

# WHAT DOES IT TAKE FOR MEN TO REPENT?

Thursday, July 22, 2010

Text: Revelation

9:1-21

## INTRODUCTION:

In this new plague (apparently demonic) beings from the Abyss torment, but do not at first kill, the people remaining on the earth. After five months, more supernatural beings are released, and they destroy a third of the human beings who have survived the earlier judgments.

Yet, in spite of all these supernatural judgments:

The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Rev 9:20-21

They had rejected the love of God. Now not even the wrath of God could persuade their hard hearts to repent.

These are not literal locusts, these are demons that are being let loose on the earth by the angel of the Abyss - Satan. Literal locusts would eat up the grass and the plant life of the earth. These demons harm only human beings who have rejected God, and who have the mark of Satan on them (we will read more about Satan's mark in later chapters of Revelation.)

## **What can we learn from this passage of Scripture? Revelation 9:1-12**

**I. There are such things as demons.** What are demons? Where are they now? Some are confined in a "prison" awaiting judgment. Some will be let loose before the judgment day. We read of these here in Revelation.

Demons cannot be seen. If we could see them, they would be like John's vision in Revelation. We would be frightened to death. Unfortunately men and women cannot see these horrible spirit beings.

Some demons are loose now. They were active in Jesus' time, and probably active now, too. For example, Mark 5:2-13...

- 2 When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him.
- 3 This man lived in the tombs, and no-one could bind him any more, not even with a chain.
- 4 For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No-one was strong enough to subdue him.
- 5 Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.
- 6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him.
- 7 He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!"
- 8 For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!"

- 9 Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many."
- 10 And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. (Luke 8 says "into the abyss" instead of "out of the area.")
- 11 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside.
- 12 The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them."
- 13 He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

As the Kingdom of God increases in the world, we see the power and influence of Satan and other demons decreasing. In Colossians 2:15 we read of Jesus' victory on the cross: **"...having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."**

As the Gospel is preached, as men and women turn to Christ, as paganism disappears, as the Church grows, the power and influence of Satan are pushed out of communities, and nations. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 says:

- 3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.
- 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.
- 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

As Christians we are constantly battling Satan and his demons, and ***we should not be surprised if we win our battles, in the armor of God.*** We have been so brainwashed with negativism that we think Satan will naturally win all the battles. This is wrong-headed thinking! Who is greater, Satan or the Spirit of God?

I John 4:3-4

- 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.
- 4 ¶ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

I Peter 5 8-9

- 8 ¶ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
- 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith...

**"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you"**  
(James 4:7).

**So, expect victory.** Expect the Kingdom of God to grow. Expect to see Satan gradually beaten down and defeated all around the world. It has taken us 2000 years to see the Kingdom spread as it has.

Perhaps it will take another 2000 years before God's Kingdom fills the earth, but don't be negative. The mustard seed is growing. The leaven is spreading through the whole loaf. The power of the preaching of the Gospel WILL conquer the earth!

2 Peter 2:4 indicates that some demons were sent by God to a place of confinement.

- "God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment..."

Jude 6 says of these confined demons:

- "And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home-these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day."

## **II. Satan is their king, and Satan is allowed to let a number of them loose during the final Great Tribulation.**

## **III. They are not allowed to harm Christians. Christians cannot be demon possessed. Christians may be persecuted by demons, but only to the extent allowed by God for his good purposes.**

Remember the story of Job. Satan wanted to harm Job. God had a "hedge" around Job. Satan could not do ANYTHING more than precisely allowed by God, for GOD'S purposes.

- 1 ¶ In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.
- 2 He had seven sons and three daughters,
- 3 and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.
- 4 ¶ His sons used to take turns holding feasts in their homes, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.
- 5 When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would send and have them purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.
- 6 ¶ One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them.
- 7 The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going to and fro in it."
- 8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."
- 9 "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied.
- 10 "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.
- 11 But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

- 12 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.  
Job 1:1-12

Someone has written elsewhere:

"Christians need not fear these unclean spirits, although they should be warned about them. If Jesus Christ is living within us, we do not have to fear anything that man or Satan can hurl against us.

Many Christians seem to have a phobia about demon possession and a great fear of being controlled by evil spirits. This should not be our main concern, for if we remain OBEDIENT, in an abiding relationship with Jesus Christ, we need never fear being in dwelt or oppressed by evil spirits."

