

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: When Demons Have Dominion

SERMON REFERENCE: Revelation 8-9:12

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2344

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Revelation 8-9 deals with the Great Tribulation.
 - i) There is coming a time on Earth of horror, devastation, destruction and death.
- b) Matthew 24:21
 - i) There has never been a time like this in all of history, and there will never be another time like it.
 - (1) This is how the Lord Jesus describes the Great Tribulation.
- c) In the book of the Revelation, we find a scroll with seven seals.
 - i) As these seven seals are broken, the tribulation horrors unfold in front of us.
 - ii) We come to a time of silence between the seals; this silence delineates the last seal.
 - (1) Revelation 8:1
 - (a) This ominous silence is the lull before the storm.
- d) Revelation 8:2
 - i) A trumpet is used in the Bible for many things, including to sound as an alarm to gather to war, very much like we would use a siren today.
 - ii) There are seven angels with seven trumpets.
 - (1) The seven trumpets come out of the seventh seal.
 - iii) Before the seven angels blow these trumpets, God inserts a parenthesis, and we learn a wonderful lesson about prayer.
- e) Revelation 8:3-6
 - i) Before the angels blow the seven trumpets of judgment, another angel comes.
 - ii) Incense in the Bible is a picture, an illustration of prayer.
 - (1) When we pray, our prayers go up to Heaven like sweet incense, a fragrance in the nostrils of God.
 - (a) This is illustrated in the Old Testament when the priest would sprinkle and burn incense upon the altar.
 - (2) There are times when we do not feel like praying, but we are to pray anyway.
 - (a) Our feelings have nothing to do with it.
 - (b) We are to pray when we feel like it and when we don't feel like it.
 - (3) We should not go to God in prayer with the brass of our emotions; we should go to Him with the worth of His incense.
 - (a) The incense is the worth of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (b) We should go to God in prayer with both hands filled with the incense of the Lord Jesus.
 - (4) It is the presence of the Lord Jesus that makes our prayers powerful.
 - (5) We should always pray in the name of Jesus.
 - (a) When we pray in His name, we mingle our prayer with the incense of Jesus' worth.
 - (i) This is a sweet aroma in the nostrils of God.

- iii) The angel mingles the prayers of the saints with incense and then goes from the altar of incense to the brazen altar of judgment.
 - (1) He fills the censor with coals from the altar of judgment.
 - (2) The angel then flings the coals of that altar to the Earth; and there were voices speaking, trumpets sounding, earthquakes shaking and thunders reverberating.
 - (a) Calamity is about to begin on the Earth.
 - (3) The altar of judgment represents the death of Jesus Christ for our sins.
 - (a) Every Old Testament altar spoke of Jesus dying on the cross.
 - (b) If we do not turn from our sins and receive Jesus Christ, then the very sacrifice that is meant to be a blessing will become a curse.
 - (i) The Gospel is a double-edged sword.
 - (ii) If the death of Jesus Christ does not save you, then the death of Jesus will condemn you.
 - 1. It is the very blood that will testify against you.
 - (4) The people on the Earth at this time have refused Jesus, even though He died for their sins.
 - (5) When the angel flings the coals of the altar of judgment onto the Earth, the horrors of the Great Tribulation intensify.
 - f) The next major event in the book of the Revelation is the sounding of the seven trumpets.
 - i) In today's message, we will take a closer look at the first five of those seven trumpets.
- 2) THE FIRST TRUMPET: JUDGMENT UPON THE LAND AND THE THINGS THAT GROW UPON THE EARTH (Revelation 8:7)
- a) The first trumpet is hail and fire mingled with the blood of man and beast.
 - i) This could possibly be an atomic explosion or atomic chain reaction.
 - b) The grass and trees in this passage symbolically speak of leaders and peoples.
 - i) Isaiah 40:6-7
 - ii) The devastation upon the grass could speak of humanity and the peoples living upon the Earth.
- 3) THE SECOND TRUMPET: JUDGMENT UPON THE OCEANS AND THE THINGS THAT LIVE IN THE SEA (Revelation 8:8-9)
- a) This passage may be speaking of a literal erupting volcano.
 - b) The sea in this passage might be the Mediterranean.
 - i) This is the sea that they knew in Bible times.
 - c) There could also be a deep symbolic meaning.
 - i) In the Bible, a mountain often speaks of kingdoms.
 - (1) Babylon is spoken of as a destroying mountain.
 - (a) Jeremiah 51:25
 - ii) Waters also stand for a wicked and restless people.
 - (1) Isaiah 57:20

- iii) A deeper, spiritual significance of this passage could be that the wicked and violent Babylonish kingdom of the antichrist is going to bring great trouble to the wicked people who are like the troubled sea when it cannot rest.
- 4) THE THIRD TRUMPET: JUDGMENT UPON THE RIVERS AND THE MEN WHO WALK THE EARTH (Revelation 8:10-11)
- a) “Wormwood” means bitterness, noxious, poison.
 - b) A burning star like a lamp could signify an asteroid hitting the Earth.
 - i) It is possible that literal asteroids may fall to the Earth during this time and may poison the atmosphere and the water supply, killing many.
 - c) There may also be a symbolic meaning to this passage.
 - i) Satan is also symbolized in Scripture as a fallen star.
 - ii) “Waters” can also speak of people.
 - iii) Satan poisons the water of life and human life and society.
 - iv) Revelation 17:15
- 5) THE FOURTH TRUMPET: JUDGMENT UPON THE SKIES AND THE LIGHT THAT SHINES FROM HEAVEN (Revelation 8:12-13)
- a) The Great Tribulation intensifies in this passage.
 - b) The sun, moon and the stars will be darkened.
 - i) If, during this time, there are literal volcanos, atomic devastation, atomic dust in the atmosphere, smoke and storm clouds, then the light of the sun, moon and stars would be dimmed.
 - (1) Men have hated the light, and now they will have their share of the darkness.
 - ii) There may also be a symbolic meaning.
 - (1) Symbolically, the sun, moon and stars speak of ruling authorities.
 - (a) Pastors of churches are spoken of as stars in the early part of the book of the Revelation.
 - (2) This could mean that society’s social structure will come apart; that the things God ordained to give guidance and light will be obliterated, and Satan himself will be the prince of this world and his antichrist will brainwash millions.
- 6) THE FIFTH TRUMPET: AN INVASION FROM THE BOTTOMLESS PIT (Revelation 9:1-2)
- a) Of all the tribulation horrors, this may be the worst.
 - b) Revelation 9:1
 - i) The star in this passage is not an inanimate star but an individual, a living “star.”
 - c) Demons will be released from the bottomless pit upon the Earth.
 - i) The word translated “bottomless pit” is the Greek word for “abyss.”
 - ii) Out of the abyss will come an invasion of demons upon the Earth.

