

Revelation 9: 13-21; "The Sounding of the Sixth Trumpet" (Part 2),
Sermon # 75 in the series - "The Faithful and True Witness",
Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on October 14th, 2007,
in the Afternoon Worship Service.

As we look at the 5th and the 6th Trumpets here in Chapter 9 we are seeing the coterminous rise of the two great Antichristian powers of the Papacy in the Western Roman Empire and Mohammedanism in the Eastern Roman Empire; powers which have plagued the Church of Jesus Christ all the way from 606 A.D. until the present time. It took one hundred and fifty years for them to become established spiritually and politically, but once having been established in the East and the Western parts of the Roman Empire, we now know from this book of Revelation, that their influence has continued down to this very day and will for a little longer. The prophecies of the book of Revelation give to us times for these spiritual plagues, times which have to be endured by Christ's Church; times of woe which do affect the advance of Christ's kingdom over many generations. But we know from this book that Christ is not only presently reigning spiritually in heaven and in the hearts of His people; but it appears to me to be the clear teaching of this book, that Christ's Kingdom will eventually come to reign over all the earth in a general spiritual sense, as well. It is these plagues that we are speaking of in relation to the last 3 Trumpets, that are mainly responsible for preventing this spiritual reign of Christ's Church upon the earth. It is very important that you and I come to understand what a tremendous plague that Mohammedanism is to the souls of thousands of people all over this globe. We as Christians must be better equipped to face this false religion that is trying to take over the world in our day. These verses that we are studying this afternoon are giving to us a description of the horsemen of the Mohammedan religion. They are riding to battle against the Kingdom of Christ and hope to prevail. The devil is standing behind them driving them on, but the Lord has ordained these things for His own glory, to prove that the Kingdom of God does not come with observation, with force, or by the promotion of a supposed prophet who is not God's only-begotten Son. Christ's kingdom shall not ultimately be overcome by these forces, even though a third of mankind are deceived and perish through their deception. The third of mankind may refer to a third of those in the Roman Empire who were deceived by these false doctrines, or perhaps it is the cumulative effect of the efforts of these Antichristian forces down through the generations until their defeat. But whichever this is, we know that they are still waging war against the truth of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. So with this in mind, let us think about the description of these great and mighty forces, these two hundred million horsemen under the direct leadership of the 4 angels who are perpetrating this deception. First we will look at those sitting on these horses. Second we will look at the description of the horses themselves. And finally we shall see where their power lies.

1st - Let's look at those sitting on the horses. (Verse 17a)

In verse 17 it says that "those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow." This speaks to us of the colors that these forces fight under, and also of their great defense of themselves as they ride. It is an historical fact that scarlet, blue, and yellow were the colors that were worn into battle by these Mohammedan forces on many occasions in this time period that we are studying. It certainly is true that these "colors" may also represent the fiery, hellish disposition in the hearts of these riders to destroy all of their enemies physically in order to promote their cause spiritually. It is well known in the history of the world that the followers of Mohammed have tried to conquer for Allah and Mohammed, not by the preaching of truth, but by the power of the sword. It is the color of the breastplates that they wear that we are examining. It is the breastplate which protects the heart and it is the heart which must be guarded because from it, flow all the issues of life. The colors of red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow picture well the cause which they espouse and ride for. The hearts of these riders are set on fire by hell. Red is a color which well pictures a fiery zeal. In this case it is a zeal which is so great that it is willing to shed blood over its convictions. This would be good if it is as the cause of the Lord Jesus was, who out of love came to die for sinners. But this zeal of the Mohammedan religion is not a zeal which is related to love of people's souls. It is a zeal has in it a hatred and contempt of what is true according to the Word of God. It is a zeal to destroy the true doctrines of Christ, and to replace them with the false doctrines of Islam. The hyacinth blue represents the sadness of a such a vain cause as theirs, where so much life is taken to try to establish it. It is the sadness of seeing men ride forth to oppress, to force others to believe in such a God as Allah. It is the sadness related to the final deception and disappointment which it no doubt has brought to countless millions of people. The blue part of fire is the coolest part. The Muslim rider coolly calculates his war against the Christian. His zeal for Allah will overcome all feelings of compassion for those who Christian. They are the infidels. The sulfur yellow is portraying to us where the false doctrines of Islam come from, and where they lead to; that is to Hell itself, the place of fire and brimstone. Indeed the King James translates this verse 17 saying that the breastplates were the colors of "fire, and jacinth, and brimstone." Their doctrines which they preach and proclaim are the doctrines of demons, a twisting and a warping of the truth of God Himself, and the doctrine of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. It is this great zeal in a false cause which protects and covers the breast of the horsemen of Islam. This is what gives them their great confidence. But in the Day of Judgment it will utterly fail.

