

10b REV

Let's pick up our study in Revelation chapter 9. We have seen the fifth angel sound his trumpet and a star falls from heaven to the earth. To him is given the key to the bottomless pit. We know from our studies elsewhere in the scripture that stars often represent angelic creatures.

Job, God asked him, where were you when I put the universe together? When the stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy. What is man that they aren't mindful of him? When I look at the stars and I think of man, you know, in Psalm 8, I think it is. There are plenty of places where you have this equivalence of stars to angelic creatures.

I think you may even see a hint of this in Corinthians when Paul is talking about the resurrection. He says, as star differs from star in glory, even so shall it be in the resurrection. Where we know and the Jews knew in Paul's day that there are ranks and levels and degrees of influence and responsibility in the angelic civilization, both unfallen and fallen.

So when this star falls from heaven to earth, and we talked a little bit during the break about the possible ways in which angels interact with human civilization. We know from Daniel and other places that they are active in events in human history. You know this from the book of Job.

I suspect when Jesus told Peter, Satan has asked for you that he may sift you like wheat. That that's not an academic exercise off in some accounting room in heaven. That Peter had some individual satanic oppression during the events of the crucifixion.

Because Jesus didn't say that, well Satan has asked for you that he may sift you like wheat, but I said no. He didn't say that. He said, I have prayed for you that your faith will not fail.

And that's a real interesting thing to analyze. In what sense would prayer be effectual on behalf of someone else so that their faith does not fail. Because God, we don't understand him to go in and monkey with anyone's soul or change their volition.

And if faith is a product of our choice, then what exactly would Jesus pray for Peter in terms of, I have prayed for you that your faith will not fail. And when you have returned, strengthen your brothers. You remember that whole dialogue there.

What is the nature of that prayer? Well, what is it that makes faith fail? It's when it's overwhelmed. When you can no longer see the object of faith. When you are under too much pressure, too much distraction, too much weight.

And so the prayer that we can pray for someone who is in a period of testing, or pray for

ourselves when we are in a period of testing, is that if our faith is not going to fail, how would God accomplish that? Where is the way of escape? Where are the reminders of hope? Where is the comfort and encouragement that comes from the word of God that reminds us of place and time? Have you ever wondered, there are people that commit suicide. Various ones of us at different times may have felt mildly or more intensely suicidal. I had a couple of dark days where I don't think I was realistically, I'm too perverse.

But thinking about it is something I think a lot of people have done. Is it really worth going on? I think rather than sending myself to the next plane, I would hop a freight, just go to some far off place and get a job washing dishes or something and just start over. If your problems get to be too much, why disappear yourself? Become one of the missing persons that they put on the milk cartons, but why just blow yourself away? But anyway, all of us I think have thought about that.

But the idea is that you can get in such a place that it just seems hopeless. Why would Jesus pray for Peter that his faith would not fail? What is the motivation for faith? It's hope. If you've got to have some expectation of a brighter day, of a better time, that this will pass, there has to be something to look forward to.

And if every one of your options is invisible, if it doesn't seem like there's a way out, if it doesn't seem like there's a future, if it doesn't seem like there's any reason to continue, we have suicides every day. People kill themselves. And you ask yourself, how could anybody not just pick another option? But I think when we look at our own experience, we can remember that there were times when it just seemed so depressing and so pointless, and we couldn't get the energy to think of something else.

That kind of pressure and that kind of darkness sucks the energy out of you. It sucks the hope out of you. It sucks any objective perspective out of you.

You just can't see it. And your emotion gets a powerful grip on you, and you just want to die. You just want it to go away.

You just long for oblivion. Everyone has experienced that, some of us to a greater degree than others. But Jesus didn't exempt Peter from that dark place.

Satan has asked you, do you think there's any darker place than when Satan personally is attending to your situation? I am the guardian cherub who covered. I fell. I thought up the idea of rebelling against God.

