

## Revelation Chapter 9 (9:1-12)

-Difficult conversations (**Politics; birdsBees; inlaws; money**)= *childsplay* compared to this **Ch. 9**  
\*I think one of the most difficult chapters in Scripture: Demons; sp. warfare; div. jgmt; creat tortu

-**Context:** last 3.5 years of 7yr Tribulation (jgmt increases in frequency; intensity; End is close)  
-How God is choosing to discipline unrepentant world (=unique; horrifying; effective?) 7 Trump  
-**First four Trumpets** =(divine destruction of earth; <sup>1/3</sup> trees/grass; ocean; rivers; water springs)  
=(A reminder that even in judgment, God spared <sup>2/3rd</sup> of earth=Div. opport. for real repentance!)  
=\***3 WOES:** Each of the last three Trumpet Jugmts are so bad, they are also a WOE (**esp. painful**)

**Revelation 9:1-12** -If this chapter is not literal/real & still future (*I have no idea how to interp it*)

Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star [powerful angel] from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key to the shaft of the **abyss** was given to him. -**what is this?** Physical entrance (cave) for a sub-earthly prison for spiritual beings. **Another name for (hell): a temporary prison for demons/demonic angels.** **Not** where humans go; uniquely made for non-human spiritual beings - A description of the underworld as the "place of imprisonment for disobedient spirits" (Lk. 8:31; Rev. 9:1, 2, 11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1, 3) [*Beast & devil are thrown in*] [Sheol/Hades =abode of the dead for humans (HELL); Not where satan is. GEHENNA=final hell]

\*So the abyss is a *real* place (physical); sub-terranean -demons are imprisoned/locked up

**2** He opened the shaft of the abyss, and smoke ascended out of the shaft like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened from the smoke of the shaft. -description of abyss/demonic hell from the center of this earth? **Bottomless PIT!** A place of the DEEP; Big place =smoke from this one area of the earth (entrance) to cover sun/atmosphere (=global effects)

**3** Then out of the smoke came **locusts** upon the earth, [Locusts are flying insects, like grasshoppers -terribly destructive on all plants/crops!]\*\*[PIC] \*In Scripture, always associated with Judgment bc they ruin crops/food source=create famine/instability/disease. **Mass swarm** -BUT these are special locusts. The worst possible kind & never before like any of the past...  
- and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. **4** They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

-These scorpion-like stinging flying locust do not swarm crops, they are not created to cause famine or ruin crops, but these exist to swarm humans. (**imagine: Ultimate Bee attack: hornets**)

\*Bees that harm humans are a reminder of Fallen Creation/effect of our sin/depravity -Ro. 8

\*\*These horrible flying, stinging, locusts will attack many BUT **not** those who have been sealed/marked with God's Name on their forehead. (**144K; 2 Witnesses; & ALL those who trust in Christ bc of their testimony**) Rapture; Lord leaves behind witness to world: Wor/Sp.

-2 Tim. 2:19 "Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord **knows** those who are His;" and, "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to keep away from wickedness."-Eph. 1:13 *having believed* "we are sealed in Christ with the Holy Spirit of promise"

-Those who are raised/sealed by God to be witnesses in last 3.5 yrs are protected =busy kgd wk  
-Those who give their life to Christ in Trib. are *not* tortured BY God: **A.** (martyred by AntiChrist) or **B.** they are sealed & protected by God to survive the Tribulation to be a part of 1000 reign  
**C.** The very purpose of this div. jgmt on the world=to bring repentance. Believers NOT being touched by these horrid insect creatures will spread the witness of God's truth/protection of His

5 And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a person. \*Remember, this is a divine punishment **from God** (using demons in the form of flying, stinging locust): = **Repentance!!**

6 **And in those days people will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death <sup>le</sup>will flee from them!** This divine punishment is so severe, the sting so painful, the poisonous effects so agonizing that *no relief is possible* – leading people to want end own lives. \*Yet, as a part of this particular discipline, the Lord supernaturally superintends people's lives and they are unable to die by their own hand. They just harm themselves further; *more pain/suf*  
\*\***This is a particularly brutal & personal judgment = affects everyone someway; personal**