What are some of the main teachings of Islam which are so destructive of men's souls? I want to give you a very short sample view of what they believe so that you can see that the God of Islam is not the true God of Christians and the Bible. According to Ron Rhodes in his pamphlet on Islam, he says that they believe that "Allah is the one true God, and is an absolute unity; he can have no

son and no partner." "To say God could have a son is blasphemous--implying some kind of sexual generation." "Allah is not viewed as 'the Father.'" (Surahs 19: 88-92) You can see from this kind of a statement that Islam's doctrine of God is a heretical doctrine because it denies the Father and the Son. In the Bible in 1st John 2: 22 and 23 it says, "Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ?" "He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son." "Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also." What is the denial that exists in Islam concerning Jesus Christ? They claim that He was only one in a line of great prophets. And Mohammed is greater than Jesus. Theirs is a denial of His full deity of nature, and His full and perfect humanity. They deny that He is God made manifest in the flesh. It is an eternally fatal denial. The assertion of all who are Arian in their belief system is that God is One. They believe in the unity of God. The Christian believes the revealed Word of God which declares that the Father and the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, are one in substance and essence in their Godhead. But they are distinct as Divine Persons in the Trinity of the Godhead. When the Lord Jesus says, "I and the Father are One," it is no less true a statement than "The Father is greater than I." The Father is not greater than the Son in the substance and essence of Divine Nature. In this they are unified and perfectly One God. The Father is greater only in relation to the humanity of Jesus' human nature, that nature which was entirely submissive to the Father. He was submissive to the Father, He became obedient "to the point of death, even the death of the cross." (Philippians 2: 8) The word Islam means, "Submission to the will of Allah." "Members of Islam are called Muslims." (those who submit) But the submission of a Muslim is not a submission to either the God of the Bible or to His Son Jesus Christ. These are not the colors under which the Muslim fights for his religion. There is one true God whose name is Allah. He has absolute unity, "which means that he can have no son or partner, and He is all seeing, all hearing, all knowing, all willing, and all powerful." We can only conclude that the Muslim is actually at war with the True and Living God and His Only-Begotten Son Jesus Christ, and then we can understand why he is also at war with His Church. Theirs is not a Holy warfare because it turns people away from truth, humility and righteousness as defined in the Holy Bible.

Now 2ndly- Let us look at the description of the horses which they ride.
(Verse 17b)

"The heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone." "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." We must notice that it is the horses that the riders ride, which do the great damage to those whom they hurt. A horse is that animal which a person rides upon to get where he going. In battle, it is traditionally the horse that the soldier rides upon to conquer in his cause. You see the Biblical and spiritual example of this, in regard to our Christian cause, portrayed in the person of our Lord Jesus prophetically mentioned in Psalm 45: 3. "Gird your sword on Your

thigh, O Mighty One, with Your glory and Your majesty." "And in Your majesty ride prosperously for the cause of truth, humility, and righteousness." The Muslims believe that these verses refer to Mohammed because of the reference to the sword by which the rider of Psalm 45 conquers with. They fail to understand that this is spiritual prophetic language referring to the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, the Holy Bible, and that this sword proceeds from the mouth of Christ. He "slays" spiritually the men whom he intends to save from their sins with this spiritual sword, not a literal one like Mohammed has instructed his followers to use. He brings them down from the pride of their own understanding and brings them into path of "the cause of Truth, and humility and righteousness." True believers in God will keep God's Holy Law, His commandments found in the Bible, by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. This Mohammed never did. His cause does not lead those who follow him to the True and Living God, or what is right and good and loving at all.