I made Adam and Eve fall in the garden. I have disrupted everything in history. And now, I've got you at the top of my list by name, and I'm going to come down.

And whenever I think of sifting like we... My mother, when I was little, did you see the old time aluminum sifters? Had a screen with a little... And I mean, flour is already ground

pretty fine, but my mom would sift flour when she was making a pie crust or something. I remember my great grandmother making stuff, and she didn't sift anything. She just reached in with her hand and just scattered it around.

You know, she didn't measure. She had no measuring cups. She had no little spoons.

Pinch of this, fistful of that. Double handful of this. She just threw it together.

And she didn't sift anything that I ever saw. But when my mom would say, well, she would be reading the Betty Crocker thing, and the Better Homes and Gardens cookbook, and it would say a cup of this and sifted flour, so she would get that aluminum thing and scoop it into the flour thing. And those aluminum blades scraping the flour against that screen, and it just comes out this very fine powder like confectioner's sugar.

And Satan has asked for you that he may sift you. And I'm thinking, that's getting ground pretty fine. That is a pretty fine little set of pressures there that are going to turn you into microscopic grains.

That's what Satan asked. And I would want Jesus to say, well, Sam, you know, Satan has asked for you that he might sift you like wheat, but I told him, no, that's not going to happen. I said, no way.

He belongs to me. You're not sifting anybody. Go find somebody else to sift.

He didn't say that. And if I'm Peter sitting there and Jesus said, well, I'm praying for you. What? Satan is going to sift me and you're going to pray? Come on.

You know, you're the Lord. I'm expecting bigger and better things. I saw you stop the storm and calm the lake and that.

How about something on this sifting? I prayed for you that your faith will not fail. Why? We have to learn to sustain our faith and remember our hope and continue to exemplify and express love when things are very dark. It's one of the skills that God has put us here in this fallen world to learn.

And it's a tough thing. But we are not supposed to be hopeless. We have to remember who we are and remember why we're here.

Well, this angelic interaction with humankind, with human civilization, is a real thing. So I ask myself, how does it happen? How did Peter get sifted like wheat? Jesus told him ahead of time that Satan is going to be messing with you and I'm praying for you that your faith will hold up. Well, what happened to Peter that night? People at the right place at the right time said exactly the right thing to destabilize Peter's point of view.

Oh Lord, I'm willing to die with you, Peter says, in the upper room where it's nice and safe and brightly lit. But in the dark courtyard where they're slapping Jesus around inside

and everybody outside is talking about He'll be on a cross by morning. And Peter comes up to try to warm himself because there's a chill in his bones and the maiden catches sight of him and says, I recognize you.

I know you by your speech. You're from Galilee. You're one of his followers.

And a cold chill of fear grips Peter's heart and he denies it. A servant girl turns Peter into a coward. Oh Lord, I'm ready to die with you.

Bring on the Roman legions. Where's the sword? How many swords should we take to the garden tonight, Lord? We have two, Jesus says, that's enough. But the milkmaid in the courtyard comes up and says, Hey, I think I know you.

And Peter just comes unglued. Why? Because it was a satanically engineered attack. Satan knows the time and the place to catch us when we're weak.

He figured out Eve's weakness. He figured out Peter's weakness. He roams to and fro in the earth doing what? Seeking whom he may devour.

He picks his meals. He picks the people he's going to chew on and devour. And he knows exactly how to get to us.

He knows where we're weak. He knows where we're vulnerable. He knows where we are susceptible to losing our hope and being distracted from our faith.

Angels interact with this world. They will plant thoughts in people's minds, I believe. Why did the servant girl ask Peter a question? What gave her that hint of recognition? Did she really recognize him? Or was she just a rank pagan unbeliever slave and Satan just came in? You know, the principle of *deja vu*, the whole experience of *deja vu*.

You suddenly think, I've seen this all before. Did I dream it? Am I remembering the future from the past? Or what went on there? Science wants to tell us that it's a false sense of memory. For some reason, some little random chemical imbalance goes off in our head and we think we're remembering something that we've actually never seen before.