Christians CANNOT be in dwelt of possessed by demons, because they are already in dwelt and possessed by Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit. You belong to God, and you may be sure He will not allow Satan to have you. In Luke 22 Jesus spoke to Peter and said:

- 31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.
- 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.

If Jesus is praying for you, do you think you have anything to fear? If you are Christ's sheep, did He not promise to always rescue the one who wandered away?

#### **IV. The power and influence of demons is seen symbolized in their appearance and their effect on those they inhabit.**

- 1. Like locusts -- they are very numerous -- enough for all the peoples of the earth
- 2 Like horses prepared for battle -- fierce, strong and active
- 3. Like crowns of gold -- wealth. One of the qualities of demons, is that they influence men and women to lust for wealth, to sell their souls to the devil for money. "The love of money is the root of all evil."
- 4. Like human faces -- wisdom and intelligence. The wise and intelligent people of this world often use their wisdom and intelligence to rebel against God. Demons may influence people to exalt the wisdom of man over the wisdom of the Bible.

In I Corinthians chapter one we read:

- 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
- 19 For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."
- 20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?
- 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.
- 22 Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom,

- 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
- 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

#### Continuing the Description of the Demons

- 5. Like women's hair -- beauty. Demons influence people to worship beauty, especially the beauty of women. What else do we see now in modern culture but an overwhelming emphasis on young women and pornography? It is a terrible spiritual battle for teen girls to resist becoming part of this, and for young men to resist being entrapped by it.
- 6. Like lions' teeth -- mastery. Demons influence people to lust for power. The book of Daniel hints to us that demons are active at the very highest levels of human government, and we should not be surprised to learn that many human rulers are possessed or directed by demons. (Daniel 10:2-13)
- 7. Like breastplates of iron -- durability, toughness, invulnerability. What can an ordinary human being, without help from the Spirit of God, do to harm a demon? Nothing.
- 8. Like thundering hooves -- frightening as we hear them coming, growing ever louder and more threatening
- 9. Like scorpions -- very painful
- They will be given scorpion like power. The scorpion strikes its victim with its tail, its sting is in its tail. It has a poisonous fluid that it injects into the wound of its victim. The sting is not fatal, but it causes terrible suffering.

I'm reminded also of the giant scorpion just discovered by fossil hunters. Last Wednesday's Times Free Press had an article entitled: "Scientists find fossil of gigantic bug." It was 8 feet long, the size of a small car; said to have roamed the earth 390 million years ago. The demons are MORE deadly.

- 10. They make people long for death, but not able to bring themselves to suicide. Demons don't want to kill people, for then their fun is over. They want to plunge people in misery and despair, and keep them that way for an eternity, if they can. The man possessed with demons who was rescued by Jesus tried to commit suicide over and over again by cutting himself, but never succeeded, in spite of his super human strength.

In Mark 5:3-5 we read...

- 3 This man lived in the tombs, and no-one could bind him any more, not even with a chain.
- 4 For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No-one was strong enough to subdue him.
- 5 Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

## **CONCLUDING THOUGHTS:**

- 1. There is an unseen war going on all around us in the spiritual realm.
- 2. We are called to enlist in the war; to resist Satan and his fallen angels.
- 3. Demons play a down-grading role in government and culture, that is often not recognized.
- 4. Christians need not fear Satan or the demons, for they are fully under God's control, and they cannot indwell Christians.

### **Revelation 9:12-21**

#### ***12 The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.***

Our English word "woe" comes directly from the Greek "ouai." Of course we understand that "woe" means sorrow, pain and grief. Hard times are coming to the earth. I believe all these tribulations we read of in the Book of Revelation will happen during the Great Apostasy that will come to pass at the end of this age, just before Jesus returns. We read of this in 2

Thessalonians 2:1-12.

- 1 ¶ Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers,
- 2 not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come.
- 3 ¶ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.
- 4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.
- 5 Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?
- 6 And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time.
- 7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.
- 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.
- 9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,
- 10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.
- 11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie
- 12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

The Gospel will be preached everywhere. The Kingdom of God will spread all around the world. Most of the world will become Christian. The Kingdom is growing and will fill the earth, and the nations will come to Christ.