- iii) These demons will be especially wicked, vile, hurtful, powerful and diabolical.
 - (1) They are so vicious and destructive that God, in mercy, put them in a pit and locked them there.
 - (a) These are unlike other demons that still roam the Earth today.
 - (2) A special place was prepared to hold these demons.
- iv) Luke 8:30-31
 - (1) When Jesus cast the demons out of the demoniac, they begged Him not to send them to the abyss.
- v) 2 Peter 2:4
- vi) There are certain fallen angels that are enchained.
 - (1) They are doubly dangerous and are put into this penitentiary for evil spirits called the abyss.
- d) The fallen star mentioned in Revelation 9:1 is Satan himself.
 - i) During the Great Tribulation, Satan is given permission by Almighty God to open the door of the bottomless pit.
 - (1) The vile, malevolent spirits that are incarcerated there will be set free.
- e) There are eleven things we need to know about these spirits:
 - i) They are degenerate spirits.
 - (1) They are the vilest of the vile.
 - ii) They are darkening spirits.
 - (1) Revelation 9:2
 - (2) Satan is the prince of darkness, and there will be a choking demon darkness that will blot out the light during the Great Tribulation.
 - iii) They are devouring spirits.
 - (1) Revelation 9:3-4
 - (a) These demons are described symbolically as locusts.
 - (i) The Middle East has experienced swarms of locusts like great clouds that blot out the sun in the daytime and the moon at nighttime.
 - (b) These locusts devour everything like an army.
 - (i) Instead of feeding upon vegetation, these particular locusts will feed upon the hearts and souls of men.
 - (ii) They will inflict torment like a scorpion.
 - iv) They are debilitating spirits.
 - (1) Revelation 9:5-6
 - (2) The torment will be so great that people who are alive at this time will want to die but will not be able to die.
 - v) They are dauntless demons.
 - (1) Revelation 9:7
 - (2) Money cannot stop them, the military cannot stop them, no human ingenuity can stop them; they are dauntless.
 - vi) They are domineering spirits.
 - (1) Revelation 9:7

- (a) Satan has always wanted to wear a crown.
- (2) The world has said to the Lord Jesus, "We will not have You to rule over us."
 - (a) So the world will have Satan and his demons to rule over them.
- vii) They are deceptive spirits.
 - (1) Revelation 9:7
 - (a) In the Bible, the human face can be symbolic of intelligence.
 - (i) This tells us that Satan is crafty, and he has a cunning plan.
 - (2) Matthew 24:24
 - (a) Satan is so subtle that when the antichrist comes upon the Earth, he will be able to make people think that up is down and down is up.
 - (i) People will gladly commit horrific crimes thinking that they are doing God a great service.
- viii) They are defiling spirits.
 - (1) Revelation 9:8
 - (a) "The hair of women" may be speaking of seduction and defilement.
 - (2) In many ways, these demons will seem alluring.
 - (3) They will have hair like women, faces like men and teeth like lions to rip, shred and devour.
 - (a) 1 Peter 5:8
 - (4) These evil spirits are hideously beautiful and brilliantly deceptive.
- ix) They are defiant spirits.
 - (1) Revelation 9:9
 - (2) The groans and cries of their victims will be meaningless to them.
 - (3) They will not be moved from their course of action.
- x) They are durable spirits.
 - (1) Revelation 9:10
 - (a) Five months is the normal lifespan of a locust.
 - (b) Five is also the number of completeness.
 - (2) Until their deed is done, they cannot and will not be stopped.
 - (a) Nothing but the hand of Almighty God will stop them.
- xi) They are diabolical spirits.
 - (1) Revelation 9:11-12
 - (a) Both the names "Abaddon" and "Apollyon" mean destroyer.
 - (2) They are organized, and there is a mastermind named "Abaddon," "Apollyon."
 - (a) They have an internal guidance system that is moving them.

7) CONCLUSION

- a) The Bible calls the Great Tribulation the "Great Day of God's Wrath."
 - i) Revelation 6:17
- b) But the Bible also has good news for us.
 - i) 1 Thessalonians 1:10

- ii) 1 Thessalonians 5:9
- iii) God will not pour out His wrath upon the church.
 - (1) God may chastise us, but He will never pour His wrath upon us.
- c) One day, another trumpet will sound; and that is the trumpet that will call the church, the bride of Christ, to meet the Lord Jesus in the air.
 - i) The Lord took Lot out of Sodom before the fire and brimstone fell.
 - ii) The Lord put Noah and his family in the ark before the flood came.
 - iii) The Lord will call His beloved home before the Great Tribulation.
- d) The world is headed for Hell and for judgment; if you do not intend to go there, please give your heart to Jesus Christ and trust Him today.
- e) Matthew 11:28
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- g) 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