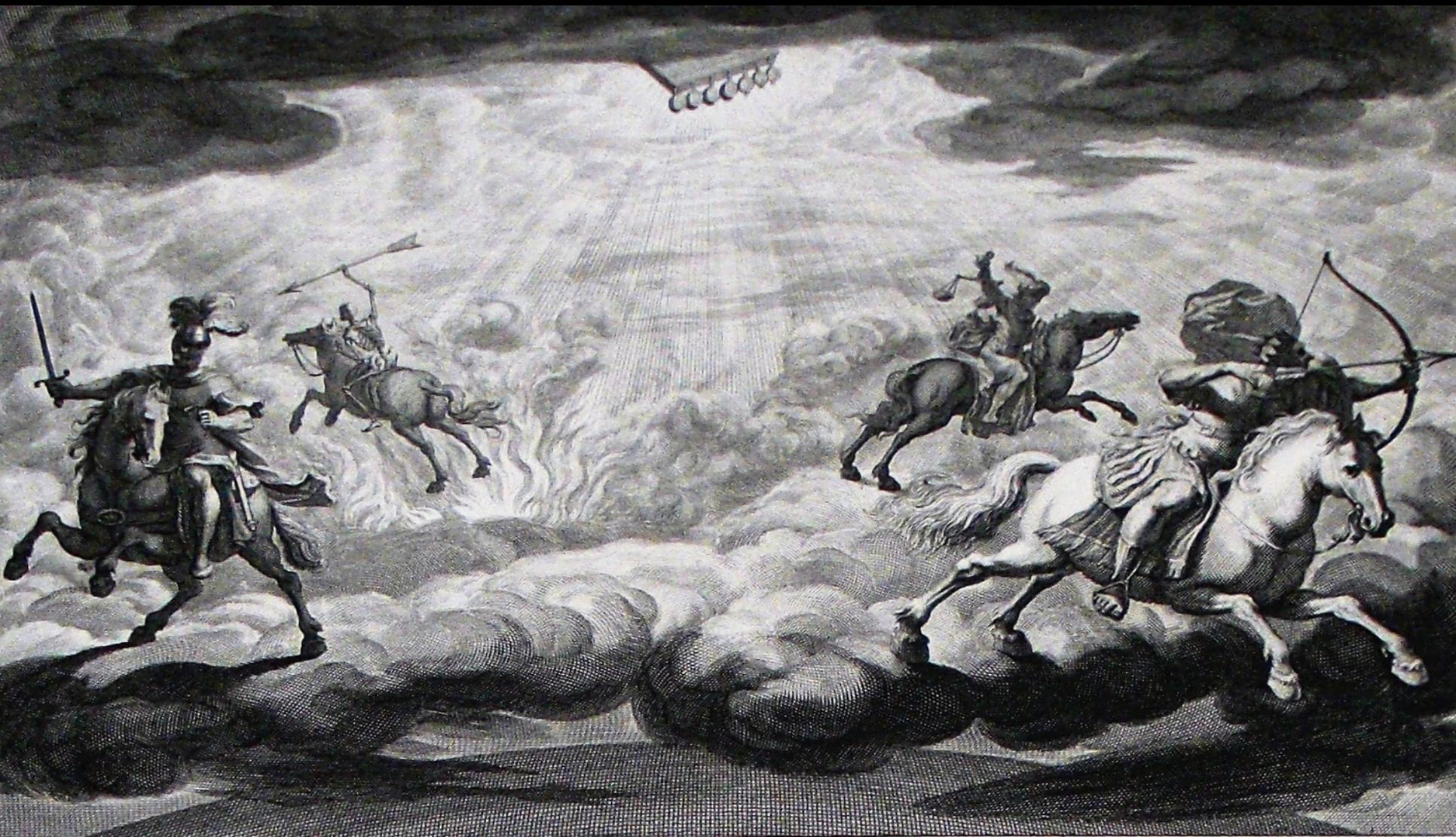
