

11b REV

Let's resume our study in Revelation chapter 9. We have taken note of this great locust swarm that appears at the sounding of the fifth trumpet and have seen that although there are different schools of thought as to how physical or in what literal sense this is to be taken, there are characteristics of this judgment, this bad experience that is unleashed on the world that are pretty clearly indicated by the symbolic language here. I mentioned on the break that another possibility is related to perhaps the computer network that is going to link everyone together that has the mark of the beast. It's hard to conceive of that not being a factor from now on in human civilization.

Now that the computer has been invented, now that just within our lifetime from going to no personal computers to everybody having multiple personal computers, it's not a real strain or a stretch to imagine that the constraint on buying and selling is going to be a computerized form of control. You can also imagine that if something is unleashed that attacks that network, it could be seen to afflict mankind at an individual level just like these locusts do. You think about the number of PCs and compare that to the number of locusts and then imagine a worldwide virus attack that takes down this network without which you can't get food and you can't pay your light bill and you can't navigate financially.

If the infrastructure that holds the Antichrist's worldwide empire together is running on this network and then it is broken, you can imagine it taking five months. You can imagine a New Orleans situation with no power and no people wanting to die because they can't get anything done. They can't get transportation, they can't get groceries, they can't get power, they can't get information, they can't check on their loved ones, they can't do anything because this master system has broken down.

It would also be compatible with the knowledge that this plague is not going to afflict those with the mark or seal of God on their foreheads. Why? Those people have been outside this system from the beginning. It's not going to disrupt their system of supply.

It's not going to interrupt their groceries because they have an alternate lifestyle. They are not dependent on this interconnected Antichrist-controlled civilization. But regardless of what it is, we look at these predictions of future things the way we look at the historical record of past things, and that is with one eye on what God is going to do in His plan and another eye on what we should be doing in His plan today.

We know that there are a lot of attacks and there are a lot of distractions that we need to watch out for. But that woe is past in verse 12. Two more woes are still coming after these things.

We've talked about the angels from the river Euphrates. The Euphrates, of course, along with everything else we've said about it, was the boundary of the land promised to

Abraham. If you look at the widest possible definition and interpretation of what God promised to Abraham, the Euphrates is the boundary.

It is the border. And these four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates, if these angels are bound, this means that they are not obedient to God. They are not unfallen angels.

They are fallen angels. Obedient angels are simply given word commands. The angel says, you four angels holding back the winds, don't release them until we finish doing the sealing.

And those angels obey. Why? They are unfallen angels. These angels are bound and they are released.

They are not given any commands because they are not going to follow commands. They are, by definition, disobedient fallen angels. So, it says they have been prepared for the hour and day and month and year and were released to kill a third of mankind.

We talked about this some last time, but I've been musing on this more because this is a reminder that God is in control. Just like in Job chapter 1, where God gives permission to Satan. And later in that book, where God gives permission to Satan to do certain things to Job.

Only within the specific circumscribed limits of God's decree can evil function. It doesn't get out of hand. It doesn't get out of control.

It doesn't go beyond God's boundaries. There is a raging sea, but it does not pass the bounds that God has set for it. These angels are devastating.

They are going to wreak widespread devastation and death on the human race. And yet, they can't do anything until the hour and the day and the month and year that God has designated. Not a second before it and not a second after it.

They can't escape. They can't slip their bonds. God is absolutely in control and we ought to take comfort.

If these very powerful demonic angels can be bound at the word of God and released at the specific time of God's choosing, not a minute before and not a minute after, it ought to give us confidence that God has control of our circumstances as well. There are no random influences. There are no unforeseen or unpredictable forces at work in our lives.

Down to the very hour and day, God has these demons worked into His plan and His purpose. And He allows them a space and He allows them a time. They don't do anything before that.

They won't do anything after that. They work even their evil at the behest and within the

will of God. Judas Iscariot betrayed the Lord Jesus, but he betrayed Him at exactly the right quote unquote time.

Not a day too soon and not a day too late. So that the scriptures would be fulfilled. So that the prophetic nature of the feast of Passover and of first fruits and of unleavened bread and of Pentecost would all be fulfilled to the letter.

Did God want Judas to betray Jesus? Did He want Judas to not have faith and not be an obedient, God-glorifying, soul-winning evangelist and apostle? That was not the will of God, but God works all things together for good. And the same thing is true here. This very ominous picture of the four angels.

