

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	Looking for God in this Desperate World
SERMON REFERENCE:	Revelation 9:13-21
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#2345

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means –electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other– without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright ©2019 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) It seems that we are living in a world today where everything that is not nailed down is coming loose.
 - i) And it seems as if the devil is pulling nails every day.
 - ii) We may even question where God is and if He cares.
 - iii) We're going to find out that God does know, He does care and He does have a plan.
- b) The book of the Revelation tells of a coming time known as the Great Tribulation.
 - i) It is delineated in Revelation by the opening of a seven-sealed book.
 - ii) As the seals are broken and the book opened, the horrors of the Great Tribulation unfold.
 - (1) When the seventh seal is opened, there is a moment of silence, and then seven trumpets begin to sound.
 - (a) Trumpets in the Bible are sometimes used to give an alarm, and they tell of some impending danger.
 - (b) Seven angels begin to blow the trumpets.
- c) In today's passage in Revelation 9, we come to the sixth angel and trumpet.
 - i) Revelation 9:13-21
- d) If we are wondering today where is God in this desperate world, how much more so will those who experience the Great Tribulation wonder?
 - i) The church will not experience the Great Tribulation.
 - ii) The church will be raptured out.
- e) Based on Revelation 9, this message will focus on five factors as we look for God in this desperate world.

2) THE PRAYER FACTOR: PRAYER DELAYED IS NOT PRAYER DENIED

(Revelation 9:13)

- a) In Heaven, there is a tabernacle.
 - i) The tabernacle on Earth where the children of Israel worshipped was a symbol and picture of the tabernacle in Heaven.
 - ii) In the tabernacle in Heaven, there is a golden altar called "the altar of prayer," which was represented by the golden altar on Earth.
 - (1) The golden altar was located in the inner court of the tabernacle.
 - (2) The altar had four horns, one on each corner.
 - (a) A horn speaks of power.
 - iii) Once a year, the high priest would go into the Holy of Holies and sprinkle blood on the four horns of the golden altar.
 - (1) He would burn incense on the golden altar in the morning and in the evening.
 - (2) The incense represents our prayers that go up to Heaven in the power of the blood.
 - (a) There is power in the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, not only to cleanse us from sin, but to also give effectiveness to our prayers.

- (i) Revelation 5:8
 - (ii) Psalm 141:2
 - b) We may often wonder why it seems our prayers are so long in being answered.
 - i) Revelation 6:9-11
 - (1) God has His own schedule.
 - (2) The prayer we pray in faith asking God to do something has never fallen to the ground; that prayer is still in Heaven.
 - ii) Revelation 8:3
 - (1) As believers in Christ, we are saints.
 - (2) The prayers of the saints did not fall to the ground.
 - c) It has been said that prayer is the Christian's secret weapon.
 - i) Here are five factors about prayer:
 - (1) It can be fired from any spot.
 - (2) It will travel undetected at the speed of light.
 - (a) Our prayers can reach Heaven immediately.
 - (3) It hits the target every time.
 - (4) Satan has no defense against it.
 - (5) It often has a delayed detonation.
 - d) If we are questioning whether or not the Lord has heard our prayer, we just need to wait.
- 3) THE POWER FACTOR: SATAN IS SINISTER, BUT GOD IS SOVEREIGN
(Revelation 9:14)
- a) The Holy Trinity never meets in emergency session.
 - i) We should never focus our eyes on the enemy's power.
 - b) Revelation 9:14
 - i) The voice that speaks comes from the altar.
 - (1) This means that it is coming as an answer to our prayers.
 - ii) The four angels bound in the river Euphrates are four of the most wicked and powerful of all the demonic fallen angels.
 - (1) God has had them bound and on a leash, restraining them.
 - (2) These four angels seem to have charge over the four world empires that have been on the Earth.
 - (a) They are called prince angels.
 - iii) Daniel 10:13
 - (1) Daniel had prayed and wondered why his prayer wasn't answered immediately.
 - (2) An angel answers Daniel in this passage.
 - (3) This angel had been battling the prince of the kingdom of Persia.
 - (a) This may very well be one of the four angels that's bound.
 - iv) Daniel 10:20-21
 - (1) Michael is a prince angel; the prince of the people of God, of Israel especially.