Without getting into that, it's some sort of a brain phenomenon. Is it a real memory? Is it a false belief that we remember? It doesn't really matter. It happens in the brain.

Can angels create something in the brain? Can they create an illusion or a vision? Can they speak? Yes, they can. It's in the Bible. You have the Angostur-Muthos demon.

People hear voices. You have necromancy where people believe that they see the dead raised to life and that they're speaking with them. It's possible that it goes beyond that and that some of the poltergeist and, you know, saucers flying across and smashing into the wall actually takes place.

I don't know. But I know that angels interact in a real way with human beings and human civilization on the earth. They do real things.

They make things happen on this earth that we perceive or think we have perceived. So this star in chapter 9 that falls from heaven to the earth, to him is given the key to the bottomless pit. This angel is going to make things happen on the earth.

Now this angel, some people think that this is Satan, that Abaddon and Apollyon, because the names mean destruction and some of the other passages to which this same angel seems to be linked, they think, well, he's basically Satan. Well, Satan is not going to lock himself in the bottomless pit. Satan is going to be locked in the bottomless pit for a thousand years and this angel is given the key to the bottomless pit.

So what, he's going to open it up and then hand somebody the key I just don't think that that's not it. Remember, people don't want to associate anything negative with God. But God does negative things.

Remember there's a passage in Isaiah someplace that says, I form good and create evil, or whatever, and they say, see, God is the author of good and evil. Well, the word evil there means destruction. I can bless and I can curse.

I mean, read the Old Testament. If you want to see God producing negative results, wiping out scores, thousands of individuals at a whack, splitting the earth open and swallowing up believers who have rebelled and disobeyed. It happens.

People being struck with leprosy. People being incinerated. Fire coming out from God and incinerating.

You know, God told the Israelites, don't be putting people in the fire, like the Baal worshippers and the people that sacrificed their children in Molech. Then God turns around and incinerates his own people. What's the penalty for the daughter of a priest who commits fornication? Burn her, is what the law of Moses says.

So, I sell that to say that Abaddon and Apollyon does not rise up from Sheol to open the bottomless pit. Where does he come from? He's a star that comes from heaven. He's at the top and comes down.

And to him is given the key to the bottomless pit. Okay, Abaddon. Open her up.

Take the lid off Pandora's box. That's what he does. He opens the bottomless pit.

Smoke arises out of the pit like a furnace. You have the... A lot of people interpret this as the beginning of some sort of a demon invasion. You know, that these are demonic forces.

I think this is more likely to be technological. I think that there are ideas that have been

planted in people's minds. It's interesting to read the story of certain inventions where a guy literally... It came to him in a dream.

I've forgotten my example of that, but there was one very relatively famous invention and the guy literally... It came to him in a dream in the middle of the night. He woke up the next morning and built the thing. But the locust hordes that come have a king over them and the king is Abaddon Apollyon.

He is the angel with the key to the bottomless pit. And he is orchestrating this. I mentioned on the break, I believe that a lot of the pestilence that strikes the earth is angelically managed, whether it is unfallen or fallen angels or both.

But if you ever look at viruses, if you study the details of how viruses work, you will find that those exhibit all of the signs of intelligent design. They are sophisticated. They are as sophisticated as a lot of business machines that you have in an office.

And your copier didn't just fall together because you threw a bunch of plastic and metal in the dryer. And these viruses that have specific DNA sequences, where did that sequence come from? It's not good for anything else. It's not a broken piece of some other thing.

It's been specifically designed to not only replicate enzymes and shapes, they're shaped like little... The one I saw on NOVA a while back, they just showed an example of one virus, and it looks like a hypodermic needle. And the needle end, the sharp point, so to speak, is a specific enzyme that only finds a certain kind of human cell. It's a cell that has a specific chemical composition of the cell membrane.

