

Revelation Lesson 103
The Sixth Trumpet & 2nd Woe – Part III: The Army's Deadly Power & Effect

Revelation 9:18-21 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. 19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails *were* like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. 20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: 21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

In our last lesson we noted the “form” or shape or likeness that the demonic army looked like. Tonight we will observe their deadly power and the effect it has upon the people of the Earth.

By these three – This statement refers back to the ending of verse 17: “fire and smoke and brimstone.” We know what fire and smoke are and remember that brimstone is sulfur.

was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. - We have already noted this, in that 1/3 of the human race left at this point in the Tribulation will be killed by the fire, smoke and brimstone coming from the mouths of the horses; but let us quickly review this: In Lesson 101 I said that: “in Revelation Lesson 80 – where we covered the 4th Seal Judgment and the Destroyer, the angel of death – we guesstimated that a casualty list might look-897 Million (Dead) Est. from Demonic attacks leaving 1,792,133,334 (1.7 Billion) (Left); if we now remove 1/3 or 33% then we have a casualty list of approximately 591,404,000 million!! That would leave about 1.2 billion people left on the earth!!!

For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails *were* like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. - Again, these demonic horses have power in two places: their mouths and their tails. The mouth remember is likened to that of a lion's (due to the previously stated lion's heads) and then we have a description of the tails being likened unto serpents that ALSO have heads! So the twin attacks coming from the front and rear of these horses are deadly and costly to 1/3 of the human race.

And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues – Tim LaHaye says: “We can assume from this verse that those killed by the evil spirits will be people who have received the mark of the beast during the Tribulation period.” Well, that is assumption as he said – notice again: “...This is not clearly stated; therefore we say it is assumed. However we know that unrepentant people are so killed.” Well, the issue there is that BOTH peoples are unrepentant. We can rule out believers because this judgment is coming upon the lost.

yet repented not of the works of their hands, - The Bible usually refers to the “work” or “works” of mans' hands as that work of crafting Idols. Notice: Deuteronomy 4:28 And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.” which is a direct link to the rest of our text here in Revelation.

that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: - We note here the first of several major sinful epidemics sweeping the world during the Tribulation period. The first of these sins which also we note keep men from Repentance is IDOLATRY. Note our reference in Deuteronomy 4:28 and the reference made here in verse 20 that connected to EVERY idol is A DEMON. Thus an idol is not “merely a statue” worshipped by someone, but rather an idol is something or someone (including yourself) that is put BEFORE the Lord.

Neither repented they of their murders, - Someone has stated (as quoted by Tim LaHaye) that “wherever the influence of the gospel is unknown, human life is cheap.” We see here in this verse that murder will be another epidemic. To me this spells out two things by way of application. I mentioned in the 4th Seal judgment that I thought that there would be a large push to take away citizens' arms during the

Tribulation period. The fact that murders are at that time an everyday occurrence seems to me at least to further point to such a conclusion. Furthermore, I think that we also will see a further abolition of the death penalty (still mandated by the Noahic Covenant) which can help curb such violent crimes. A final note is that with the removal of the Holy Ghost and the disappearing of a Bible-based morality one finds that such terms as "Thou shalt not kill" will be gone from society, thus assisting in the murderous rampage among the peoples of the world.

nor of their sorceries, - The word used here for sorceries in the Greek is PHARMAKIA. It means the general illicit use of drugs (same application as today) and the use of drugs to cast spells. Turn over to Galatians 5:20 "Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies," and we find the word used again, but this time it is translated as "witchcraft. See the link? ALL heathen religions in some way or another have used drugs in ceremonies or rituals.

Furthermore, that Greek word as you probably have already guessed IS where we get our word PHARMACY from. Folks there ARE times when we NEED some medications but America is a DRUG using society! Face it, many people have turned to chemicals as a way of life. Last year in 2015 the Pharmaceuticals reported that Americans spent 374 BILLION Dollars on medical drugs alone! But that's not where drugs start or stop. Many may have started using drugs out of curiosity or experimentation or escapement but after a period of time they find themselves enjoying the experience. The drug is making them feel the way they want to feel! Now, they're trapped! There's no use trying to "con" anyone. Drugs do make people feel good and provide a means of escape. However, that good feeling and escapement is only temporary. It doesn't last. No matter how high we get, when it is over we still must come down to the real life with its real problems. Running from a problem never solved it. We may prolong it or make it worse, it won't go away.