The soldiers of Islam ride spiritual and political "horses" that are very dangerous and destructive to both men's bodies and souls. It says in verse 18 that "a third of mankind" were killed by the fire and the smoke and brimstone which came out of their mouths." In other words, the influence of Islam to destroy the souls of men is so very great that it takes that many people down to eternal death in hell. And with their political warfare they attempt to destroy all who oppose them, especially the bodies of Christ's people the Church, which is Christ's body. But those who do so should understand that God will destroy them. 1 Corinthians 3: 17 says, "Do you not know that you(plural) are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" "If anyone destroys the temple of God(that is, the Church), God will destroy him." "For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are." Muslim fanatics may destroy the body of the Christian and may even reek havoc on the Church, God's Christian people, but they cannot destroy the Christian's soul. Whether the "one third" of mankind refers to that proportion in the Roman Empire or whether it refers to that proportion world-wide down through the centuries, you can see that its warfare to establish its religious beliefs has been very successful. The 200,000,000 horseman are representative of the many soldiers of Islam down through the generations to this present day who are riding the horses of a system of false doctrine which has become the cause of the people of that region of the world where the Eastern part of the Roman Empire used to exist. It is the religion of that region of the World being spread to all the World by the zeal and fervent spirit of its adherents.

The horse that is ridden by Muslims is the Koran, which they believe is their sacred and infallible book of Scriptures. Ron Rhodes tells us in his pamphlet, "The Koran is composed of 114 Surahs (Chapters), arranged in order according to length--the longer chapters first and the shorter ones last." "Many of the Surahs were written during Mohammed's life-time." "The remaining ones were written from memory by followers after his death." "Muslims believe the Koran is an exact copy of the original in heaven." "Hence, it is believed that no translation of the

Koran constitutes Allah's final revelation to Mohammed." "Muslims also believe that many of the prophet's teachings were preserved by the Muslim community, and were eventually compiled and codified in the Hadith. (Tradition) "They do believe that there are four inspired books: The Torah of Moses, the Psalms of David, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the Koran. The Koran contains Allah's final message to humankind, and supercedes all previous revelation. So what we have is a false prophet, one man writing his own book of Scriptures, to destroy and to supplant the true Prophet, Priest, and King, our Lord Jesus Christ which is found in the Bible, which is 66 books written by many different authors inspired by the Holy Spirit and preserved from error. The Koran's fabrications contradict the Bible's Truth at many crucial points.

And Finally- Let us see where their power lies.

Verse 19 says, "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." The picture here is of those of the Mohammedan faith doing damage by what they propagate with their mouths, and then inflicting damage with what comes out of and after their declaring their colors. This is the power of the horses, the cause which they are riding upon. They believe and they will try to convince others that their religious works of devotion to Allah will result in their going to a heaven of their own imagination; a heaven which is a place of fleshly pleasure and many physical delights. Their power is in their mouth; they are preaching that which is false about God. In their serpent-headed tails we find all the example of a Satanic false worship which follows behind what is being proclaimed. The power of Islam is that it is a religion which is one of outward political and social force. It calls everyone around it to come and see its zeal, come and see its devotion to kneel and bow to Allah 5 stated times in the day. Come and see its modesty in covering up their women so that you can only see their eyes, as though that will keep a man from lust. It is not a religion of the heart, as is the Christian faith. It does not deal with sin in the heart, and because of that it cannot save from sin, for all sin proceeds from the heart of man, not from a lack of outward devotion to an impersonal God. All those who believe in Mohammed and the Koran believe that in the matter of salvation there are 2 angels who are appointed to every human being to record and list all of their good deeds and their bad deeds. These recorded deeds will be brought forth at the Day of Judgment and will be the basis for whether a person will end up in heaven or hell. Finding forgiveness is submission to Allah, but this forgiveness does not require any kind of atonement for sin. But as we conclude this sermon let us always remember that the Bible teaches from beginning to end that there must be atonement, there must be blood sacrifice as a payment to God's justice, for our sins. Our God is merciful and compassionate to provide this in His Son. Our submission to God is very imperfect at best. Only Christ's submission and His death, being God and Man, two natures in one Blessed Person, could satisfy the justice of God. And what does the Muslim submit to when He submits to Allah? It is to a God who is impersonal,

a God who is a God of strict justice, but who has not given His Only-Begotten Son Jesus to save the World. This God expects you to submit to Him continually and to fear His wrath, but it all rests upon your continuing to do so in accordance with the Koran. But when you think about which religion is right you must finally come back and look at the love of Jesus Christ, the God-man, who left His home in glory and came to this fallen world of sinners and died as a sacrifice for you, if you will trust in Him. Could Mohammed ever possibly do this? The answer is that he could not and he did not. Come to Christ and you will find One who loves you and has given Himself for you so that you can have eternal life. Follow Mohammed and you will perish in your sins. I leave the choice with you. I know that God is faithful to His Word. Jesus Christ is Lord of all. "And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven and of those under the earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2: 8-11)