And that enzyme dissolves that and only that kind of membrane. Only that kind of cell has the right DNA sequence that can be modified, because when this thing melts a hole in the outside and sits on it, it's got little feet like the lunar lander that attach and glue it to the outside of the cell. It itself does not enter.

But a plunger inside squirts the DNA segment in through this little tube, through the hole that it melted with the enzyme, into the cell. That little clump of DNA has the programming to motate through the cell and find the DNA. It then crawls along the DNA, finds the place where it's supposed to insert itself, uses two other little chemical scissors to snip a specific piece of the DNA out, insert itself in its place, wait for the RNA and the cell division to replicate it, and create a new cell that has been co-opted to produce hundreds of copies of this same little enzyme, and same little virus, which are then enabled to exit the cell.

I mean, what would happen if they all got made but they couldn't get out of the cell? But they get out and go thou and do likewise. In the meantime, your cells are all dying because they're no longer doing their job. Call me crazy, but I think that's intelligently

engineered.

I think, who would the intelligent engineers be? I don't think God's sitting around picking up viruses. I think angels, fallen angels in particular, could be playing around in the lab. I mean, they've got to do something and they're smarter than we are.

I think that when you look at the history of pestilence through the Bible and through the ages, you see that human history can be largely managed in both good ways and bad ways by pestilences and by weather. I think it's clear from the scriptures that angels control weather. Why did the invasion of Normandy succeed? Why was General Patton able to get his tanks out of the mud? Why did the Spanish lose all of their ships? Weather.

Weather turns the course of battles. Weather turns the course of history. And angels control that.

So, this angel comes down and releases this locust scourge, whatever it is that hurts men for five months. It seems to be related to the first woe where men are hurt but not killed. But then in verse 13, the sixth angel sounds, I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God.

What altar is that? The golden altar that is before God with four horns. Which altar is that? Is that the altar of sacrifice? The golden altar. The sacrifice altar is made of bronze, right? Brass.

This is golden. So, which altar is it? The altar of incense. What does the altar of incense always speak of? Prayers of the saints.

Sweet smelling savor in God's nostrils. So, when a voice comes from that altar, just like we saw earlier where the angel had the censer with the prayers and then he took a coal and he cast the censer of the coals to earth, this is depicted as an answer to prayer. It's related to requests that have come to God and God says, I'm going to answer, I'm going to acknowledge, I'm going to act on those requests.

So, the voice from the golden altar, which is before God, says to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates. Where is the Euphrates River? It's in Iraq. It's in the Middle East.

It's over there, the Tigris and the Euphrates. You're back in ancient Babylon. It goes all the way back.

Those rivers are named even before the flood. Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates. The four angels who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.

Now, are these angels unfallen angels or fallen angels? Does God have any need to bind an unfallen angel? Who is it that needs binding? The criminal element would be the ones who can't control themselves, who are unpredictable, who want to do their own kind of mischief. There are four angels. Remember, there were four angels holding back the winds.

There were four angels that blew trumpets that produced celestial disasters before you got to the fifth. So now the sixth trumpet releases these four angels out of the river Euphrates. Why out of the Euphrates? Why not out of the ocean? Why not out of the sand? Why not from the sky? These angels do not come from the heavens, do they? They are bound on earth.

What does that tell us? Where are Satan and the fallen angels? They have been cast from heaven to earth, but they have been restricted. Their actions have been limited, just like God told Satan when he starts talking about Job. He says, well, you can go after his goods.

You can touch his flesh, but you can't take his life. God can set limits on what the fallen angels can and cannot do. He can bind them.

And these angels have been bound. That binding, that restriction is released. They have been told in the past, you cannot kill mankind.

Now they are told, you can kill up to a third of them. And that's exactly what they do. Why? Why did the demons want to go into the swine? It's something to do, I guess.