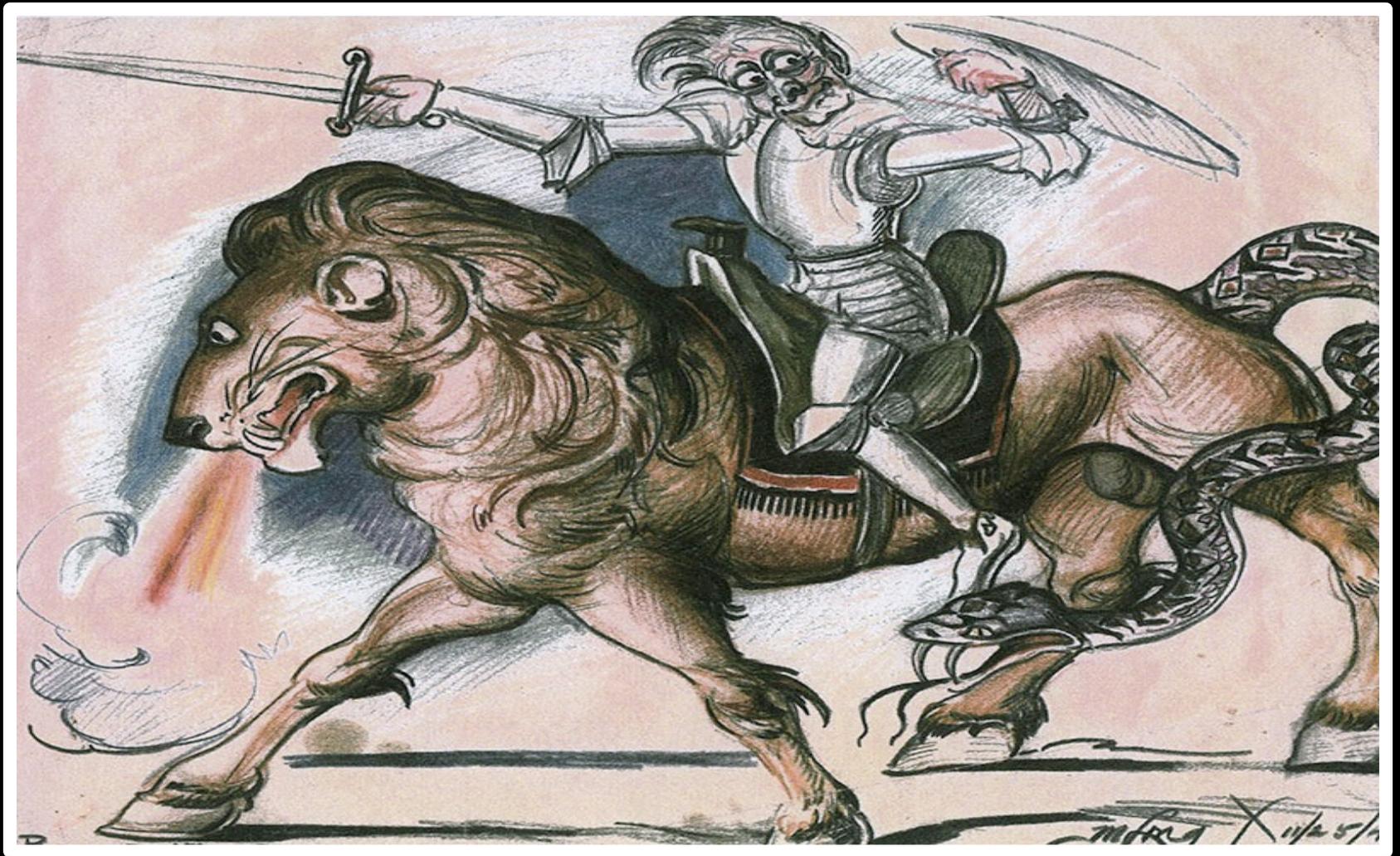


