

Three Woes

Revelation 8:13 (ESV) 13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!"

The Last Three Trumpets will be sounded that will bring Three Woes to the Inhabitants of the Earth in order to avenge the blood of the Martyrs in Heaven. Those who will live through the events of the Last Three Trumpets will be 1.) The Remnant of Israel who will manage to remain hidden from the Beast(the antichrist) during the events of the Great Tribulation, including those who will flee to the mountains before the Attack on Jerusalem begins. 2.) The 144,000 from all the Tribes of Israel who will exist within the hidden Remnant of Israel, and 3.) the Inhabitants of the Earth, which is a description of the unrepentant on earth. Missing from the earth will be the great multitude of God's people from every nation, tribe, people, and language who will be killed in the Great Tribulation as described in Revelation Chapter 7.

Revelation 6:9–11 (ESV) 9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. 10 They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

The sixth seal brought the earthquake that causes people to want to die...then...

Revelation 7:9–10 (ESV) 9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Revelation 7:13–14 (ESV) 13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

With the Three Woes God is bringing justice for those martyred. These three woes are the start....and from this point on...God is answering their prayers....to avenge the blood of the martyrs.

Revelation 9:1–6 (ESV) — 1 And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. 2 He opened the shaft of the

bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft.

The traumatic events associated with that fifth trumpet vision unfold in four scenes: the pit unlocked, the power unleashed, the appearance unveiled, and the prince unmasked.

The Pit Opened

In his visions, the apostle had already seen several heavenly bodies plunge to earth. Unlike them, however, this star was not an inanimate piece of celestial matter, but an angelic being. That he was said to have fallen to the earth suggests that this is a reference to Satan—the leader of all the fallen angels.

Isaiah described a time originally when Satan rebelled and was cast to earth....but this is a separate fall to earth. Even though Satan had been cast to earth, he retained access to the throne in heaven and serves now as our accuser before the throne of God.

But during the Tribulation he and his demon hosts will unsuccessfully battle Michael and the holy angels. As a result of their defeat, they will be permanently cast down to the earth. We will read about this final battle in Heaven when we get to Revelation 12.

I saw a star fallen from heaven: The text clearly shows us that this star is a person (to him), not a literal star. The verb tense (fallen) indicates that he already had fallen.

Timeout....Satan is given the keys to Hell? Satan doesn't rule Hell....God does.

Who has the keys to Hell? And who gives them to this fallen angel? Well, the One who is in control. Remember Revelation 1:18

Revelation 1:17–18 (ESV) — 17 “Fear not, I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

At the same time, we notice that the key is given to this being, and that it is given at a specific time and for a specific purpose that furthers God’s plan. This angel—evil or good—serves God’s purpose, even if he does not intend to.

In Chapter 20 we will see that Jesus will lock this place up again.

With his time running out, Satan will seek to marshal all of his demonic hosts—those already on earth, those cast to earth with him, and those incarcerated in the bottomless pit.

Scripture teaches that God has sovereignly chosen to incarcerate certain demons in that pit of punishment.

2 Peter 2:4 (ESV) — 4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

The demons incarcerated in the abyss are undoubtedly the most wicked, vile, and perverted of all the fallen angels

Picture what the world would be like if we were to open the doors of all the penitentiaries of earth and set free the world's most vicious and violent criminals, giving them full reign to practice their infamies upon mankind. Something worse than that lies in store for the world. Satan, cast out of heaven, is now permitted to summon to his aid the most diabolical fiends in the abyss to act as his agents in bringing mankind to the footstool of the Beast.

It is most likely that Satan himself opens the bottomless pit thinking that his demonic creatures will fight God.

Seven times in the Book of the Revelation is that "abyss" referred to. The last time it is mentioned is in the twentieth chapter when a mighty angel comes down from heaven and lays hands upon the devil, the dragon, the serpent, and binds him for a thousand years in that abyss.

It is not the eternal home of the devil for he will be cast into the lake of fire, with all of the dupes who serve and worship him. In this abyss, in this darkness, are these spirits of evil who are reserved unto the day of judgment.

Demonic Power Unleashed

Revelation 9:3-6 (ESV) 3 Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. 4 They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone. 6 And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.

The idea is simply that as part of the judgment of the great tribulation, God will allow demonic hordes, previously imprisoned, to descend upon the earth like a swarm of destructive locusts

Vile demons, taking on a visible form resembling locusts, swarmed out of the abyss to plague the earth. The destructive power of locusts is noted in several Old Testament passages locust swarms consume all vegetation in their path. The scene is reminiscent of the locust plague in Egypt

Tell my scorpion story. The small translucent ones are the really bad ones.