I don't know why. But, that's what they want to do, and that's what they do. Now, the angels that are bound at the great river Euphrates, this, I think, speaks of the locale from which this particular form of death is going to come.

If it was going to come from the north, they could have been bound up in Lebanon. They could have been bound in the cedar forest. They could have been from the Nile.

They could have come from the south and from Egypt. But because they come from the Euphrates, you get the idea that this is something that is going to originate in the Iran-Iraq area and is going to produce the death of a third of the population of the world. What is everybody worrying about right now as far as nuclear weapons? The Iranians are enriching uranium.

The Iranians have got a nuclear program. The Iranians, this, that, and the other, everybody is sweating over the Iranians. Well, it's possible that that is going to continue and that there are going to be a source.

Something from that direction. These four angels who had been prepared for the hour, day, month, and year. This kind of reminds us of the role that Judas plays in God's plan in

betraying the Lord Jesus.

Jesus chose Judas. Jesus called him as a disciple. And his role, while God does not condone betrayal and God does not condone what Judas did, he was still chosen to play his part in the outworking of the plan and purpose of God.

And that is what these angels do. The number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million. I heard the number of them, and thus I saw the horses in the vision.

Those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow. And the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions. And out of their mouths came fire and smoke and brimstone.

By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth and in their tails. For their tails are like serpents, having heads, and with them they do harm.

But the rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts. You have to admit that all of these things are widespread and prevalent in the earth today.

Particularly when you remember that the hatred of others is represented by Jesus as murder, in the same way that covetousness is represented as idolatry. But the taking of life on a national scale, on a political level, in terms of the movement of nations and denying trade, commerce, aid, and so on, so that people die of starvation, people die of pestilence, people die from the lack of things, and this is with willful malice of forethought on the part of another nation. You know, Saddam Hussein did it to his own people.

And there is no repentance for murders or sorceries. This is pharmakeia in the text tradition here, and this has the idea of drugs, you know, pharmacy, pharmaceuticals is often read into this. But in the ancient Greek, this was influence by mysterious means.

Drugs, the reason we call them pharmaceuticals is that they produce an influence in some hidden way. You take a pill and then suddenly you feel different. You apply a medicine and something almost mystical or magical happens.

There doesn't seem to be a relation of cause and effect. And pharmakeia means that by some mystical, magical, or seemingly unpredictable means, something happens. And so it can be demon influence, it can be actual drugs, but it is reliance on things other than God, other than that which is good to affect one's purpose.

Sexual immorality, pharmakeia, and murder and theft. These four things. You have the

four angels released because of these four great areas of sin.

And as I think Matt pointed out in the break, it's interesting that the judgment of God is not just on people who are expected to be obedient because they are under covenant to God. In the Old Testament, God says, Israel, I'm coming after you because you stood on Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim and covenanted to keep my law. You haven't kept it.

Here comes your discipline. But you don't see God going up after the Hittites and saying, you Hittites are serving idols and this, that, and the other. Only in a very general sense He'll say, the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.

I'm going to let you drive out the Hivites and the Amorites and all the other Hittites that live in the land because they are idolatrous. I'm going to give you victory over them. But generally God doesn't condemn the world.

He condemns people that He is in a covenant relationship with. Here, He's going after the whole world. Why? Well, keep your finger here in Revelation chapter 9 and turn back real quickly to Matthew chapter 24.

Matthew chapter 24. Jesus is predicting the events of the end times. And He says that in verse 10, many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations. And then the end will come. This judgment is a result of lack of response to the gospel of the kingdom.

Now, this of course is the basis for people saying, well, that's 144,000. They're evangelists. They went out and preached the gospel to the whole world.

Perhaps. But that's not what Scripture says. Jesus simply says, this gospel of the kingdom will be preached.

What is this gospel of the kingdom? Why does He use the demonstrative pronoun here and say this? When He says this gospel, usually when I say this chair, you can say, oh, I see. He's pointing to a chair. I say this table.

