

STINGS IN THEIR TAIL

REV. 9:10

People like to see a spectacle..they rush to pageant to the publicized movie. But here in Revelation we have the greatest spectacle of them all..the drama of the ages, the struggle between good and evil, between the Church and the world. The players for the Church are God, Christ, the holy angels. and redeemed men. On the side of evil the devil and his angels.

As page after page is turned we catch the noise of the battle and see the struggles of the contending armies. The one through whom we are enabled to see these things is John a prisoner on Patmos. As the VISION opens John sees Christ standing in the midst of the seven candle sticks and He gives to John a message to each of the seven churches:

Then the heavens open and John sees the following:

GREAT THRONE...GIRT WITH A RAINBOW...GUARDED BY SEVEN LAMPS...WHICH ARE THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD....FOUR BEASTS HAVING THE FACE OF A CALF, A LION...A MAN AND AN EAGLE.

A SEVEN SEAL BOOK...NO ONE WORTHY TO OPEN IT. CHRIST OPENS IT.

FIRST SEAL....WHITE HORSE....VICTORIOUS ONE WENT FORTH

SECOND "RED HORSE...WAR

THIRD "BLACK HORSE...FAMINE

FOURTH " ...PALE HORSE DEATH

FIFTH " SOULS OF MARTYRS IN WHITE APPEAR BEFORE GOD

SIXTH " EARTHQUAKE STARS FALLING FROM HEAVEN

SEVENTH " SILENCE FOR HALF AN HOUR.

AFTER THE PAUSE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD SEVEN ANGELS STAND BEFORE GOD.

1. SOUNDS TRUMPET AND HAIL AND BLOOD AND FIRE RAIN DOWN
2. SECOND TRUMPET AND BURNING MT. CAST INTO THE SEA AND SEA BECOMES BLOOD.
3. THIRD SOUNDS AND STAR WORMWOOD FALLS IN THE RIVERS AND WATERS AND THEY BECOME BITTER
4. FOURTH SOUNDS AND THIRD PART OF HEAVEN IS DARKENED
5. FIFTH SOUNDS AND A STAR FALLS FROM HEAVEN WITH A KEY TO THE BOTTOMLESS PIT. SMOKE POURS FORTH AND LOCUSTS LIKE SCORPIONS COME FORTH..WITH HEADS OF GOLD AND WITH STINGS IN THEIR TAILS.

We take this great vision fo Revelation as setting forth the disguise and deceitfulness of sin, sins pleasure for a season, and sins power to hurt and ruin the souls of men.

The scorpions had crowns of gold but stings in their tails.

The disguise of evil is shown:

1. Anti-Christian theories, and systems of government where people are promised "the better life" without regard to different talents....Communism.

Whitaker Chambers ...a communist dupe and tool said that the heart of it was denial of God and placing man at center.

Millions in Korea and China saw golden crowns in the promises Communism made them but they turned out to have a sting in their tail.

Thomas Carlyle hearing men discuss certain theories reminded them that there were those in France who one e enjoyed discussing such theories of Roussau. But the day came when Rousau's second edition came out bound in the skins of those persons.

Crowns of gold and stings in the tail have appeared too frequently in the church. A type of modernism appears under the guise of freedom and brotherhood advocating racial intergration. Such is held up by the Southern Baptist Convention, the Presbyterian Assembly, and ~~then~~ some of the Bishops and some of the higher ups in the WSCS of our church as crowns of gold never realizing the sting it is bound to bring when we take such as political expediency and go against God's plan for racial purity and integrity. THE APPLES OF GOLD THEY THINK WILL COME WILL TURN OUT TO TO BE APPLES OF SODOM.

Pleasures of sin for a season:

Eve and Adam...their dream proved to be "Good Lost And evil obtained."

Balam wanted the gold of Moab that Balak offered him if he would come and curse Israel. He tried to curse them but under inspiration blessed them. Then he tried to get them to curse themselves. He died not the death of the righteous

as he had wished but died in battle fighting with the enemies of Israel. Balak's gold wore a crown of gold but the sting of death was in it.

Joshua declared Jericho out of bounds for Israel but Achan saw the glitter of gold and took it and received the sting for him and family.

Gehazi servant of Elisha heard Elisha refuse the costly gifts offered him by Naaman for healing his leprocy and went and took them himself...and leprosy passed on to him. Crowns of gold...stings in the tail.

Judas Iscariot....

Pleasure of drink...it makes eye sparkle...dumb speak and the poor feel rich but here is the end:"Wine is a mocker, and strong drink is raging and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

Robert Burns had this to say:

But pleasures are like poppies spread
You seize the flower its bloom is shed
Or like the snow fall in the river
A moment white and then melts forever.

It is said of Moses that he choose to suffer the affliction with the people of God rather than to enjoy sin for a season.

The thing about him was that he chose. Choose Christ will you and help win the battle of the good over the evil.