Four, again, speaking of universality on the earth. Inescapable. The number of the army of the horsemen is 200 million.

John says, I heard the number of them. Obviously, he didn't sit there and count them. He'd still be counting.

But someone announced. This is also a reminder of... We've already seen a reminder of God's omnipotence in deciding when and where these angels will be bound and when and where they will be released. Now we see God's omniscience.

God knows exactly how many there are. Who is going to stand and count 200 million of anything? I don't know if you count one per second. I don't know how that works out in years.

But that's a lot of time. But God knows the exact number. Jesus said the very hairs on our head are numbered.

God knows everything he needs to know. And nothing escapes his notice. Nothing that he wants to know does he not know.

Nothing that's important, nothing that pertains is not known to God. Along with all the things that don't pertain and are irrelevant. He knows everything.

But God knows the number of the army of the horsemen. And it's communicated to John. It's not an innumerable... There's a part of me that says, well, if there was something that was going to be numbered and something that was getting numberless, it would be better for these guys to be numberless.

And the white-robed throng that stands before the throne, there ought to be a specific number. If God's got their names written down in a book, then he ought to say, well, there are 250,392,479,197,237. And God knows exactly how many there are.

But John says there is a multitude that no one could number standing before the throne, and God doesn't tell him the number of them. Why? We could start calculating. We could

start estimating.

We could come up with a terminus ad quem beyond which God couldn't continue to run human history because we've already got that many believers. So, God doesn't give us that number. But nobody's counting phantom horsemen coming out of the Euphrates, so God gives us the number.

Just to show that he knows. This is a measured judgment. It's measured in terms of time.

It's measured in terms of quantity. It is measured in terms of devastation. They kill exactly a third of mankind.

No more and no less. So, you get the idea that this is evil, released and unrestrained and it's unbound and it's just going to wreak all kinds of chaos, but it has to do it at God's time, in God's numbers, according to God's proportion. It reminds me of the new vacuum cleaners that they have.

Have you seen the new vacuum cleaners that have that whirlwind thing in the front, the clear canister and everything? What do they call that? It's a wind tunnel. There's another name. It's like a vortex or something.

They have this whirling. It's supposed to sling all the dirt and dust to the outside so that your filter doesn't get clogged and then you empty this thing. It's a contained chaos.

There's horrible chaos going on inside the vacuum cleaner, but it can't get outside, hopefully, the little canister. If it ever does, you really do have chaos. If you've ever had an old curvy with a cloth bag and had that thing explode on you, that's a mess.

But this is like one of those vortex sweepers. Horrible evil in the person of these four angels that have been bound for centuries and yet only at God's time and place and according to God's parameters. The horses in the vision have these colors associated with them.

Red, blue, and yellow. The heads of the horses are like the heads of lions and out of their mouths come fire, smoke, and brimstone. What do the colors red, blue, and yellow immediately put you in mind of? Fire.

Flames. The red glow of fire at night. Blue at the base, yellow at the end.

Orange and red and everything in between. This is a fiery red. Breastplates of fiery red.

Blue and yellow. All of these colors are fiery. The heads of the horses are like the heads of lions.

Out of their mouths come more fire and smoke and brimstone. This seems to be in contrast to the locust devastation which makes people wish they were dead for five

months. This kills people and it is a fiery death.

It is a violent death. Lions' teeth speak of violence and unavoidable destruction. People don't usually successfully fight off lions.

David did it in protecting his sheep but generally you're all done if the lion comes after you. By these three a third of mankind was killed. 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. Now this is kind of a tricky thing because you have a tail like a snake and you expect the tail as the back end of something but it turns out to have a head.

And once again this speaks of something that is unexpected. You don't expect something to have a head that can bite you like a snake when it's the tail. You say no, the biting end is up front.

The tooth end is up front. The input at the front, output at the back. You don't expect there to be a head with a biting set of teeth at the back.

It's unexpected. It's going to catch people unawares. They're going to think they got past it because they survived the initial onslaught and yet it's going to get them later.

Some people will die immediately. Others will die afterward. Ezekiel pictured a similar type of judgment for the people of Judah in talking about the initial onslaught of Nebuchadnezzar's army and many people would die by the sword and then there would be those who would flee and they think they have escaped but oh no, they get chopped up later.

Same thing here. There are three different times that you can die. The flame may get you.

That's the first onslaught. If the flame misses you, you choke to death in the smoke and if you survive the flame and the smoke, it's got a tail that comes and bites you even after you survive the first two. So this is of course going to be very disconcerting.

