

TWO HUNDRED MILLION!

*"And the number of the army . . . were two hundred thousand-thousand:
and I heard the number of them" (Revelation 9:16)*

Such sentences have always been in the Bible. Now they are coming into focus. The Bible is never out of date. Dr. S. I. McMillen, the medical doctor who gave us the book, "None of These Diseases," has given us another. It is an exposition on the Revelation called, "Discern These Times." A penetrating study.

Dr. McMillen performs a service when he distinguishes between *Satan's wrath* and *God's wrath*. Something is always forgotten by the sinner. It is this. *Satan loves no one*. It is as much his nature to destroy as it is the nature of Jesus Christ to save.

If Satan loved you, drunkard, he would sober you. If Satan loved this planet, he would institute peace for this planet. He is the Destroyer. *His wrath is described in the Revelation*.

Satan's last offensives – the all-out effort – to either rule or ruin – are a major part of the last book of the Bible. Satan will mobilize every reserve and unloose every weapon.

The conscription will be complete. God and Satan are the antagonists. Keep that fact foremost as you read the Revelation. Both employ willing agencies on earth.

There will be a fire war. These weapons of massive destruction are in the arsenals. The fraction, one-third, is given emphasis by repetition – "and the third part ... was burnt" (Revelation 8:7). In the 50-plus megaton range, 2,500 times greater than what leveled Hiroshima and Nagasaki, there is enough explosive power to equal a train of TNT-loaded boxcars extending from New York to Los Angeles.

Take your Bible and copy this check list (All references are in the Book of Revelation): Chapter 8:

- verse 7 – third part of the trees burnt
- verse 8 – third part of the sea became blood
- verse 9 – third part of the creatures died
- verse 9 – third part of the ships destroyed
- verse 10 – third part of the rivers hit by fire
- verse 11 – third part of the waters poisoned
- verse 12 – third part of the sun darkened
- verse 12 – third part of the moon darkened
- verse 12 – third part of the stars darkened
- verse 12 – third part of the day, it did not shine

Chapter 9:

- verse 15 – slay the third part of men
- verse 18 – third part of men were killed—*This gives you a little idea of hell's wrecking job*

I would read with apprehension, if I were you, the opening lines of chapter nine and verses one and two: "I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit" (Revelation 9:1, 2). That falling star is Satan, himself. *And woe* is pronounced "to the inhabitants of the earth" (Revelation 8:13). Don't discount it, sinner! See what a little bit of hell has already done in your life.

Remember this! Nothing can happen until God releases restraints in which He has placed upon wickedness. Whether you acknowledge and accept it or not – *there is divine restraint*. That is evident in the Book of Job. It is when this divine restraint is removed that you have the Book of Revelation. There you see the real devil

– the sadistic activist.

I know this. When I read John's picture-language, I am amazed at the accuracy. When he talks about an attack, from which "men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them" (Revelation 9:6), and describes features of this attack as "their teeth were as the teeth of lions" (Rev. 9:8) and "they had tails like unto scorpions; and there were stings in their tails" (Revelation 9:10), the preacher of the first century is describing destruction of the; twentieth century. He is describing the look of modern jet fighter-bombers. The great "teeth" that produce the speed and; eat up space and the "sting" that selects and kills, are assembly-line products now multiplying for the final slaughter.

And waiting, waiting for restraint to be released is the biggest army of all time – 200,000,000 – poised at the boundary, the Euphrates!

It's an important boundary in heaven's geography. It was Israel's boundary during Solomon's reign. "For he had dominion over all the region on this side of the river" (1 Kings 4:24).

Now, as you move into the ninth chapter of the Revelation, you see a ravaging horde, poised there, that takes you back in history to Genghis Khan and the Mongols – when East threatened to smother West.

Read the words of Revelation 9:14, "Release the four mighty demons held bound at the River Euphrates" (Living Bible). Some superpower of ungodliness waits this signal. They will kill a third of mankind.