# The Book of Revelation

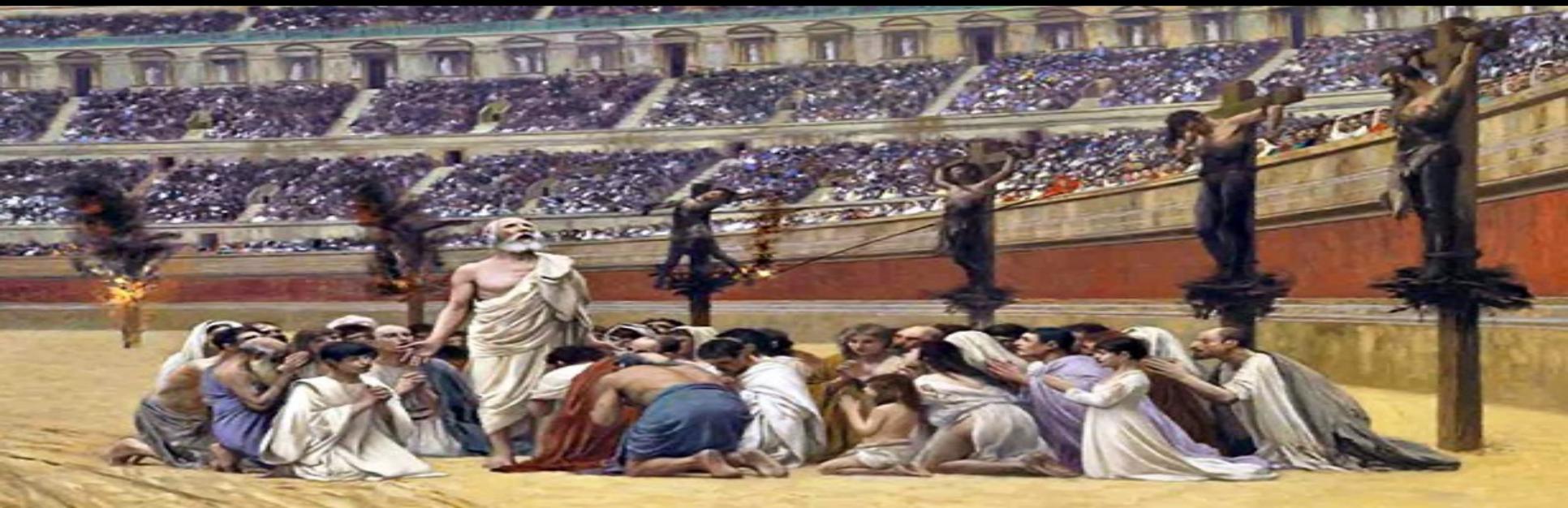




**6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet/2<sup>nd</sup> Woe (9:13-21)**

# A Voice from the Altar (9:13)

- A voice from the altar answers the prayers of those suffering for their testimony for Christ (cf. 8:3-5).
- The altar was a place of death and also sanctuary. The four horns again show totality over the earth symbolically. Horns also symbolize power.



# 4 Angels/200 Million Soldiers (9:14-16)

- Four angels – Contrast 7:1. Makes us think of the four horsemen earlier, except now, the angels who were held back transform into a jaw-dropping 200 million soldier army (cf. Ps. 68:17; Dan. 7:10) riding upon horse-lion-serpent creatures appointed to destroy the adversary.
- Why 200 million? To scare the daylights out of the enemy and encourage faithfulness in His people (cf. Hab. 1:5-11). Are they good or evil? Immaterial to the message.
- All this occurs at the exact appointed time in God's plan (cf. Acts 1:7).



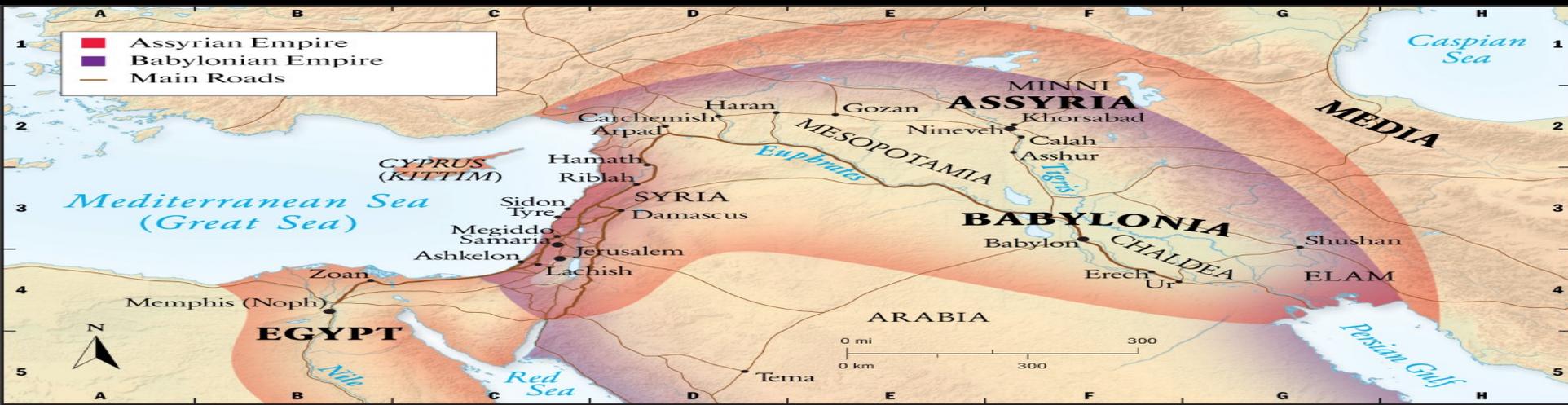
# 4 Angels/200 Million Soldiers (9:14-16)

- The force uses the objects of hell (fire, brimstone, smoke) to destroy. Literalists try to connect this to nuclear war, but nuclear war did not occur with the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah...
- If this force was literal, it would be a mile wide and 85 miles long. Literalists who try to identify this sort of imagery with the Battle of Armageddon cannot fit this force into the valley of Jezreel.