Their power is described like the power of scorpions, and the bite of a scorpion, though extremely painful, is rarely fatal.

The demons' business is not with vegetation, but only with men —not all people, but only those who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. Believers will be preserved, just as God sheltered Israel from the effects of the Egyptian plagues. Those who have the seal of God include not only the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, but also the rest of the redeemed. This

seal marks them as personally belonging to God and as such protected from the forces of hell

After millennia of captivity, the vile demons would no doubt want to give full vent to all of their pent-up evil by slaughtering people. Certainly Satan would want to kill all the unregenerate to keep them from repenting. But God, in His mercy, will give people torment for five months (the normal life span of locusts, usually from May to September), during which they cannot die but will be given the opportunity to repent and embrace the gospel.

Their purpose and period is expressly governed by God, and the purpose of all this is to bring repentance

Unbelievers will also hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ preached by the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, the two witnesses, and other believers. The five months will be for many people the last opportunity to repent and believe, before they die or are permanently hardened in their unbelief

The earth people have loved and worshiped will have been utterly devastated, the land ravaged by earthquakes, fires, and volcanoes, the sea filled with the putrefying bodies of billions of dead creatures, much of the fresh water supply turned into bitter poison, the atmosphere polluted with gases and showers of heavenly debris.

Then, worst of all, will come foul smoke from the pit of hell as the demons are released to spiritually and physically torment wicked people. The dream of a worldwide utopia under the leadership of Antichrist will have died

Driven mad by the filth and vileness of the demons people will want to die but cannot. There will be no escape from the agony inflicted by the demons, no escape from divine judgment. All attempts at suicide, whether by gunshot, poison, drowning, or leaping from buildings, will fail.

This poignant reversal is clearly distinct from everything literature has ever imagined. Most often death is the icy monster who pursues humans across the stage of history until finally its cold fingers grasp the victim and pull him to the grave. In this normal picture, man is fleeing as rapidly as he possibly can. Now, as the result of this plague, the matter is reversed. Men are seeking death, but death flees.

With all the activity on the earth, it seems like the earth is literally cracking at its core. From the core spews smoke from a great furnace and it filled the atmosphere....true global warming. And if that is not bad enough....

Appearance Unveiled

Revelation 9:7–11 (ESV) — 7 In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces, 8 their hair like women's hair, and their teeth like lions' teeth; 9 they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into

battle. 10 They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails.

Ok what are these creatures? Scorpions don't seem so bad anymore.

The Prince Unmasked

Revelation 9: 11 (ESV) 11 They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.

Apollyon means destroyer

The Greek word Apollyon means destroyer. Here then we have another term presented to us in Hebrew and in Greek that is used to describe the devil. He is the destroyer, and yet it is important to note that he does not, in fact, have the power to destroy. There is a sovereign restraint upon his authority and the powers of his soldiers. They look more powerful than they really are.

This angel is better viewed as a high-ranking demon in Satan's hierarchy. John notes that his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon. John uses both names to emphasize his impact on both ungodly Jews and Gentiles. Both words mean "destroyer"—an apt name for the head of the devastating army of demons that rises from the abyss

For five months they will torture a whole world of ungodly sinners. But God is in control and has limited their time. Eventually, He will return them to the abyss with their evil master and then send them to the lake of fire .

Revelation 9:12 (ESV) — 12 The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still to come.

Revelation 9:13–17 (ESV) — 13 Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, 14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." 15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind. 16 The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number.

Immediately, John heard a voice. The Greek text literally reads "one voice," stressing that John heard a single, solitary voice. The voice is not identified, but it is possibly that of the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ.

This voice came from the altar which previously has always been a place of mercy....not any more.

When this trumpet judgment occurs, the time for mercy will have passed; the altar of mercy will become an altar of judgment. Sinful men will have finally and completely rejected God's gracious offer of salvation

From this point forward.....no one repents....all who will be saved...have been saved. Clearly, the believers being protected from the stings of the locusts...should have showed them. If they had just called out to God...it would have stopped.

With the second woe we will see that 1/3 of the earth's population will die. The other 2/3 will be spared only by God's mercy...and they still will not repent. Lets look...

"Most of Satan's demonic fallen angels have been allowed by God to roam freely on earth....being the principalities against which we wrestle, but some highly ranking demons have been bound by God in order to protect us. Four in particular are mentioned here...They are the worst of the worst.