At the end of this age there will be a great falling away and a great Tribulation, when Jesus will return in glory to destroy the Anti-Christ and establish the Millennial form of His Kingdom.

**We shall learn here today that the "Second Woe" is very similar to the "First Woe." They both have to do with demon hordes invading the earth.**

***13 The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the (four) horns of the golden altar that is before God.***

I think it is interesting how many numbers are referred to in this short passage from Revelation: 3 woes, 6 angels, 6 trumpets, 4 horns on the altar, 4 angels in the Euphrates, 1/3 of mankind, 200 million cavalry, and 3 plagues!

#### **Review of the Seven Angels with Trumpets:**

- 1 Hail, fire and blood thrown on the earth
- 2 Huge mountain thrown into the sea
- 3 Great star falls on rivers and lakes
- 4 A third of the sun, moon, stars are struck
- 5 Demon locusts let loose on the earth
- 6 Four fallen angels released from the Euphrates (today's lesson)
- 7 Not there yet!

Note the "golden altar" before God. The throne room set up in Heaven is the original from which the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle was copied.

Ac 7:44 "Our forefathers had the tabernacle of the Testimony with them in the desert.

It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen.

Heb 8:5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

Every article of furniture in the tabernacle was made of gold, the royal metal: the table of showbread, the golden lamp-stand, and the altar of incense. Inside the veil was the ark of the Covenant covered by the mercy seat with solid gold angels surrounding it. The mercy seat corresponds to God's throne in Heaven.

The golden altar with incense being burned there daily represented the prayers of the saints constantly rising up before God. The voice being heard here is the voice of God, in partial answer to the prayers of the martyrs, which we read of in Revelation 6:9-11

- 9 ¶ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.
- 10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"
- 11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow-servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed.

***14 It (the voice of God) said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."***

Why the Euphrates river? Why not the Amazon, or the Mississippi? The Euphrates is the river that runs through the country of Iraq, past the city of Babylon. Babylon is seen in the Bible as the great symbol of idolatry, wickedness and worldliness. Babylon was the location of the tower that was to reach to Heaven. The Tower of Babel. It symbolizes rebellion against the one true God. The major cities of the world today are similar to Babylon: New York, Tokyo, Washington D.C., Las Vegas, Moscow, Jerusalem, Paris, London, Beijing, Los Angeles, Mecca, Berlin etc. etc. The pride of man makes us think that we are gods, and that we can do as we please without regard to Jehovah. But we read the following in Psalm 2...

- 1 ¶ Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?
- 2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.
- 3 "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters."
- 4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.
- 5 Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,
- 6 "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."

These four angels are fallen angels that have been kept imprisoned by God since their fall. Imprisoned fallen angels (or demons) are referred to in other Bible verses...

Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

2 Peter 2:4 God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment.

***15 And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.***

Note: It is God who controls the demons. It is God who sets the time table. God is in control.

Note: The work of the four angels is to kill one third of the human race. In Revelation 6:8 we read of the death of one fourth of mankind by the rider on the pale horse. So at this point in the Book of Revelation we see the death of over half of mankind, and the Book of Revelation is just getting started.

We must pause here and reconsider our view of God. The average American probably sees God has playing a role in human society, and that role is to bless and benefit all mankind. God DOES bless and benefit all mankind. Jesus says that He sends the rain and the sunshine to both the just and the unjust. But the Bible also tells us that God demands repentance, and that only fools ignore God's warnings. For example Galatians 6:7-8...

- 7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.
- 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

In the Book of Genesis we have the story of Noah and the great world-wide flood, in which God killed the entire human race, except for 8 people. Noah and his three sons, and their four wives.

God is not some jolly Santa Claus in the sky who can be ignored with impunity. Neither is God powerless.

But He is, and has been very patient, and even in the Book of Revelation we see Him giving mankind many opportunities to repent.

***16 The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number.***

Apparently, at first glance, the four angels will bring about the death of one third of mankind by means of war and huge armies.

World population estimates: 2000 BC, about 30 million; 100 AD about 200 million. Levelled off for 1000 years, and then began to grow again. 1000 AD 250 million. 1650 500 million. 1800 one billion. 1930 two billion. 2000 six billion.

At the time of John the Apostle it would have been absolutely impossible to have an army of 200 million mounted soldiers, since there were only 200 million people in the world altogether, counting men, women and many children.