It is a story that has been repeated in our century already. Only hell-motivated minions like Lenin, Stalin, Hitler could order the destruction of millions. It is Satanic possession. It will take place on the greatest scale of all time. It will be a fulfillment of what Peter warned – "the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). In that hour it will be the "roar" of an Eastern army – 200,000,000 strong.

Remember, by this time, earth's population has already been slashed by the deaths of 850 million. Now, a further one-third are marked for destruction – another 850 million. The casualties superimpose the use of modern weapons – nuclear and biological. No army like it has ever invaded before. John says, "I heard the number."

Today, the population of the Orient, exclusive of Russia, is 1.3 billion. This is the only part of the planet that could muster an army of that size. Red China has the potential.

Remember what John says! "I heard the number." It isn't a guess.

Where is this huge army going and with whom is it going to tangle? Daniel gives us a clue. "But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him" ((Daniel 11:44).

It seems to me that it is the gathering of the clans. Every ungodly, destructive force, committed to superimposing the will of Satan on earth, will suddenly drain toward each other – in an hour and place of settlement. The great contestants for leadership within the context of communism – China and Russia – will be caught in this vortex. They will come to the arena at last. All the military hardware will be there.

John says, "Their power of death was not only in their mouths, but in their tails as well" (see Revelation 9:19). He had only first-century words to describe twentieth-century hardware. He describes what he saw, "smoke and fire and flaming sulphur bellowed from their mouths, killing one-third of all mankind" (see Revelation 9:18). I believe he saw today's mobile armored divisions, in battle dress, with flamethrowers, and long rear guns with their bulbous muzzles.

Read Joel's description, and Moffatt's translation!

"They run like war-horses, as chariots rattle, they leap on the hilltops, like flames that crackle, consuming the straw, like a vast army in battle-array. Hearts are in anguish before then all faces turn pale. They charge like warriors, they advance lit fighters, each on his own track-no tangling of paths-non pushes his fellow, each follows his own line; they burst through weapons unbroken, they rush on the city, run over the wall (Joe12:4-9).

This is the army of two hundred million. It's an army with incendiary power.

The allies burned Dresden, Germany, with incendiaries – so that 300,000 were burned to death. Tokyo was burned with incendiaries – so that 200,000 were slain. And that was before 1945.

Men in high places know this accounting is nearing.

Admiral Rickover spoke bluntly:

"The situation facing us is that Soviet Russia is doing all the things a nation would do if it wanted to be the Number One military power with clear unequivocal superiority. . . . They are out-producing us by three or four to one. By 1975 it is estimated they will have something like 50 percent more nuclear submarines. The Soviet Navy can now deploy long-range missile silos in submarines hidden underwater along the entire length of our Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf of Mexico coasts. Thus they, can bring 95 percent of the American population and industrial centers within the range of their submarine-based missiles. We must now reconcile ourselves to living with the possibility of Russian submarines targeting their nuclear missiles on us from nearby ocean areas we thought of until recently as friendly American waters."

Why are conditions worsening? The answer is found in the closing paragraphs of this same chapter in the Revelation. "But; ... men ... still refused to worship God! They would not renounce their... idols made of gold and silver, brass, stone and: wood" (Revelation 9:20, LB). They are slaves to material things, unwilling to turn loose, and turn to God.

If you sense that prevailing condition in your own life and household, spiritual rigor mortis has already set in. Satan is preconditioning you for the end time. Your love for ease yields to hell's hard attack of narcotics, immorality, and crime.

Admiral T. H. Moorer, chairman of the joint Chiefs of Staff, voiced this fear publicly; "My primary concern today," he said, "centers around the will and resolve of the American people.... It makes no difference how powerful a nation may be militarily, if the will to use that power is lacking."

Satan is weakening the will. Check yourself in this moment! How strong is the urge and surge in your own soul toward the things of God? The days grow short – and the army of 200,000,000 is slowly but surely taking shape. This is the best opportunity you will ever have to come to terms with God. – C.M Ward