# At the Euphrates River (9:14-16)

- The Euphrates being crossed symbolizes the unleashing of the hounds of war; Assyria, Babylon, etc. all crossed the Euphrates to come and destroy (cf. Isa. 7:20; 8:7-8; Jer. 46:6-10). This was also a fitting image because the Euphrates was the E border of the Roman Empire; beyond this were the Parthians, formidable enemies of Rome (cf. 16:12). Coffman, 203, 208-209 suggests Euphrates points back to man's origin & fall. The force finds it's origin in mankind's rebellion against God.
- God has repeatedly used the forces of wickedness to accomplish His purposes AND He will also hold them accountable (e.g., Isa. 10:6f, 25f; Hab. 1:6-11; Isa. 44:27-45:7; Jer. 51:11, 28).
- Compare Michael and the angels battling against the forces of wickedness in Daniel 10 and Daniel standing on the banks of the Tigris River, a sister river to the Euphrates.



# The Force Described (9:17-19)

- The formidable force draws on a compilation of Sodom of Gomorrah (Gen. 19), Joel 2:1-17, and other OT imagery.
- Intensity has grown since the seals, and as the trumpets have blown. People are now dying by the boatload. Each telling of the destruction tends to become more detailed, more intense. The bowls of wrath will be the pinnacle.
- Plague imagery brings us back to Exodus in which the plagues indicated warning and judgment (Ex. 6:6; 12:12).
- *“the trumpets portray a culture collapsing on itself. They represent the demise of the foundational institutions of society, such as government, family, and commerce. The invasions from insects and armies, coming like organized military forces, spread hurt and death everywhere. They represent the heavy toll that violence exacts upon society. Whether internal or external, this collapse finds its main cause in man’s rejection of God’s value system. Men bring this killing curse upon themselves.”* (Harkrider, 111)

# The State of the Disunion (9:20-21)

- *“It is because of their continued stubbornness that pressure on the wicked is progressively increased.”* (Metzger, 66)
- Sadly, the more God punishes, the harder and more recalcitrant some become (cf. Isa. 1:4-20; Ezek. 8). Even still, God’s mercy is abundant (2Pet. 3:9).
- Worship demons = idolatry (cf. Deut. 32:17; Pss. 96:5; 106:36-37; 1Cor. 10:20; Rom. 1:22f, 25). Remember, the Romans were trying to force Christians to worship pagan gods and the Emperors. Idols are worthless and impotent (cf. Deut. 4:28; Ps. 115:4-8; 135:15-18; Isa. 44:12-20; Dan. 5:23).
- *“Up to this point in Revelation, Rome and the empire have not been specifically introduced. The visions have been general, dealing with principles that set forth God’s care for His chosen saints throughout history and His assurance of judgment against the rebellious and sinful world. God has been revealing that wickedness is self-destructive”* (Hailey, 233).
- We will have another interlude (10:1-11:14) before the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet is sounded, which will release the 7 bowls of wrath.

# The Effect of Sin in People Who Refuse to Repent

*“They see daily what it does to others (and even to themselves), in such things as drug addiction, alcoholism, broken homes, shattered lives, imprisonment, and even capital punishment, and yet they continue to hug this deadly serpent to their breasts, receiving into their hearts and minds a constant flow of its poisonous venom. Although both nature and revelation teach them that they must reap what they sow (Gal. 6:7-8), they delude themselves into thinking that they can somehow sow to the flesh and reap of the Spirit – that they can sin without being judged as sinners. How can the devil so blind the eyes of rational beings? Why will they not see that God has inalterably decreed that all must repent or perish (Lk. 13:3, 5), that they must turn to God or suffer the torment that results from sin? One simply cannot live a life of sin and die the death of the righteous. And before one can stand righteous before God he must have the cancer of sin removed from his soul by the blood of the Lamb. And before that can be done he must repent (or turn) from his sinful ways and thrust himself, by absolute submission to the Lord’s divine plan, upon the grace and mercy of the God who made him.” (Winters, Howard. Commentary on Revelation. Greenville, S.C.: Carolina Christian, 1989, 119)*

# The Effect of Sin in People Who Refuse to Repent

*“This is really scary—they repented not! There’s nothing so scary as one so soaked in sin and rebellion that he can’t quit rebelling. Nothing so fearful as to see men who have been blinded by God, still seeking the door to commit iniquity as did the people of Sodom. Such hardness of heart is awe-inspiring. To see a whipped opponent keep on coming back at you makes the mind waver—can he be beaten? This would forewarn the saints that their opponents were bent on evil. It would scare them that the enemy is so hard to stop.” (McGuiggan, 119)*

# The Overall Message

*“What have we seen then in chapter 9? We have seen two of the instruments of punishment used by the Lord. Internal corruption and external invasion. These have been used against the oppressor—those who have not the name of the Father written on their foreheads. They were used against him to call him to repentance, but they didn’t accomplish their task. How are they to be stopped? That’s be the question in the minds of the awe-stricken saints.”*

(Jim McGuigan, 139)



**In the end;  
GOD WINS**