They come from the River Euphrates. A river that God meant to provide life and food and water. A river that flowed out of the Garden of Eden....but a river that has been host to man's repetitive sins.

Rising from sources near Mount Ararat in Turkey, the Euphrates flows more than seventeen-hundred miles before emptying into the Persian Gulf. It is the longest and most important river in the Middle East, and figures prominently in the Old Testament. It was near the Euphrates that sin began, the first lie was told, the first murder was committed, and the tower of Babel, the place where Humanism was born and false religions resulted, was built.

The Euphrates was the eastern boundary of the Promised Land and Israel's influence extended to the Euphrates during the reigns of David and Solomon . The region near the Euphrates was the central location of three world powers that oppressed Israel: Assyria, Babylon, and Medo-Persia.

It was on the banks of the Euphrates that Israel endured seventy long, bitter, wearisome years of captivity in Babylon. It is the river over which the enemies of God will cross to engage in the battle of Armageddon

And yet it turns out that right now there are four major demons bound there.....waiting for the day of their release...

Who are these 4 demonic beings?

The use of the definite article suggests that these four angels form a specific group. Their precise identity is not revealed, but they may be the demons that controlled the four major world empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome

Whoever they are, these four powerful fallen angels control a huge demonic army set to wage war against fallen mankind when God releases them to do so. Satanic forces, imagining they are doing the work of their leader the devil and aggressively thwarting the purposes of God, are actually God's servants doing exactly what He wants done.

Remember that everything is under the sovereignty of God and He is the One who holds it all in His hands. He is bringing His justice in His way.

The demonic locusts described earlier in the chapter were restricted to tormenting mankind. But these four angels have the authority to kill on a massive scale. Throughout the bible, real locusts are often used as God's judgment to wipe out crops and turn people to Him.

Death, which had taken a holiday under the fifth trumpet , now returns with a vengeance

We have about 6 billion people on the earth today. So in this moment, about 2 billion people are about to die.

The judgment of the fourth seal killed one quarter of the earth's population ; this additional third brings the death toll from these two judgments alone to more than half the earth's pretribulation population

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.

Their number...the math...200 million.

To slaughter well over a billion people will require an unimaginably powerful force. John reported that the number of the armies of the horsemen was an astonishing two hundred million. This is likely an exact number, or more general terms would have been used. Then, as if anticipating that some skeptical readers would doubt that huge number, John emphatically insisted on the precision of the number, testifying "I heard the number of them."

In addition to the demons who have roamed the earth throughout history, the "spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places" recently cast to earth , and the innumerable bound demons released from the abyss at the sounding of the fifth trumpet comes a new demon army two hundred million strong. The use of the plural armies may imply that the attacking force will be divided into four armies, each commanded by one of the formerly bound demons.

Attempts specifically to identify the horses and riders described in the latter part of chap. 9 as tanks belching forth fire and with some sort of automatic weaponry being described by their tails is far-fetched to say the least. Some have argued that since John could not have conceived of modern weaponry like a tank with a high-caliber machine gun and a large cannon affixed to it, he could not be describing such objects in vv. 13–18.

Although one may respond that foreseeing such weapons in a vision might be possible, it is hardly wise exegetically to attempt to assign such specific and anachronistic meanings to an ancient text. Better is the approach that seeks to grasp the nature of the warning and the general essence of the conflict of the last days of the tribulation.

Some have suggested that this is the human army referred to in 16:12 and led by "the kings from the east," noting that the Red Chinese army reportedly numbered 200 million during the 1970s. But no reference is made to the size of the army led by the kings of the East.

Further, that army arrives on the scene during the sixth bowl judgment, not here at the sixth trumpet

The figurative language used to describe this army's horses suggests that this is a supernatural rather than human force, as does the fact that it is commanded by the four newly released demons.

Note how every action is allowed by and limited in scope by God.

These angels have a specific sphere of activity (a third of mankind), and are only activated in God's timing. They execute God's will in God's timing.

A cursory reading of the Old Testament history with Assyria and Babylon....and the Ninevites....as well as the history of the fall of Jerusalem to the Romans in AD 70 will remind the reader that not infrequently in history God has used the godless to accomplish his bidding, especially as that has to do with judgment

Revelation 9:17 (ESV) 17 And this is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them: they wore breastplates the color of fire and of sapphire and of sulfur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths.

Revelation 9:18–21 (ESV) — 18 By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming 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 with heads, and by means of them they wound.

These are even worse than the locusts. They have power of smoke and sulfur coming from their mouth and their tails are like snakes by which they wound.

These horsemen are described in weird, grotesque terms. This is a powerful picture of horror, destruction and demonic association.