**NOTICE:** *If this is not to be understood literally...why such specific detail? Notice the detail here:*

7 The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like human faces.<sup>8</sup> They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like *the teeth* of lions. <sup>9</sup> They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle. <sup>10</sup> They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt people for five months. [PIC] -*can you imagine John seeing future history (MIND BLOWN)*

\*How descriptive; How creative; How horrifying; =This is God's Idea [*we better pay attn*]  
-God is the **creator** of *all* the earth and everything in it! Gen. 2 = **GOOD** (reflects His creative purp)  
-God is incredibly **creative** (colors **florescent; platypus; giraffe; peack; Parrot; puffer fish; sloth**  
(Think of all the extinct animals that we have never seen: Sabertooth Tiger; Dinosaurs; ARK  
-But even in His judgment of this earth, He creates an insect like *none* everseen/ever experienced

\*John describes these insects as they are: **real, powerful, flying, stinging locust-like demons**

-Then, John gets the glimpse of structure of this demonic insect army under a strict leadership:

11 **They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon [destruction], and in the Greek he has the name <sup>la</sup>Apollyon [Destroyer].** This shows the biblical reality that these locusts are demonic (demon infused insects) – and that these demons have a will; they have orders; they have a hierarchy -a king of these demons

12 **The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still coming after these things.**

\*\*We need to have a conversation about the Spiritual Realm all around us & in Heaven: There **IS** a *real* spiritual realm; Angels ARE real; Demons are real. God is sovereign over both: Both are created beings, spiritual beings, which are finite and submissive to their Creator:

\*Jesus addresses the Spiritual reality of spiritual beings:

\*\* (Peter/Paul) address the Christians' response to the spiritual realm: **A. Acknowledge it**; understand what that means for our reality now & our reality for eternity). **B. Don't fixate on it**  
**C. Never be surprised by it. Expect spiritual things to happen to spiritual creatures in God's Kingdom.** -How are we praying? What are we expecting?

**Reminder:** Demons are not all powerful. They are *finite* creatures. Created for a purpose. Satan is not omnipresent, omniscient, nor omnipotent. The devil cannot read your mind. You as a believer in Jesus *cannot* be possessed. You can be harassed. You are not able to be touched by

evil unless the Sovereign Lord gives temporary permission (i.e. Job) for a divine purpose that is greater than you!

-Eph. 6:10-13 “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against <sup>Ⓛ</sup>flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.”

- **Ephesians 6:12**: Explicitly states that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of evil.
- **James 4:7**: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you".
- **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**: Emphasizes that weapons of warfare are not worldly but have divine power to demolish strongholds and take thoughts captive.
- **1 Peter 5:8-9**: Warns to be sober and alert, as the devil prowls like a roaring lion.
- **Luke 10:19**: Confirms the authority given to believers to overcome all the power of the enemy.
- **2 Thessalonians 3:3**: Declares the Lord is faithful and will strengthen and protect against the evil one.
- **1 John 4:4**: "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world".
- **Revelation 12:11**: Mentions overcoming the enemy by the blood of the Lamb and the word of testimony.
- **Romans 8:37-39**: Assures that believers are more than conquerors through Him who loved them

## Angelology/Demonology

### Axioms about Angels

1. We should be comforted and encouraged to realize that there are powerful and numerous unseen agents available to help us in our need (Ps. 91:11)
2. The angels' praise and service of God give us an example of how we are to conduct ourselves now, and what our activity will be in the life beyond in God's presence.
3. It sombers us to realize that even angels who were close to God yielded to temptation and fell. This is a reminder to us to "take heed lest [we] fall" (1 Cor. 10:12).

### B. Nature of demons

1. Spirit beings without fleshly bodies (Matt. 8:16; Luke 10:17, 20).
2. Localized but not omnipresent.
  - a. They can be in only one place at one time.
  - b. The demons indwelt the two men of the Gadarenes, and when they were expelled they indwelt the swine. In each case they were localized (Matt. 8:28-34).
3. Intelligent but not omniscient.
  - a. Aware of the identity of Jesus (Mark 1:24);
  - b. They were also aware of their ultimate destiny (Matt. 8:29).
  - c. Not omniscient or they would be like God; only God is omniscient.

