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INTRODUCTION

1. Rv 9:13-19 Tolkien's Dark Riders? Final 3 trmpts - *woe!*
2. Rv 9:20-21 sober: men *did not repent* [2x] - 9:4

1st: The Sin of Idolatry

1. Rv 9:20 idolatry:
 - i. worship of creation - Dt 4:15-19
 - ii. *works of their hands* [Hab 2:18-19; see Ps 115:4-8; 135:15-18; Hos 4-6; 13:3; Jer 10:3-5,9, 14; Isa 40:18-20; 44:9-20] dead idols kill worshippers
 - iii. *worship demons* - 1C 10:19-20 [Dt 32:16-17] - locust & horses of heresy
2. Differentiate the Creator from all other creatures: angels/men/animals/earth.

2nd: Idolatrous Sinners - Rev 9:20

1. Who is in view? plagued [v18] but not penitent
 - i. Belshazzar: Dan 5:4,23
 - ii. Impenitent in *plagues* - Egyptian hardness in the face of wrath & death.
2. v20 - material w/ wh/ men make idols & in wh/ they devote lives. Tech achievements: thankful but tower of Babel is not Kingdom of God.

3rd: Sinful Idolaters - Rev 9:21

1. *not repent* - repeated. Sins - violation of 1st & 2nd tables of God's Law.
2. Men image their gods. Ps 115:1-8; [Ps 135:18]. Does devotion to spiritually dead idols deaden idolaters? Does devotion to deceptive docts deceive idolaters & encourage them to be deceptive?
3. Idolatry is root sin & produces fruit: sins. Col 3:5. Rm 1
 - i. v18ff indicts sin of idolatry - v25
 - ii. Idolatry entails sexual sin; promiscuity & perversion [v24-27]: why sex? Gn 1:27 image of God is male & female.
 - iii. False gods are imaged in distorted sexuality.
 - iv. Idolatry -> v28-32 callous conscience - *know ordinance of God*
 - v. Sequence: violate Ist & IInd commands -> violate 1st & 2nd tables of Law

4. Rv 9:21 - *murders*: killing - 6th trmpt - war & death [VIth].
 - i. *sorceries* [pharmakon]: magic potions, spiritism
 - ii. *immorality* [porneia]: fornication - sexual sin. VIIth
 - iii. *thefts* - VIIIth

4th: Impenitent Idolaters - Rev 9:20-21

1. *did not repent* - 2x. refuse to turn from idols & turn to God. 1Th 1:9
 - i. negative: stop sin & positive: start obedience - precisely at point of sin
 - ii. conversion = renunciation of idolatry & devotion to true G - LBC 15:3
2. Men outside of Christ - Rv 21:8; Rv 22:15. Rm 1 - taproot sin is idolatry

Applic #1: Our Posture, Prayers, and Pleas For Idolaters

1. Rm 1:15 - Rm 10:1 [Facing a Task Unfinished: Frank Houghton d. 1972]

[1] "Facing a task unfinished That drives us to our knees A need that, undiminished Rebukes our slothful ease We, who rejoice to know Thee Renew before Thy throne The solemn pledge we owe Thee To go and make Thee known	2] Where other lords beside Thee Hold their unhindered sway Where forces that defied Thee Defy Thee still today With none to heed their crying For life, and love, and light Unnumbered souls are dying And pass into the night
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[3] We bear the torch that flaming Fell from the hands of those Who gave their lives proclaiming	[4] O Father who sustained them O Spirit who inspired Saviour whose love constrained them
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That Jesus died and rose Ours is the same commission The same glad message ours Fired by the same ambition To thee we yield our powers	To toil with zeal untired From cowardice defend us From lethargy awake! Forth on Thine errands send us To labour for Thy sake
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2. Worship & witness!

Applic #2: We Are Warned Against Apostasy

1. Trmpts: warnings or wrath? To whom is Rev written? Church - *repent* 5x in Rv 2-3. Earth-dwellers - 9:20-21; 16:8-11 4th & 5th bowls. Repent-

IMPENITENT IDOLATERS - Rev 9:20-21

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ers are found w/i the church. Those outside church seen as impenitent idolaters.

2. We are warns against idolatry: 1C 5:10-11; chpts 8-10; Eph 5:5; Col 3:5; 1Pt 4:3; Gal 5:19-21; *Little children, guard yourselves from idols* [1Jn 5:21].

3. Jesus: many will fall away [Mat 24:10-11]; *the apostasy* [2Th 2:3ff]

4. Rv 9:20-21 warn Rocky & Thorny soiled hearers

5. How to tell is you're being enticed to put smthg/smone who is not God in the place of God? If, in order to get that smthg/smone, you must break God's Law. See locust & war-horse behind that misdirected desire.

6. Will we hear this warning? Lk 8:10 - *he who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches* - AMEN