Then perhaps the most amazing verse of all.

Revelation 9: 20- 21 (ESV) 20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, 21 nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

One may venture to ask then why John would have recorded these last two verses. How do these verses relate to all that has gone before in the messages of the seven trumpets.

The outpouring of the wrath of God on humanity during the seven ominous years of tribulation demonstrates two critically important truths. First, even the threat of the imminent judgment of God is not an ultimate deterrent to the wickedness of man. Many believe that thorough, swift, and adequate punishment of criminal offenses is a deterrent and I agree with them.

On the other hand, however, the teaching of Scripture seems to be that there is a level of depravity, bound up in the hearts of people, that so deceives and distorts to the point that people don't care anymore about the consequences of their actions. They

eventually become completely desensitized to sin. Their consciences are gone. Paul said it this way.

1 Timothy 4:1–2 (ESV) 1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, 2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,

So some are just gone...depraved in their sins....but others...In almost any generation there are those who seem to feel that a God of judgment is inappropriate. If God is to be God, they suppose, he is to be characterized by love, long-suffering, and tolerance in order to retain his claim to deity. If He is loving He must have unlimited patience.....But if he becomes a God of justice and judgment, whose patience is not unlimited, then he is somehow unworthy to continue as God. Somehow for them, and many I know well, their god can only be a god of love and tolerance.

But one cannot read the reactions of the inhabitants in the great tribulation, especially in light of the onslaught of the terrible eastern horde, without coming away with the sense that there comes a point when God must act in judgment and justice. For God to fail to judge when—despite the fact that people continue in their iniquity—he has given every conceivable warning of what it means to be the recipient of divine judgment, is unthinkable. Such inaction would present to the world a God who is powerless in the face of evil. A world in which righteousness could never ultimately triumph would result. Six angels have sounded, and the devastation of God's judgments is unavoidable. Two woes down...one to go.

The people of that time will ignore the repeated, powerful preaching of the gospel and the warning conveyed by terrifying, devastating judgments from God. Having rejected all offers of grace and mercy, they will see death come upon mankind through the trumpet and bowl judgments, which will deliver death on a scale unprecedented in human history.

It is unimaginable that after years of suffering and death under the terrifying judgments from God, coupled with the powerful preaching of the gospel by the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, the two witnesses, an angel in the sky, and other believers, the survivors will still refuse to repent.

Yet even then they will not repent; in fact, they will curse God. People at that time will have made the irrevocable choice to side with the forces of hell.

The overall picture painted is that despite the upheavals, tragedies, and overwhelming loss of life generated by the angels of the fifth and sixth trumpets, men continue to reject the one true God in favor of the gods of their own manufacturing, and worse still, even of the demonic spirits that enslave them.

In turn, this causes them to demonstrate in their ethical and moral practices continued depravity and lack of regard for the things of God. Their lives became steeped in violence and esoteric practices of various kinds, including those induced by the introduction of foreign substances. There is a callous disregard for the will and purpose of God.

These two verses give me the impression that God's purpose in the judgment of 1/3rd of the population was meant to motivate the other 2/3rds to repent. But they don't. Notice the language, the rest of mankind that survived "still did not repent", "they did not stop", "Nor did they repent". Three times John states that these survivors stubbornly kept on sinning. They refused to repent. They weren't about to give it up.

Two-thirds of the population have survived the 6th Trumpet Judgment, a.k.a. "The Second Woe". They are recovering from the fact that every 3rd person on the planet just died. They died for their stubborn persistent sin. But the survivors did the same things. Why didn't they die? Because of God's mercy. Those who died were the example. Those who lived have a second chance.

Humanity's heart is hardened toward God. They are in outright rebellion. Remember in Exodus how at every plague, Pharaoh's heart hardened even more.

We need to understand exactly what hardening a heart means. It does not mean that Pharaoh had a soft and tender heart and God decided to make it hard. The image instead is one of a wet rope tying a boat to a dock with a knot in it. As the boat pulls away the knot tightens and hardens. And what is in the knot, the water, pours out for all to see.

The image of Pharaoh's heart is that as the desire of sin pulls us away from the tug of God, the knot of our heart gets tighter and what is in Pharaoh's heart is coming out. It is not that God put it there....what is already there is being manifested or expressed because of the tension of pulling away from God.

After each catastrophe the people on earth become hardened to God and the ugliness in them is expressed for all to see.

The same thing happens in my patients with Heart Failure. Their heart has to pump against so much resistance that at first like any muscle it gets bigger and seems to be working well.