4. Powerful but not omnipotent.

- a. Because of the indwelling demons the man of the Gerasenes could break shackles and chains; no one was able to bind him because of his unusual strength (Mark 5:3–4).
- b. The demon in the boy sought to have the boy commit suicide by throwing him into fire and water (Mark 9:22).
- c. Limited in their power; they cannot do the work of God (John 10:21).

#### 5. Demons Are Limited by God's Control

- a. Job's story makes it clear that Satan could only do what God gave him permission to do and nothing more (Job 1:12; 2:6). James reminds us that the Devil is successfully resisted by Christians through the authority that Christ gives them (James 4:7).
- b. Demons do not know the future nor can read our minds or know our thoughts. Only God knows the future. (Isa. 46:9–10; Dan. 2:27–28).

It is a measure of the genius of our Lord that it is by means of that very rebellion of His arch-creature Satan, that . . .

1) He validates our choice of Him (despite satanic opposition, we still chose Him, so that choice must be genuine),

2) He demonstrates His love for us (Satan's seduction of Adam brought us all under sin and thus necessitated the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, an act that is the very embodiment of His love),

3) He furthers His own glory in the process (allowing Satan's rebellion to run its course only serves to validate God's condemnation of the devil).

Had we not come through the fiery testing supplied by the devil and his corrupt world-system, we would never be able to appreciate God's marvelous provision for us and His deliverance of us from all our earthly trials (2Tim.4:18). Only by allowing us to experience His grace in the midst of the devil's world, can God bring us to the fullest understanding and appreciation of His love for us, while at the same time leading us to a full and genuine love for Him. Thanks be to God for His ineffable and unsearchable wisdom!

### APPLICATION:

#### 1. God Remains Absolutely Sovereign Over Judgment

-Even in chaos, notice the repeated phrase: *"they were allowed"* (vv. 3, 5). The locusts cannot act unless permission is given. They cannot harm those sealed by God. They cannot kill. Their time is limited (five months).

-Even demonic forces operate on a leash. Fear should never rule the believer.

-Suffering is never outside God's authority. God allows us to suffer for a season to cause us to need God and run back to Him; suffering becomes a gift to the one who understands it's ultimate purpose=repentance!

#### 2. Evil is neither random nor ultimate.

-This passage strengthens confidence in God's sovereignty—even in seasons that feel dark or oppressive. Where am I minimizing the seriousness of sin?

### 3. Spiritual Blindness Leads to Spiritual Bondage

- Where truth is rejected, darkness fills the vacuum. Cultural darkness is not neutral. Personal compromise invites spiritual bondage. Deception precedes destruction.
- We must guard our minds with truth and refuse to normalize spiritual darkness.
- **Judgment Is a Warning Before Final Destruction**

### Community Group Discussion Questions

1. **When you read Revelation 9:1-12, what emotion does it stir in you most—fear, awe, confusion, urgency? Why?**
2. The locusts were “allowed” to act only within limits.  
**How does God’s sovereignty over evil strengthen your faith during seasons of suffering or spiritual attack?**
3. The torment described is intense and internal.  
**Have you ever experienced the emotional or spiritual misery that comes from sin or rebellion? What did you learn from it?**
4. Those sealed by God were protected.  
**What does it mean practically to live daily as someone who belongs to Christ? How should that shape your confidence and conduct?**
5. The smoke darkened the air before the torment began.  
**Where do you see spiritual darkness increasing in our culture—or even in your own life? How can we guard against it?**
6. Revelation 9 shows severe judgment, yet not *final* judgment.  
**How might present suffering be a warning or invitation to deeper repentance and dependence on God?**
7. This passage highlights the reality of judgment.  
**How should the certainty of judgment change the way we pray, evangelize, and live missionally?**

**This is the chapter that people give up on reading revelation! Keep at it!!**