You may have reached that lonely time in your life when you feel empty, useless, unloved, unwanted and unnecessary. So, what are you going to do about it? Bury your head in the sand and hope the feeling will disappear, try an artificial filler such as drugs, or stand on your own two feet and deal with things realistically. Everyone gets that vacant feeling at some time in his or her life. You are not the only one to go through this. The only difference is that some people know where to turn for help. They manage without that artificial filler provided by drugs, You must learn that solutions to any of life's problems do not come from the "far-out" world of chemicals. The answer can come through a four letter word that isn't spelled D-R-U-G , but is spelled L-O-V-E. It is through God's love that people like yourself have come to grips with their problems. They've learned that it's the "greatest thing in the world to be a Christian", because in Jesus you and I can find the love, care, concern and understanding necessary to fulfill our human needs.

Look at the potential physical and psychological danger that drugs present to the abuser. The physically addicting drugs deteriorate the body and overdose can result in respiratory failure and death. Psychologically, drugs can cause us to lose all sense of control. We switch our entire dependence and reason for living to the chemical. The Bible teaches in I Corinthians 6:19-20 that God has given us our bodies; our bodies belong to Him. We are also told in Romans 12:1 that we are to present our bodies a living sacrifice to God". Can we do this and be drug dependent?

Let's put the blame where it really belongs. What we are actually talking about is a PEOPLE problem, not a drug problem. People make the drug problem what it is by letting the drug gain control of their lives, thus, they lose control and are unable to face reality with these artificial fillers to bridge the gap.

Did you know that there are two, what we would call drug dealers, in the Bible?" Elymas and Simon found in Acts 13:6 and Acts 8:9. These sorcerers or magicians, on the lowest level were 'imposters' (2 Tim. 3:13) who played their tricks as do circus magicians today. Between these were the sorcerers, enchanters, and charmers who could cast spells and knew how to use herbs, potions, and drugs." W. E. Vine says, "In sorcery, the use of drugs, whether simple or potent, was generally accompanied by incantations and appeals to occult powers, with the provision of various charms, amulets, etc., professedly designed to keep the applicant or patient from the attention and power of demons, but actually to impress the applicant with the mysterious resources and powers of the sorcerer." So like a witch that stirs her pot of secret brewing drugging herbs, who then takes a small bottle of the potion and gives it to someone, so too with Elymas and Simon. The witch was a drug dealer. Simon would give hallucinogen drugs like "THC" (cannabis) "Psylocibin" or "Cybelcyblin" (magic mushroom) "Cocaine", "Heroin" (poppy plant) to someone, wait a few

minutes then as the drug starts to set in, start waving his hands around giving the impression that HIS POWER is causing all the pink elephants to fly.

Remember that Jesus was offered drugs and refused on the cross in Matt 27:34. The Jerome Bible commentary says at Mt 27:34: "It was the practice of Jewish women to offer a strong narcotic drink to men condemned to execution; Jesus refused this." yet Matthew Henry comments that : "By the drink they provided for him before he was nailed to the cross, v. 34. It was usual to have a cup of spiced wine for those to drink of, that were to be put to death, according to Solomon's direction (Prov. 31:6, 7), *Give strong drink to him that is ready to perish*" but it is Lensky that says that "This was not an evidence of mercy on the part of the executioners; it was quite the opposite, for it was intended to make their labor of crucifying easier. A man who had been heavily doped with this drink could be easily handled. After one taste of this Jesus refused to drink more of this stupefying drink, and the imperfect [Greek] reads as though he was repeatedly urged to drink and as repeatedly refused. He intended to go through the final ordeal with a perfectly clear mind; he intended to endure all without avoiding a single agony."

Not only do Illicit drugs destroy the body and are condemned: 1 Cor 3:16; 6:19. They are condemned because its fruit is rotten. Matthew 7:17. Frequent drug users are losers with messed up lives constantly shooting themselves in the foot. Eventual loss of family, wealth, jobs, friends and life itself. Drug users are associated with biker gangs, going to bars, immoral sexual activity, illegal activity. Successful people do not use drugs. Take a look at the people who use drugs and line them up with people who do not... big difference! Look at the lives of 5 people you know who use drugs. Generally they have many chums, but few close friends, high rate of changing jobs and are often unemployed, are absentee parents who party all night while their teens are left home unsupervised, are irrational in their logic and thinking pattern being plagued with poor judgement. They have many sexual partners, are often unfaithful to their spouses and are violent and irrational with their children. They tend to be selfish and unable to exercise self control in any area of their lives. When confronted with such facts, they simply deny the truth and accuse you of being crazy, when in fact they are the crazy ones.

Furthermore, we should not use Drugs for they are outrightly condemned in the Bible: Gal 5:20. (Again I'm not referring to something like Blood Pressure medicine, or something of that nature – we are looking at the drugs that people use for escapism or recreation etc.) LOOK AT CHART!

