

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

chapters 8 and 9

Lesson 12

God's judgments are the just recompense for the wickedness of sin. Sin must be judged for creation to be spared from utter destruction. God, in His mercy, sent Jesus to pay the penalty for our sin and suffer the judgment for our iniquity. What happens, though, to those who stubbornly refuse the gift of mercy that God offers? They must suffer the judgment and consequences of sin. Even in judgment God is merciful, seeking not man's harm, but man's repentance.

OBSERVATION: Read Revelation 8

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (page 7 of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. You may find it difficult to identify whether a word is speaking of the *Father* or *Jesus*. For the purposes of this study, mark the words both ways.

Key Words: *God* and *Jesus* (the One who opened the seventh seal)

3. From the seventh seal, seven *trumpets sounded*. Four of the seven trumpets *sounded* in Revelation 8. Circle the number of each *trumpet* with a different color and underline what occurs after the *trumpet sounded* (in that same color).
4. Using the text of Revelation 8, draw (on a separate sheet of paper) what you think John *saw*.
 - a. What did you observe by drawing the descriptions in chapter 8, that you had not noticed before drawing the chapter?

Read Revelation 8:1-6

1. What happened when the Lamb *opened the seventh seal*? Revelation 8:1
 - a. Take a moment to ponder Habakkuk 2:20 and Zechariah 2:13. Share your thoughts.
 - b. What do you suppose is the reason for this *silence*?
2. According to Revelation 8:2, what did John see?
3. Where did the *angel* with the *golden censer* stand? Revelation 8:3a
 - a. What was the *angel given*? Revelation 8:3b
 - b. Describe what was to be done with this *incense*. Revelation 8:3c
4. Sense the power and glory of prayer in Revelation 8:4. Share your thoughts.
5. After these events, what did the *angel* do with the *censer*? Revelation 8:5a
 - a. What took place as a result? Revelation 8:5b
 - b. Use Luke 18:7-8a and Revelation 6:9-10 to comment on the link between the *prayers of the saints* and the judgment of God.
 - 1.) How will these verses about prayer help you to encourage someone to pray?

Read Revelation 8:7-13

1. Using Revelation 8:7-13, summarize the judgment and cataclysmic effects that followed after each *angel sounded* the trumpet:
 - a. First Trumpet – Revelation 8:7
 - 1.) Comment on the correlation between Revelation 8:7, Psalm 11:6, and Ezekiel 38:22.

b. Second Trumpet – Revelation 8:8-9

1.) Compare this trumpet judgment with Jeremiah 51:25. What do you see?

c. Third Trumpet – Revelation 8:10-11

d. Fourth Trumpet – Revelation 8:12

2. After the *fourth angel sounded*, what did John hear? Revelation 8:13

a. What word did the *angel* say three times?

1.) What could this denote?

b. What was about to happen? Revelation 8:13b

3. Note the progressive severity of each judgment by summarizing and listing them in order from Revelation 8:7-13.

a. How does this progression show the mercy of God?

b. As you consider the severity of God's judgment, why do you suppose He has delayed for so long?

c. Why are you thankful for God's mercy? See Lamentations 3:31-33.

OBSERVATION: Read Revelation 9

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text.

Key Words: *God* and the phrase *did not repent*

3. Two of the three remaining *trumpets sounded* in Revelation 9. Circle the number of each *trumpet* with a different color and underline what occurs after the *trumpet sounded* (in that same color).
4. Using the text of Revelation 9, draw (on a separate sheet of paper) what you think John *saw*.
 - a. What did you observe by drawing the descriptions in chapter 9, that you had not noticed before drawing the chapter?

Read Revelation 9:1-12

1. From Revelation 9:1-3, describe the frightful scene John saw when the *fifth angel sounded*.
 - a. What was *given* to this *star*? Revelation 9:1b
 - b. Who fell from heaven according to Isaiah 14:12 and Luke 10:18?
2. What were the *locusts commanded* not to do? Revelation 9:4
 - a. Connect this command with Revelation 7:2-3. What do you see?
3. What else do we learn about these *locusts* in Revelation 9:5?
4. How will men respond to this *torment*? Revelation 9:6
 - a. What does this communicate about the pain and suffering they will experience?

5. Using Revelation 9:7–10, describe these *locusts*.

6. Who was the *king* of these *locusts*? Revelation 9:11
 - a. The names *Abaddon* and *Apollyon* both mean Destroyer. How does this help to further identify the *angel of the bottomless pit*?
7. According to Revelation 9:12, what is still to come?
8. How do the events in Revelation 9:1–12 affect your attitude concerning the unsaved?

Revelation 9:13-21

1. From where did the *voice* resonate when the *sixth angel* sounded? Revelation 9:13
 - a. Recall from Revelation 8:3b what else was on the *golden altar*. Note your observations.
2. According to Revelation 9:14, what did the *voice* say to the *sixth angel*?
 - a. The *Euphrates River* has often been connected with ancient Babylon and was associated with much evil in the Old Testament. What might this denote in connection with these *four angels*?
3. What do you learn about these *four angels* in Revelation 9:15?
 - a. Note the specifications and boundaries set for the *angels*. What does this convey concerning the judgment of God?
4. Describe the *army* and *horses* in Revelation 9:16–17.
5. Name the *three plagues* that these horses brought upon the earth. Revelation 9:18
 - a. Read Genesis 19:24–28 to note a previous instance of the judgment of God. What do you see?

6. What more do you learn about these *horses* in Revelation 9:19?
7. What was the response from the *rest of mankind* who survived these *plagues*? Revelation 9:20–21
 - a. Consider Romans 1:18–32 and comment on the unrepentant heart of *mankind*.
 - b. Why do you think *mankind did not repent* in spite of the horrific judgments they experienced?
 - c. How do you want to respond when God calls you to repentance? See also Hebrews 4:7b

REVIEW: Read Revelation 8,9

1. In what ways can *silence* be a form of worship?
2. What did you learn about the character of God from your study of these chapters?
3. Ezekiel 33:1-11 speaks of our responsibility to warn others. If you were to apply this mandate to warn others, what truths from Revelation 8 and 9 would you use?

*because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods,
that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands.
Therefore My wrath will be poured out on this place, and not be quenched.'*
- 2 Chronicles 34:25

Observation Worksheet

Revelation 8:1-13

¹ When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

² And I saw the seven *angels* who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. ³ Then another *angel*, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. ⁴ And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the *angel's* hand. ⁵ Then the *angel* took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw *it* to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. ⁶ So the seven *angels* who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. ⁷ The first *angel* sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. ⁸ Then the second *angel* sounded: And *something* like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. ⁹ And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. ¹⁰ Then the third *angel* sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. ¹¹ The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter. ¹² Then the fourth *angel* sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night. ¹³ And I looked, and I heard an *angel* flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three *angels* who are about to sound!"

Revelation 9:1-21

¹ Then the fifth *angel* sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. ² And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. ³ Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴ They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵ And they were not given *authority* to kill them, but to torment them *for* five months. Their torment *was* like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. ⁶ In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. ⁷ The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces *were* like the faces of men. ⁸ They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' *teeth*. ⁹ And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings *was* like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. ¹⁰ They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power *was* to hurt men five months. ¹¹ And they had as king over them the *angel* of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew *is* Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. ¹² One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things. ¹³ Then the sixth *angel* sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, ¹⁴ saying to the sixth *angel* who had the trumpet, "Release the four *angels* who are bound at the great river Euphrates." ¹⁵ So the four *angels*, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. ¹⁶ Now the number of the army of the horsemen *was* two hundred million; I heard the number of them. ¹⁷ 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, smoke, and brimstone. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.