

The Sixth Trumpet *Revelation 9:12-21*

“The fifth and sixth seals (sic.) [trumpets]—the locust plague torturing the nations and the demonic horseman killing them—are closely intertwined. The entire desire of the fallen angels is to torture and kill all who are made in the image of God. Yet the great sadness here is that depraved humanity is so ensnared and deceived that they fail to realize this truth and rush after sin recklessly. The unsaved are shown to be controlled by their own depravity. These horrible events will prove to the nations beyond a shadow of a doubt that God is supreme, that the demonic forces hate them, and that God is giving them a final chance to repent. Yet they not only reject God’s offer but prefer to worship the very demons who have so mistreated them and to practice the very magic arts that God has just shown to be powerless. Thus we see once more the theodicy of the book, justifying the redemptive love of God and the justice of his judgments... The great white throne judgment and the lake of fire (20:11-15) are the only proper responses in light of overwhelming depravity.” Osborne

Theodicy – A vindication of God's goodness and justice in the face of the existence of evil.

- I. When we study the spiritual realm of evil, we study something that exists yet know little about concerning the demonic forces behind it. Evil, Satan, demons are a reality and not some fictitious thing that man has made up to scare or entertain us. Believers know that the spiritual forces of evil exist. We see its influence and sense its existence in many ways. That is why God tells us to have nothing to do with it. It is a stark warning of evil’s power and influence, which the Lord wants to protect us from. The reason we are warned against it is so that the demonic forces don’t defile us in ways that could harm our relationship with Christ. *For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:13-14).*

Lev. 20:6

Luke 10:20

Eph. 4:22-23

Rev. 1:3

Lev. 19:31 *“Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them, I am the Lord your God.*

- II. The sounding of the sixth trumpet brings forth a more severe demonic attack on unrepentant mankind. Like the fifth trumpet judgment, God will once again unleash demons to show man the true nature of their existence. He will use the rebellious heart of the demonic forces of evil against the rebellious heart of wicked man to show man that defiance toward Him carries with it the costly price of pain, suffering and condemnation; *For the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).*



Rev. 9:13-19
 Ps. 37:12-13
 Neh. 9:5
 Lev. 22:32
 Malachi 4:1-2

Perhaps the safest interpretation is to see this as a literal 200 million strong army, but a demonic army invading earth. This continues the idea of the demonic army like locusts described earlier in the chapter. Guzik

The figurative language used to describe this army's horses suggests that this is a supernatural rather than human force, as does the fact that it is commanded by the four newly released demons. MacArthur

- III. God's purpose in allowing for the tremendous suffering the demons bring upon the world is to get man to hate evil, repent of their godless ways and turn to him for forgiveness and salvation. Jeremiah 17:9 tells us that *the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?* If anything, man's refusal to repent tells us that those who are made in the image of God are not victims of their sin nature or Satan's influence. Instead, their refusal to repent is a choice, and the consequence of how they choose is on them and them alone.

Rev. 9:20-21
 John 3:19-20
 Rom. 8:5-8
 Gal. 5:19-21

שוב shûwb = repent, to turn away (face), turn toward

μετάνοια, μετανοίας, ἡ (μετανοέω), repent, a change of mind: as it appears in one who repents of a purpose he has formed or of something he has done, Acts 2:38

Gal. 5:19-21 *19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*