If we look at our chart we see one to 7 beers, Now the darker line is the line of drunkenness and the law is 2 beers in one hour exceeds .08. Since drunkenness from alcohol is condemned in the Bible (Gal 5:21) we offer the following: Society has determined that drunkenness is .08 blood alcohol content, compare the same kind of impairment by various drugs. If two beers is .08, what about a single joint, a hit of ecstasy, a single mushroom, a single snort of coke. While you can drink one beer and not be DRUNK, one "dose" (the smallest portion) of a drug puts you way over the impairment of .08.

The notes I am about to read were written by a medical doctor who is also affiliated with the College of Medicine with one of our better known universities.

You hear people say, "Legalize Pot! Marijuana is not an addicting drug. Pot does not lead to hard drugs." On campuses, from students, from other adults these statements are heard. But are they true? Does marijuana lead to other drugs? Can a person enjoy marijuana safely with no fear of escalation to more harmful drugs? These questions about marijuana cannot be answered without some insight into the nature of the drug and of the people who use it. It is not uncommon to hear the following defense of marijuana: that it is not addicting, that it does not produce the tolerance, the need for increasing amounts of the drug to produce the same effect, that it is less harmful to the body than a tobacco cigarette. These statements ignore a very important subject - the person using the drug. Both these factors - the drug and the user must be explored to find out if marijuana leads to other drugs.

Is the drug itself harmful? Well, until recently, even scientists knew of only a few harmful effects of the drug. It produced irritation of the nose, the eyes and the lungs; it produced a state of intoxication similar, but not identical with alcohol; people on marijuana lose depth perception and critical judgment **earlier** than those using alcohol. Marijuana does not produce psychological dependence, nor does tolerance develop. Scientists are quick to state that very little is known about the drug. Recently THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, has been isolated and this has enabled scientists to learn more about this drug. The information from many centers studying marijuana indicates that the drug is not as harmless as was assumed. At the Texas Research Institute for Mental Sciences at Houston, experiments have shown that

large doses of THC in laboratory animals have an effect very similar to LSD. So the apparent difference in danger between these two drugs would therefore seem to be only the difference in the amount commonly taken. Other experiments have shown that THC, when given to a pregnant monkey, can be found in the blood of the unborn baby. That is to say that the placenta, normally a barrier between the mother and the baby, will not stop the passage of THC in the blood stream of the offspring.

In addition to the effects of a physical nature, there are increasing reports of disturbed behavior, mental illness, in people using marijuana. Although these behavior changes usually follow prolonged use, there are cases on record of acute psychosis, or insanity, produced by very limited exposure to marijuana. As more research is done, further harmful effects of this drug may be discovered.

But what about the other side of the coin, the person who uses marijuana. It is theoretically possible for a person to smoke marijuana under laboratory conditions and not be inclined to follow this with other drugs. But this is not the way that marijuana is used. In an atmosphere of furtive experimentation, the marijuana is passed from person to person, each competing with the other for a larger effect, each pressuring the other to "get higher", each trying to be bolder than the other. Peer group pressure, the desire for new experiences, the desire to out-perform ones associates - all these exert the most powerful influences on the user of marijuana to go on to stronger drugs.

It is also important to consider that possessing and using marijuana is a crime, in most states a felony. One is, therefore, in violation of the law to use the drug. It is a known fact that people who are supplying marijuana are usually suppliers of other drugs: amphetamines, LSD, heroin. Marijuana has been called the door into the drug sub-culture. Even though psychological dependence does not develop to marijuana, a very strong psychological dependence on the drug commonly develops. The nature of this is uncertain, perhaps influenced by peer group pressure, perhaps an indication of personality instability in the person who would use marijuana, but it is probably related to the tendency of some young people to resort to the use of drugs to solve or escape their problems. Adolescence is a time of turmoil and of personality development in any child. Since the use of drugs creates problems for the user, the use of drugs as a problem-solving technique greatly increases the likelihood of habitual use and of escalation.

Finally, the factor of negative value scales causes many young users of marijuana to go on up the ladder to other drugs. Many of the young people in the drug abuse community subscribe to a set of values which places a premium on self-destruction. When a young person in using marijuana surrounds himself with people whose value judgments are warped to this degree, the chances are very great that these negative values will result in his moving up to heroin, amphetamines, or other drugs.

One final note, a common slang term for marijuana is Weed. Last time I checked Genesis God did not make the weeds, briars or brambles. The earth brought them forth no doubt due to the force of Satan and because of SIN.

nor of their fornication, - Another major sinful epidemic of the Tribulation will be that of Fornication. Fornication is illicit sexual activity outside marriage (or adultery within marriage).

nor of their thefts. - Here we find that crime is a rampant problem at that time. We are told concerning theft in the New Testament: Ephesians 4:28 "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth." Notice the Bible is directing us to work (not steal) in order to buy whatever we want? To give to a neighbour so he can get whatever he wants? No, but that we might be able to HELP supply another's needs. Notice that is the saved, not the Government.