known as the Battle of Armageddon. This is the time that Satan wants to take over the mountain gathering of Christ. Satan will be defeated. This battle will take place during the seventh trumpet and the seventh last plague in which we will study in a later study.

**Are you prepared now? Are you on the Rock Christ Jesus to be gathered on “Armageddon”?
Are you on the mountain of Truth in which Jesus is teaching and leading?**