It seems quite impossible now, too, to have a literal cavalry of 200 million. But we are now reaching a population where a cavalry of 200 million is barely possible. There are over a billion people in China alone. One fifth of the population could be drafted, and give an army of 200 million people. However, it is extremely difficult to fund and feed and transport an army. Look how difficult it has been for the United States to deploy an army of only several 100,000. China's army is the largest in the world now, with about 2.5 million soldiers and sailors. To multiply that by 100 would totally bankrupt China. All the armies of all the nations at this present time would not amount to more than 5 million troops.

Question: Is this huge cavalry literal or figurative? Are these truly soldiers on horses, or are these hordes of demons, as we found earlier in Revelation 9:3ff, the locusts with scorpion tails? The rest of the chapter gives us some clues...

***17 The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulphur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulphur.***

The details about the cavalry leads us to think that once again (as earlier in this chapter) we are being given a picture of demon hordes, rather than human cavalry on literal horses. Breastplates symbolizes strength and invulnerability. The colors are the colors of fire and brimstone, which symbolize both Hell and the judgment of God.

The heads of the horses look like lion heads. Lions symbolize strength and ferocity, the power to kill.

The horses belch fire, smoke and sulfur. Of course literal horses do no such thing, so our belief that these are spiritual, demonic powers, is strengthened. The fire, smoke and sulfur again remind us of the Hell and the judgment of God.

Parenthetical Note: What is Hell? Hell is the judgment of God. God made it. God has the keys. God decides who goes there and for how long.

Satan does not own Hell, neither does he rule Hell. People who are there are experiencing the judgment of God. This assures that their judgment will be completely fair. No one will go there except those who deserve to go there.

The sufferings they experience there will be precise just and fair, and never greater than they deserve. Jesus taught in Luke 12:46-49:

- 46 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.
- 47 "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows.
- 48 But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.
- 49 "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!

This is not the picture of Jesus in the minds of most Americans. But we must remember that Jesus is who He really is, and not what we make Him out to be. He is not always "gentle Jesus meek and mild." Sometimes He is the Jesus who makes a whip, and drives out the money changers from the temple. Sometimes He is the Jesus that comes riding to battle in the Book of Revelation, his clothing splattered with blood. He is kind. He is gentle. He is merciful. He is forgiving. But He demands repentance, and those who will not repent He will punish.

***18 A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulphur that came out of their mouths. 19 The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.***

The horses also have destructive tails, that look and act like snakes. Again, we are sure these are not literal horses, and there is not a literal 200 million man cavalry coming to fight and kill one third of mankind.

The difference between the demons of the first half of Revelation 9, is that those demons were not allowed to kill. They were only allowed to cause suffering. These demons on the other hand, are allowed to kill one third of mankind.

***20 The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood-idols that cannot see or hear or walk.***

***21 Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.***

The primary message of this passage is the righteous judgment of God, and how He uses even the demons to do His will. The secondary message of this passage is the unwillingness of mankind to repent.

Picture YOURSELF in the world in the midst of all these horrible events of the Book of Revelation. What would you do? Would you not be on your knees, making sure that your heart was right with God? Did you not ever doubt your salvation, and fear Hell, and "get saved all over again" just to make sure?

Why did you do that? Because you are a child of God. Because God softened your hard heart, and gave you a new heart, and because the Holy Spirit gifted you with repentance and faith.

But what about people who are left to their own free will? The Bible here makes it plain, that if people are left to their own free will they will NEVER repent, no matter what awful judgements of God are going on in plain sight.

I Corinthians 1:18

- For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

I Corinthians 2:14

- The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

John 6:41-44 and 6:60-65

- 41 At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."
- 42 They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"
- 43 "Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered.
- 44 "No-one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

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- 60 ¶ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"
  - 61 Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you?"
  - 62 What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before!
  - 63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.
  - 64 Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him.
  - 65 He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no-one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him."

**Conclusion:** We are not experiencing the amazing and stupefying things we read of in the Book of Revelation, but on the other hand there is plenty going on around us to show is the reality of God, the reality of Sin, the truth of the Gospel, and our need to repent. I say to you, Listen to the voice of God. Say "Yes" to the Holy Spirit. Repent of your sins, and believe in Christ. Amen.