He's pointing to a table. When Jesus says this gospel, where in this passage is the gospel? Where does it say, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved? What is this gospel in Matthew 24? Do you see it? This gospel of the kingdom will be preached. Jesus says, you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake, but he who endures to the end shall be saved.

This gospel will be preached. It is going to be known worldwide that there are people

who believe in the Lord Jesus and even under persecution, they do not renounce or relinquish that faith. That is the gospel of the kingdom that will be proclaimed.

Preached sounds like there's going to be preachers. But *keruso* in Greek simply means to proclaim. It's going to be noised abroad.

You know there's a sect that still believes in the Jesus of 2,000 years ago and they won't take the mark and they're obstreperous, they're sticks in the mud, they're not going for world peace. This gospel of the kingdom, there are people who are enduring to the end because they believe in the coming kingdom and that news is going to be proclaimed throughout the world and then the end is going to come. The basis for condemnation of the world is that when they hear that news, they still are not going to repent of their evil deeds.

It is the witness of life. It doesn't say there will be people preaching the gospel of salvation through Christ. It says this news of the kingdom that if you endure to the end, you'll be saved, even though you're persecuted for the name of Christ.

That's why the word *this* is in there. I think it gets overlooked a lot. But this gospel of the kingdom is that these who are persecuted and hated by all nations for the name of Christ are going to endure to the end and be delivered and that news will be proclaimed throughout the world as a witness to all the nations.

The mere existence of those people is a witness to the nations. They don't have to say a word. Just like Paul told the Philippians, he said, your faith has been noised abroad.

We go to places and I don't even have to tell them the gospel. They've already heard of you and your hope and your love for one another and how you're waiting for Christ to return from heaven. I get there and they're telling us what the gospel is because they've heard it by your witness, by your testimony.

Paul says, every place we go, we hear of your faith and your love and your hope. That's what's going to happen in the end. And that is the model for evangelism throughout the church age.

It is not what we say, it is how we live. And it's a convicting truth that you communicate a lot more by what you do than what you say or what you wish you did or what you wish you had said. It's what you actually say, it's what you actually do that defines your life for better or for worse.

And these people who are refusing to take the mark, who are refusing to cue to the anti-Christ line, who don't lose their hope, who don't go into that dark place of despair and forget their faith, who endure to the end, they are going to be the basis of the condemnation of the world. Jesus is going to say, God the Father is going to say, what is your excuse for not coming to faith in God? Look at these people that have nothing. Look

at these people that have been hounded and hated by the world.

They can do it, why couldn't you? It's going to be the basis of their condemnation. Well, back to Revelation chapter 9. The four angels prepared for the hour and the day and month and year. There is a specific time when this four angel pestilence is released.

Right down to the hour. What is the day and the hour? Don't know. God knows.

But these angels are not just, it's not a convenience. They have been prepared. Evidently these angels are bound now.

Bound at some time in the past. I don't think he is going to round up four and bind them, leave them bound for a couple of days, and then say, okay, now turn them loose again. They are already bound.

They are bound right now. For whatever reason. We know that God has dealt differently with different groups of angels.

There are some angels that are in chains down below that Jesus went and proclaimed the victory that he achieved on the cross. That's a different group than the angels that roam free and inhabit swine and influence people and so on. It's a different group.

Different judgment for a different reason. Those angels in chains are not the ones who followed Satan out of heaven. They are the ones who judged in Genesis 6 and got careless and got distracted and were disobedient.

It says in the scripture that they were disobedient. That means they were expected to obey because they were unfallen angels given a task. They failed that task.

They disobeyed. They have a different judgment and a different fate than Satan and his demons. I don't expect that those who are reserved in chains are going into the lake of fire.

They are reserved. God has taken them out of the game until after everything is resolved and then he will bring them out and do something with them, I'm guessing. Anyway, these angels here have been bound.

A lot of Satan's angels are unfettered and unbound. They certainly were in Jesus' day. Not these four.