But as that heart continues to work against such resistance....it begins to stiffen.....it doesn't pump well anymore....and it begins to fail. There is a point of no return where the heart is so stiff that it cannot be fixed. The same thing happens to our spiritual heart if we resist what God wants and constantly pull away.

What happens to those who resist too long?

As he concludes his account of this amazing vision, John lists five sins representative of the defiance of those whose hearts are hardened beyond repair. He describes what the world will look like when only those kind of people are left.

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First Sin- Idolatry.....At that future point in world history, idolatry, mysticism, spiritism, satanism, and all other forms of false religion will become pandemic, as demons lead

people into more wicked and vicious behavior. Unbridled, unrestrained, escalating wickedness will run amuck as never before in human history

Second Sin, violent crimes like murders will be rampant. Without any sense of morality, evil, unrepentant people will respond to the demon's blood lust. Believers in the true God will no doubt be their prime targets, as they lash out seeking revenge for the disasters God has brought on them.

Third Sin, sorceries, a Greek word from which the English words "pharmacy" and "pharmaceuticals" derive. Drugs were and still are believed to induce a higher religious state of communion with deities.

Pharmakōn can also refer to poisons, amulets, charms, séances, witchcraft, incantations, magic spells, contacting mediums, or any object that is tied to pagan idolatry to elicit lust or to seduce. People will dive deeper into the satanic trappings of false religion.

The fourth sin is immorality. Porneia (immorality) is the root word of the English word "pornography." It is a general term describing sexual sin of every variety, including fornication, adultery, rape, and homosexuality. Indescribable sexual perversions will be running rampant in that day.

Finally, the fifth sin, thefts. Like morality, honesty will be nonexistent, as people compete for the increasingly scarce supplies of food, clothing, water, shelter, and medicines.

Under the influence of the massive demon forces the world will descend into a morass of false religion, murder, sexual perversion, and crime unparalleled in human history

And we haven't even got to the Bowl Judgments yet.

The Third Woe

After the second woe passes (Revelation 11:14), there comes a clear division in the book with the announcement from heaven, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ" (Revelation 11:15). In other words, this final stage of judgment will be the end, and righteousness will be restored to the earth.

The third woe is revealed after the seventh trumpet judgment. This woe signals the consummation of God's plan for the entire world. This third woe marks the finishing of God's judgment on sin; it occupies

the book of Revelation from the 11th through the 19th chapter, when Christ's Kingdom is established on earth.

Incorporated within this third and final woe are the seven "bowls" of God's wrath, described in Revelation 16:1-21. This series of judgments is the greatest horror the citizens of earth have ever seen. Jesus said, "If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive" (Matthew 24:22).

We will be examining the third woe in the weeks to come. The tide begins to turn now as God brings His final judgment on what remains of mankind and Satan.

So what do we do with this? How do we apply the book of Revelation to our lives?

Revelation provides us with high-def footage of the climactic end of world history, it ties together and completes all of God's redemptive purposes in this world, and it delivers us to the doorstep of our eternity. When we study this book and think about the truth that it contains, we will begin to change our entire perspective of this world. If we listen carefully, understanding the book of Revelation moves us to action.

It appears that one of God's main purposes in the book of Revelation is simply this—He wants to change us. He wants to change how we live, what we live for, and how we prepare for His future. We are to live knowing that we are already victorious and knowing that many are going to a horrible destiny if they don't surrender to Jesus. Revelation helps us to understand God's patience and mercy and desire for all to return to Him. It also helps us to understand the powerful influence that Satan has over the lives on nonbelievers. We see particularly in this chapter, how man can develop his heart to become so hardened that he becomes unreachable and unsavable.

Understanding Revelation forces us to examine ourselves and develop a zeal for destroying sin in our lives. When you see the full impact of sin and God's desire to eradicate it, you want to remove sin like the cancer that it is in your life.

Understanding Revelation moves us to examine and maintain the purity of the local church. It motivates us to be the Remnant...those who hold on to the truth of God's word when the world does not.

Knowing our future and the future of those who reject Jesus moves us to have compassion toward those who have been deceived by the evil one and helps us to effectively counsel those living in darkness. It gives us an urgency to reach those around us.

Knowing Revelation inspires us to develop our earnestness to obey, our diligence to pray, our disgust of our personal worldliness, our heartfelt earnest longing for the return of Christ.

Most of all it inspires us to focus everything in our lives on preparing for His return and becoming more like Him. That is what happens when Jesus Christ is revealed. When Christ is lifted up all men are drawn to Him. Let's Pray.