If you think in terms of interpretation and application, there are things, we've already talked about what is similar to the locust swarm. What is similar to this in our modern day? You can see obvious, let's take entertainment just as an example and this does not exhaust the interpretation and application but just think about entertainment. You say alright, well the fiery face and the first line of destruction is to get sucked into the world view and the pornographic presentations and the denigration of faith and Christians and authority and fathers and mothers and parents and all the other things that come in movies.

We see that, we identify that and we avoid it. We don't let that kind of thing into our house. We either teach our children about it and let them watch it or we just keep it out of the house altogether so that they're not infected with this goofy world view that is so much a part of Hollywood today.

Whether it is the objectification and denigration of women by constantly having them take off their clothes for no good reason or whether it is the vilification of things that are good and right and noble like the military, patriotism, Christianity, authority figures. Why is it that in children's movies the parents are always fatally stupid and it's the child that has to save the day? Why is there an applause scene at the end of every movie that's been made in the last 25 or 30 years? Because the real measure of success is whether people see it and clap. You have all of this.

And so in the entertainment world you have this first onslaught. You say, okay, I've seen all that, identified it, we've avoided that trap. But what about the smoke that's left over afterwards? You become inured.

You become calloused over. There is so much smut. There is so much worldview.

There is so much that sometimes even though the fire doesn't get you after a while, the smoke does. Because you wind up getting sucked in unawares rather than aware. People that die from smoke inhalation, a lot of times you can die in your sleep from smoke inhalation.

The flames never come in and burn your feet and wake you up. But by the time you realize there is a fire in the house you've inhaled so much smoke you can't breathe enough to get out. And there is this slow cooking of the frog effect that happens in our culture if we don't wake up and label things what they are.

It has become politically incorrect to say that there are religious extremists that need to be named by their religion and need to be called out and identified. Actually, even secular people are beginning to wake up and say, you know, it might not be such a bad idea to profile people at the airport. And if you've got an 85-year-old grandmother in one line and you've got a 23-year-old Middle Eastern man in the other line and there's only a certain number of people you can check at the airport, which one would it make sense to check? Oh, but it's politically incorrect to discriminate because somebody is swarthy and from Saudi Arabia instead of 85 years old in a wheelchair trying to find her denture grip, well, they're an equal threat.

Common sense has gone out the window. This is the smoke, I think, in a lot of our culture that homosexuality is acceptable. Initially, somebody says, well, would you vote for legalizing gay marriage? Everybody says, no, no, no, that's the fire.

But where is the smoky aftermath? Look at your entertainment. Look at program after

program after program whether it's talk shows with lesbian hosts, whether it is comedy series where the homosexual lifestyle is treated as light and not an issue and what's the matter with these bigoted people who just don't get it and don't understand and they're blighted and benighted and living in the dark ages and so on. Well, this is the smoke.

And when we let this kind of thing pass, when we dismiss it as unimportant, there's the smoke. And then finally, if you manage to survive both of those hurdles, you can still end up being bitten in the end by falling for propaganda. Look at the... There is as much... I've been picking on Michael Moore because I saw maybe a half hour of his little bowling for Columbine movie.

They played it on TV the other day and it just... I thought I was going to have to find an air-sick bag. It just... But there is Christian media that is as bad or worse. Our friends are our enemies.

Christianity is given a bad name and Christianity is defamed. We successfully identify the obvious, fire and smoke, and yet the thing itself winds up biting us because we get victimized by our own kind. Yes, something like... You could talk a lot about the passion of the Christ.

Was that a good thing to be made? Should Christians go out and support that, buy people tickets? Churches all over the country made a great effort to go out and get that film into good numbers and buy people tickets to go watch it and treat it as an evangelistic tool. Do you know what the message of that movie is? Do you know what the thinking is behind it? What is the thinking behind that movement? Because it's entertainment as a tool for evangelism. Here's my question.

Whatever happened to the Word of God? Whatever happened to the Gospel of John? Do you need Mel Gibson to do your evangelizing for you? Has the Word of God lost its power and we need a movie that doesn't follow the Word of God that makes the suffering of Christ all physical and misses entirely the pictures that are given in the book of Leviticus, the Levitical offerings that we've studied in such great detail. The issue of sin and righteousness and judgment. That's the issue in evangelism.