- v) Ephesians 6:12
 - c) The Euphrates River is both the cradle and the grave of human civilization.
 - i) Genesis 2:14
 - (1) The Euphrates River flowed out of the Garden of Eden.
 - (2) It was there that the first sin was committed.
 - (3) It was there that the first murder was committed.
 - (4) It was there that the Tower of Babel was built.
 - (5) It was there that Nimrod, a type and illustration of the antichrist, built the Tower of Babel.
 - (6) It is this river that divides the near East and the far East.
 - d) There is only so much these demon spirits can do.
 - i) God has restrained them until He is ready in the fullness of time to release them.
 - ii) Satan cannot do whatever he wants whenever he wants.
 - (1) 1 John 4:4
 - (2) God allows Satan to do certain things.
 - (a) Luke 22:31
 - (b) Job 1:12
 - (c) Job 2:
 - (3) Satan is still on a leash; he is, in some measure, restrained.
 - (a) Satan is sinister, but God is sovereign.
- 4) THE PURPOSE FACTOR: WITH GOD, TIMING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN TIME (Revelation 9:15)
- a) In the original Greek, this Scripture reads, “prepared for the day, hour and year.”
 - i) This pinpoints a specific day.
 - (1) God has a purpose, and everything is under God’s control.
 - ii) Until that specific moment, it cannot happen.
 - iii) God is strategically moving in the world at His own timing.
 - b) Genesis 15:16
 - i) God called Abraham and gave Him the land of Canaan.
 - ii) God told Abraham that it would be 400 years before his people would possess it.
 - iii) “The iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.”
 - (1) Drop by drop, they were putting into the reservoir of God’s wrath.
 - c) Galatians 4:4
 - i) The people prayed for generations for the coming of the Messiah who had been prophesied.
 - ii) God sent His Son in the fullness of time.
 - iii) God is never ahead of time, and He is never late.
 - d) 2 Peter 3:3-10
 - i) Even though it has been 2,000 years, one day the trumpet will sound, and Jesus Christ will come again.

- e) 1 Timothy 6:14-15
 - i) God is on time.
 - ii) With God, timing is more important than time.

- 5) THE PERVERSITY FACTOR: WHEN RESTRAINT IS REMOVED, BATTLES BEGIN (Revelation 9:16-19)
 - a) When God takes the leash off of these four vile, prince angels and they are no longer restrained, then an incredible battle begins.
 - i) This is not the battle of Armageddon, but it is setting the stage for Armageddon.
 - b) Revelation 16:14
 - i) Demon spirits are war-mongering spirits working in the hearts of people to move them to destruction and battle.
 - c) The battle depicted in Revelation 9 speaks of an army of 200 million.
 - i) In World War II, the greatest number that the United States had under arms was 12 million at one time.
 - ii) This passage mentions “armies” plural.
 - iii) The war that is described appears like a symbolic description of modern warfare.
 - d) The beast, the antichrist, will come out of the old Roman empire.
 - i) This ruler will make a treaty with Israel.
 - ii) This treaty will incite the Muslim world, which is stretched along the Euphrates River.
 - iii) There will come a war centered along the Euphrates where 200 million people will march.
 - (1) Ezekiel 37-39
 - iv) Out of this battle, the West will prevail and the beast will be ensconced as virtually the world leader.
 - (1) All the world will wonder after the beast.
 - v) Then God will remove His restraining hand and let the four angels loose.
 - (1) Man, who has wanted to live his own life in his own way, will now have his opportunity.

- 6) THE PRIDE FACTOR: IF GOD’S LOVE DOESN’T BRING REPENTANCE, THEN GOD’S JUDGMENT BRINGS REBELLION (Revelation 9:19-21)
 - a) One would think that, in light of all these events, people would be horrified; in actuality, people will be hardened.
 - b) People are not changed because of punishment.
 - i) Matthew 13:42
 - (1) To “gnash their teeth” means to snarl; they are gnashing their teeth against God.
 - (2) They are not asking God for mercy.
 - c) Revelation 9:21

- i) The world under judgment is not repenting but is still committing its vile acts.
 - (1) Murders
 - (a) In America, a little baby can be put to death that has already been born.
 - (2) Sorcery
 - (a) In the Greek, the word “sorcery” here speaks of drug use.
 - (b) In the tribulation, man’s mind will be reduced to rubble through drugs.
 - (3) Fornication
 - (a) This is the Greek word from which we get our word “pornographic.”
 - (b) This speaks of sexual perversion and immorality.
 - (c) It speaks of the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - (i) The world will experience the same judgment as Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - (4) Thefts
 - (a) They steal from one another with no restraint whatsoever.
- d) Punishment and suffering do not bring people to God.
 - i) God is righteous.
 - ii) God will bring judgment.

7) CONCLUSION

- a) Romans 2:4
 - i) It is the goodness of God that brings people to repentance.
- b) If the cross of Christ does not cause us to surrender our hearts to Jesus Christ, suffering will not do it.
 - i) All that suffering will do is to bring more rebellion.
- c) 2 Peter 3:9
 - i) God does not want anyone to die and go to Hell.
 - ii) One must climb over bloody Calvary in order to go to Hell.
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16