



**FAITH PRINCETON SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**REVELATION 9:13-21 Sixth Trumpet**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026**

## **REVELATION 9 Observation Worksheet**

Chapter Theme \_\_\_\_\_

### **The Sixth Trumpet**

**13** Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, **14** one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” **15** And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind. **16** The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. **17** And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: the riders had breastplates the color of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone. **18** A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths. **19** For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm.

20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk;  
21 and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

## *Enduring Word Commentary:* **Revelation 9:13-21**

### **The Sixth Trumpet**

**A. The fifth trumpet brings demonic locusts from the bottomless pit.**

**B. The sixth trumpet: an army of destruction.**

**1. (13) A voice from the altar.**

**Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,**

a. **I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar:** In the tabernacle and temple of Israel, **the golden altar** was the altar of incense, which was a representation of the prayers of God's people.

b. **The four horns of the golden altar:** These stood at each corner of the altar. Atoning blood was applied to the horns. From these **horns**, John heard a **voice**. In this, John recalled a repeated theme: the prayers of God's people play a large role in the end-times drama.

**2. (14-15) The angels and their mission.**

**Saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind.**

a. **Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates:** These four angels have

no *necessary* connection with the four angels of [Revelation 7:1](#). They may be the same **four angels** or they may not be. Whoever they are, they are **prepared for the hour and day and month and year** of the unleashing of this judgment.

i. **Were released:** "Most of Satan's angels are yet free – being the principalities against which we wrestle, but some terrible offenders of high rank have been bound." (Newell)

ii. This assumes these are "bad" angels; they may or may not be, but they probably are evil angels. No matter what, they are servants of the divine purpose.

b. **Were released to kill a third of mankind:** The demonic locusts described earlier in the chapter were restricted to tormenting mankind. But these **four angels** have the authority to kill on a massive scale.

i. These angels have a specific sphere of activity (**a third of mankind**), and are only activated in God's timing. They execute God's will in God's timing.

c. **The great river Euphrates:** These angels were connected with the Euphrates River because the Euphrates was a landmark of ancient Babylon. It was the frontier of Israel's land as fully promised by God ([Genesis 15:17-21](#)). It was also the boundary of the old Roman Empire, which will be revived under the Antichrist.

i. The Euphrates is also associated with the first sin ([Genesis 2:10-14](#)), the first murder ([Genesis 4:16](#)), the first organized revolt against God ([Genesis 11:1-9](#)), the first war confederation ([Genesis 14:1](#)), and the first dictatorship ([Genesis 10:8-10](#)).

### 3. (16-19) Description of the army led by these angels.

**Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and 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. 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.**

a. **The number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million:** Is this number literal or symbolic? “It is possible that the number is not to be taken literally, but simply suggests an army that is impossible to count and is greater than anything mankind has ever seen.” (Hocking)

b. **Breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone:**

These **horsemen** are described in weird, grotesque terms. This is a powerful picture of horror, destruction and demonic association.

c. **The army of the horsemen:** Does this speak of a natural or a supernatural army? Is this an army of men or an army of demons?

i. If this describes a natural army of men, then the weird description may speak of modern, mechanized warfare. It may be John simply describes modern machinery in the only terms he

can, and the result is this weird, grotesque, terrifying account.

ii. But, a human army this size has never been seen. The total size of all armies – on both sides – at the height of the Second World War was only 70 million. In 1965 China claimed to have an army and militia of 200 million, but this claim was doubted by many. Even if such an army was assembled, and marched towards the west, it is hard (but not impossible) to see such an army killing **a third of mankind** (perhaps 2 billion or more).

iii. Therefore, perhaps the safest interpretation is to see this not 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.

### 4. (20-21) The response of man.

**But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.**

a. **But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent:** In general, mankind showed no repentance, despite the presence of some pretty overwhelming signs and wonders.

b. **That they should not worship demons, and idols:** Instead, man continued with his idol worship in a business as usual sort of way. They continued in their worship of **demons**, whether their worship is witting or unwitting.

David Guzik, *Enduring Word Commentary: Revelation*

i. It is amazing to see how quickly things return to what is thought to be normal after some calamity such as an earthquake. We are quick to forget God's lessons, even the lessons that come in judgment.

c. **And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts:** This list of sins is a striking accusation against our present age. Certainly, our modern world is characterized by **murders**, **sorceries** (associated with the taking of drugs), **sexual immorality** and **thefts**.