Not, you ought to feel sorry for this poor man who got beaten to death by the Romans at the behest of the Jews and you ought to believe in him because look at what a torn-up Savior he is. That's not the issue. That's not evangelism.

But worldwide, churches fell for that and spent millions of dollars trying to treat a movie as an evangelistic tool. That is getting bit by the tail that is like a serpent. Just when you think you successfully identified sin and evil, you turn around and employ sin and evil in an ostensibly good cause.

So there are applications. I'm just saying if you think about this principle, here is an overt

attack. Here is a plague that is released from the Euphrates and it doesn't say here anything about protection of the sealed, does it? You remember in the first of these three woes, the locusts were forbidden to touch anybody that has the seal of God in their forehead.

Do you see any such statement here? The four angels were prepared for the hour, day, month, and year released to kill a third of mankind. The number of the army of horsemen is 200 million. I heard the number of them.

I saw the horses in the vision. Breastplates, colors, the heads are like the heads of lions, fire, smoke, and brimstone. By these three, a third of mankind is killed.

You get the idea that a third of the third is one, a third of the third is the other, and a third of the third is three thirds. Three kinds of death kill a third of the people. It's all about threes.

And this is the recognition that this earthly judgment in the form of these four angels that are released and these 200 millions of troops is still divinely controlled and divinely planned because it's one third. And it's three kinds of death. And that's God's number.

That's God's little stamp of identification. The fire, smoke, and brimstone kill a third. It comes out of their mouths, their powers in their mouth, and in their tails.

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 and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. Now, how big a problem is idolatry in the world today? And do you see any kind of a trend back in this direction so that idolatry would be an issue? It seems to be pretty huge here in verse 20.

These people are worshiping demons and idols. And of course, idolatry and demonism are linked throughout the Scriptures. But what I find interesting is gold, silver, brass, stone, four of these five elements are ubiquitous in our world today.

Your computer has gold contacts in it. Your computer has silver contacts in it. Your computer has brass in it.

Your computer has silicon, which is a kind of a stone or a mineral. We have all of these elements. I can't think of any wood in the computer.

Maybe the desk it sits on. Your computer stand is probably a particle board or something. And not to stretch this all out of shape, but the Apostle Paul reminds us that covetousness is idolatry.

And we have a lot of materialism in the world today. It has become more than a lifestyle.

It is a philosophy.

People believe they have the right to certain things. Listen to the people who have been devastated by hurricanes talking about what they deserve and what they need. FEMA is going to give me \$2,000 and I'm going to go buy what I consider to be necessities.

Some of those people that went elsewhere, you can tell that their necessities wouldn't be our necessities. Pleasures of life that they're buying with that money. But even though there is great devastation and actual death brought about by this plague, people do not repent of their idolatry or of their murders or of their sorceries or of their sexual immorality or of their thefts.

How many sins do we have listed here? I don't know how this stacks up. I can never remember the Catholic seven deadly sins list. I think it's kind of a goofy list.

There are certain big old sins that aren't on that list. But what sins do we have listed here? The first one is idolatry, which you can link with covetousness. Then you have murder, sorcery, sexual immorality, and theft.

Theft, of course, is a manifestation of covetousness. You don't steal something unless you want it. Sexual immorality is self-gratification.

Sorceries, once again, this is pharmakeia. Drug abuse, drug addiction, demon influence are also linked, not only in our country and our culture, but in many others. Well, that brings us to the end of chapter 9 and the beginning of chapter 10.

All of the angelic activity that we have seen recently is of a negative nature. You've got these bad angels coming out of the Euphrates. You've got Abaddon, his middle name is bad, coming out of there and releasing this locust swarm out of the pit.

Now we finally get a different kind of an angel in this series of trumpets, which is all about angels. One of the reasons that I suggested in the first session tonight that the locust swarm may be related to doctrine of demons is think about the section that we're in. The trumpet judgments are all about angelic interaction with the human race.

They can do physical things. They appear to control the weather at God's behest or with God's permission. A lot of what happened to Job's stuff was weather related, if you recall, and God allowed Satan to do things with the weather that destroyed Job's family and took a lot of his stuff.

Well, this is an angelic section, so it is likely to me that all of these symbolic pictures are references to demonic or angelic action. We know that Satan is going to be very active at this time. He's going to be essentially indwelling the Antichrist, and it would be passing strange if he did not have demonic support worldwide.