These four have been bound. Are they arch henchmen? Do you remember the deck of playing cards they had for the Al-Qaeda and bad news guys in Iraq? Saddam Hussein and his sons. The aces were the ones they wanted the most.

The ace of spades, the ace of clubs, the ace of hearts. The biggest, baddest guys were the ones they wanted the most. They've got nearly all of the people on that deck of

playing cards now.

But, don't you imagine that in the demonic hierarchy or in the group that left heaven with Satan that there were some principalities that were the highest ranking and most influential of those demons. Well, that may be the cabinet that got bound. These are very powerful angels.

They're not run-of-the-mill lackey angels. These four angels all by themselves are going to slay a third of the earth's population when they're turned loose. And God lets them loose at a specific time on a specific day of a specific month of a specific year during the 70th week of Daniel.

It's in the latter half. I personally can't narrow it down any more than that. But God knows that time.

And He is not responsible for their evil. But He will be responsible for the timing of when their evil is inflicted. Now, when they are released the number of the army of the horsemen was 200 million.

Now, do we know anybody that's got a 200 million man army? Each with their own vehicle? You remember when Elijah prayed and said, Lord, even though we're surrounded, reveal to my servant that it's not a hopeless situation. And God opened His eyes and He looked on the hillside and there were horses and chariots of fire. Horses and chariots.

Horses and chariots. And it was demonic versus angelic warfare simultaneous with the human warfare. And as goes the angelic battle, so goes the human battle.

This would seem to suggest, because these specific four angels are released and then you immediately have the mention of 200 million horsemen. Now, I said earlier that I thought horses were always associated with human beings. And I still think that that's the case.

But you can argue from the Elijah passage that if there are chariots and horses taking Elijah to heaven and ranging across the hills, maybe I'm wrong about horsemen always representing human beings. And perhaps this is, in fact, a demonic legion. Actually, many hundreds of legions that are released.

Why are we given this specific number, 200 million? Well, if you calculate the population of the earth at this time, you've already lost a fourth of the population. Now you're going to take out a third of the population. That's a lot of people.

How can you take out that many people? Well, you've got an army, whether angelic or human, of 200 million who are armed with breastplates. Their horses have heads like the heads of lions. And out of the mouth of these comes fire, smoke, and brimstone.

Of course, being an artilleryman, I think of human weaponry. Now, I still think horses mean humans. And I think this 200 million man army is human.

And I think that the description of the horses and the rest of it is a description of modern technology. Where do you get that many troops? How many people are there in the EU? How many people are there across the former USSR and China? If the Antichrist has managed to achieve a covenant with many and has assembled the world, and then he's going to attack one place, how big an army do you think he can assemble? Huge. Millions.

And they're all going to have equipment. They're all going to have stuff. And he says, here's the problem.

This is why we're having trouble. It's this area right down here around Haramagiddo. And let's head down there and we'll get what we need.

So, others may disagree. I think this is a human army. I think it's manned with technology.

I think you can see weapons here. The fire, the smoke, and the brimstone. I think you have different kinds of weapons that you can deploy.

You have tactical nukes, for example. You have standard fragmentation-type munitions. And you also have chemical-biological warfare.

Smoke is your chemical-biological warfare. The fire and brimstone in particular is your standard munitions. And I think the fire could be radiation-type weapons.

You have three different ways that people are killed. And I think the tail is what comes after. The tail is like a serpent.

Latent radioactivity after a battle. Getting into the water. Getting into the crops.

Settling dirty nukes and that sort of thing. Well, we're out of time for this evening. But there is a lack of repentance.

This doesn't change anyone's mind. We have to remember who we are and why we're here. And be malleable, be amenable to have our minds changed.

Because judgment follows those who are not influenced by the judgment of God. Father, thank you for the privilege of studying your word this evening. We pray that God the Holy Spirit will impress it on our hearts.

We ask it in Jesus' name, amen.