The question is, and this question was raised at the break, and I think it's a good one, if Satan is trying to do something in the 70th week and the church is removed and the Holy Spirit doesn't seem to be doing much and you've only got 144,000 servants of God on the earth, why would Satan and or his demons go around obliterating everyone? In what way does this advance his agenda or make his point in the larger sweep of things? My suggestion to you in terms of an answer is twofold. One is anger, because Satan knows his time is short, and there is a phenomenon that you can observe in people who have problems, who have behavior problems, and under pressure become unreasonable and unreasonably violent. And it's like, well, I'm losing control of the situation.

What can I control? Well, I can take this thing and break it. And if you listen to the people who study psychology and that, a lot of times destructive behavior is an attempt to assert control. When people feel like they're losing control, they want to be the agent of change.

They want to be the one that makes something happen. If I make something happen, I am in control. And when people feel like they're losing control or somebody else is in control, and they rebel against that, they try to regain control.

And one of the ways of doing that is to be violent. You can read the psychologists on that, but that's one aspect. Another aspect of this is, and this goes back to the Bible records I heard as a child, Satan talks to the demons and says, you're getting careless.

You're supposed to be fulfilling the plan here. You're supposed to be implementing my grand design. And they say, look, you're the one that taught us to rebel and oppose all authority.

What are you asking for here? I mean, we're demons. By nature, we are disobedient, unruly. We have no plan.

Send us into the swine. We'll drive them into the drink. We just want to do something.

And these four angels are not said to have a king. The locusts have a king. The locusts are under control, and they can only do a limited thing for a limited amount of time.

And these other things are only within God's parameters. They don't have Abaddon as their king. The 200 million warriors don't seem to have a general.

And they just run around wreaking havoc and destruction. And you get the idea that, well, God is going to let Satan have a taste of his own medicine. Satan is trying to do the Antichrist thing and get the one-world government going.

And God says, well, I'm going to turn you guys loose here, and let's see what you do with them. You became a legion of unruly, disobedient angels, and I had to kick you out. See what you can do with your disobedient, unruly agents.

And this is going to possibly accomplish a two-fold purpose in that it is going to fulfill God's judgment on the unbelieving, unrepentant human race. And it's also going to be a major monkey wrench in Satan's plans. There's nothing about Abaddon giving them orders or a general riding in front of them.

They are just random destroyers. The only thing that hems them in is God's control. God sets the time.

God sets the proportion. God establishes the number. And they're like that whirlwind vacuum cleaner.

Within the canister that God creates, they just go nuts. And I don't think Satan has any benefit to be gained by this worldwide devastation and destruction, but I don't think these demons care. What has Satan done for them? They've been locked up in the Euphrates for untold hundreds of years.

So that's a thought about that. But we're about to get some relief. We're about to see a brighter vision here in chapter 10.

I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud, and a rainbow was on his head. His face was like the sun and his feet like pillars of fire. For anybody that's read the first chapter of Revelation, this is already evoking some memories.

He had a little book open in his hand, and he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land and cried with a loud voice as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered and do not write them.

This is a fascinating set of verses here. These four verses really tell us a lot. Now, a lot of people think that this mighty angel is Jesus Christ.

Natural assumption to make. Look at the similarities. Face shining like the sun.

John describes Jesus in chapter 1 as having an incredibly bright face like the sun. Feet like pillars of fire. The feet of burnished brass reflecting and so on.

He is clothed with a cloud. Jesus is said to come back, behold, he cometh with clouds and so on. However, John says, I saw still another mighty angel.

Now, there's one word there that completely abnegates and makes impossible any idea that this is Jesus Christ. And it is the word another. There is no another Jesus Christ.

This is another angel. Another angel. Alan in Greek.

There are two words for other or another in Greek. There's heteros and alos. Now, what do you think heteros means? Heteros.

What is a heterosexual? That's unfortunately the quickest thing that comes to mind. Somebody that likes the different sex. If you're male and you're heterosexual, you like females and vice versa.

Heteros means another of a different kind. Alos means another of the same kind. The word here is alos.

I saw another of the same kind of messenger. Alan angelon. Jesus Christ is not Alan angelon by any stretch or any definition.

So, why the similarities? Clothed with a cloud, rainbow on his head, face like the sun, feet like pillars of fire. This is a magnificent angel. He takes up his stance, right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land.

This is a towering angel. It reminds you of the accounts of the Colossus of Rhodes that was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Huge thing.

If he's going to stand with one foot... It's not like he's at the beach and he's trying to get one foot in the foam and one foot on the sand here. This is a big angel. He's got one foot on the sea, one foot on the land.

He's a towering angel. And that's why, by comparison, the book that he holds in his hand is just a little book. If he had an angel-sized book, a mighty angel-sized book, well, the thing would be enormous.

He'd drop it on John and John would be gone. It's a little tiny book. He has a little... It's like the Lilliputians.

He's got a little bitty book that he's going to hand down there to John. It's small enough for John to eat. So, big angel.

Big vision of an angel here. Coming down from heaven... Notice, he's not bound in the Euphrates. He's not erupting out of the bottomless pit.

We get a pretty good indication of which angels are which just from looking at where they come from. If you're bound in the Euphrates, you're not an unfallen angel. If you're soaring up out of the pit, you're not an unfallen angel.

If, on the other hand, you're clothed with clouds and you come down from heaven with a rainbow on your head, what does a rainbow speak of? First thing you think of with a rainbow. Genesis 9, Genesis 10. Never again destroy the earth with a flood.

I put my bow in the sky. It is a mark. It is a sign and symbol of God's covenant promises.

God is faithful. God fulfills his promises. This angel has a rainbow on his head because just about now, some of those 144,000 survivors down on the planet are thinking, phew, nobody's going to survive this.

If these days aren't shortened, no flesh is going to survive, type of thing. This angel takes up his stance. He's got a rainbow on his head.

He says, remember the rainbow? I'm never going to wipe out mankind. So, keep Genesis open. Face like the sun, feet like pillars of fire.

He resembles Jesus Christ, doesn't he? I mean, there's no getting around it. He resembles Jesus Christ enough that a lot of interpreters think it is Jesus Christ. But he is alan andelan.

He's an angel. So, what's the idea here? He is a representative. He is like an ambassador.

He is someone who is standing there representing God. He represents God. He is a high, high ranking angel.

I would submit to you, this is the highest ranking angel. This is the guardian cherub who covers now, or at least one of them. To see him is to see a lot of God's glory.

Feet flaming in judgment. You cannot touch the cursed earth if you're representing God without having these feet of fire because that represents judgment and purification. Face shining like the sun.

When you look at this angel, you're getting straight word from God. It's like the president's chief of staff. A lot of times when you're talking to the chief of staff, it's as good as talking to the president.

Well, talking to this angel or listening to this angel is as good as talking to God or listening to God. That's how close this angel is to the throne of God. He has a little book open in his hand.

Where does this little book come from and what is it? Some people think this is the unrolled scroll with all of his seven seals broken. There are people who say, well, this scroll is the title deed to the heavens and the earth and Jesus has laid claim to the earth by breaking these seals and opening them and now that he has title, he's going to claim it for himself and sit on the throne and so on. That's one view.

I don't personally subscribe to it. John doesn't say he had the little book. I mean, the seven seal scroll is not called a little book anywhere in the book of Revelation.

This is a little book. It doesn't say what it is. We're going to find out what it is as we go forward.

But I don't think this is the scroll. The Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb, is still at the throne and still has that in his hand. And the results of the breaking of the seal are still unfolding.

So this is not that scroll in my estimation. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices. This is the seven thunders in Greek.

Not just any old seven thunders. This is the seven thunders uttered their voices. When the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write.

It tells us that John was taking notes. Taking notes is a good thing. Doesn't mean you're doing a bad thing if you don't take them, but John took notes.

He was getting an important message. And it's interesting to me that you can be having a vision and be caught up to heaven and be taking notes. This is a special kind of vision that John is seeing where he can still take notes.

And he is writing this stuff down. That's why the book of Revelation is so accurate and so detailed. Because John wrote as he viewed the vision.

And he was about to write down what these seven thunders say, and he's told not to write. Well, why does he write that the seven thunders even spoke? Why does he even mention them? We're going to have to wait until next time to find that out. There is a reason why the seven thunders are mentioned and why we know that they spoke, and yet we are not allowed to hear what they say.

Bottom line of all of this, it's always darkest just before the dawn. And after all these fallen angels do their thing, here is the angel of God with the rainbow on his head. God's promises are sure.

There is a brighter day coming. We should never be as those who have no hope. Father, thank you for the privilege of studying these things in your Word.

We pray that God, the Holy Spirit, will give us understanding and insight into them. May we find in these portions of your Word principles for application day by day. We ask it in Jesus' name.

Amen.