

## Revelation 9 | The Righteousness of God Revealed in Darkness

### Recap

- The Vision of the future—Heaven—Scroll—Seal Judgments (7<sup>th</sup>...)—Trumpet Judgments
- Wrath is measured, patient, progressive
  - **Not because God is easy on sin**; but because God loves mercy & desires that none should perish
  - 2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

Now here in **chapter 9**—Wrath of God continues, in a different way, with the **5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> trumpets**

### Verse 1

- **Star that has fallen**
  - Not an inanimate object but an angelic being—a reference to Satan (clear from rest of chapter)
  - **Jesus replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."** –Luke 10:18 (NIV)
  - Isaiah 14:12-15 (NLT)
  - = The Devil's present position (not so much physically as hierarchically)

### Verse 2

- **The Abyss** (Cf. 9:11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1-3)
  - **Abyss** = a place where certain demons are currently locked up; bound
  - **And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.** –Luke 8:31 (NIV)
  - Satan will be bound there in **Revelation 20**—for now, he is given the **key** (cnt. 1:18)
  - What is happening here is that Satan is being **allowed** to unleash further demonic activity on earth
    - He is and has been on a leash up until this point (defeated)
- **Smoke** that blots out the sun
  - A picture of the **polluting corruption of hell** unleashed on the earth (perhaps deception is pictured)

### Verse 3

- These are demons that have been unleashed on earth and are described as being **like locusts**
- Obvious from the description is the fact that they are **not actual locusts** (See vv. 7-11)
  - **Crowns, faces like men, hair like women, breastplates, tails like scorpions**
  - Ugly picture meant to convey the **vileness** of demons and evil—going out to conquer (crowns)
- They are swarming like **locusts**—important picture
  - When locusts swarm they can be an **overwhelming force** that destroy everything they target
  - This is a swarming horde of demons that aim to destroy—like locusts—but unlike locusts in that their target is not vegetation, but **humanity** (See **Revelation 9:4**)

### What is happening here?

- Demonic activity (previously restrained) is unleashed on an unprecedented scale
- This activity comes in contact with unrepentant humanity—effects are astounding
- You must understand this:
  - Everyone worships something (worship is in view here)
  - To refuse to worship Christ is to subject yourself to the worship of demons (in other forms)
    - **Revelation 9:20<sup>a</sup>**
  - In these types of forms: They worship pleasure, greed, indulgence, self, sin; etc
  - Though these things often seem to be the way of robust living (**if it feels good, do it**)
    - They prove to be the way of death (**See this progression in Revelation 9:13-19**)
  - Though Satan and demons **tempt us** by promising better life
    - They actually seek to destroy us—with our own lusts and behavior—through **temptation**
    - James 1:13-15 (NLT) (**when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death**)
  - **Here we see the powers of hell meeting unrepentant humanity in unprecedented force**
    - The result is a **stinging** affect that **torments** and seems worse than death
    - See **Revelation 9:5-6**
    - Spared from death (w/o salvation) but would rather die than repent—death comes

## What is God's purpose in all this?

- **1. Unleashing God's Wrath and Judgment**
  - God using the enemy—has frequently worked this way
  - God may be giving people what they want—a common form of judgment (Cf. **Romans 1**)
- **2. Unveiling God's Patience and Mercy**
  - Meant to lead to repentance (limit = **no death; 5 months**)
  - God showing people the **results** of pursuing darkness
  - It is clear that salvation is the goal (See: **9:20-21**)
- **3. Unfolding God's Light and Justice**
  - Light is only seen in juxtaposition to darkness (Cf. "**Let there be light**")
    - 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (NASB)
    - John 3:19-21 (NASB)
  - So, when darkness comes in unprecedented mass and force and directly against people, and they still refuse to turn from it (**repent**)—
    - They are shown to be truly dark and to love darkness
    - **And God is shown to be just and righteous**
      - He has extended light & mercy & warning and men chose the darkness (**v. 20**)
      - This will be exposed and judged

**Where are you choosing darkness?**

**Where are you not walking in the light?**

**Where are you being deceived? (Satan disguises himself as an angel of light)**

Romans 13:11-14 (NASB)

### Remember, darkness—sin—destroys

- **Verse 11 = Destroyer**
- Sin—though it begins nicely—soon torments us, and ultimately destroys us (**John 10:10**)
- Think about:
  - Unforgiveness; bitterness; addiction; immorality
  - These things **imprison us in pain** to the point that we can **wish for death**—which may come
- Cf. **idols** (worshipping lesser things)
  - They become **cruel slave masters** that torment us
  - Greed—the never ending pursuit of more stuff, more pleasure; etc

The fact that **demons are torturing** people and they do not turn from **worshipping demons** demonstrates the **power of idolatry—that we give ourselves to things that destroy us**... and that God judges that

The fact that we know these things destroy and we still pursue them highlights our need for salvation, sanctification and for walking in the light

- 2 Peter 3:14-15<sup>a</sup> (NLT)
- 1 John 1:5-9 (NASB)

**Revelation 9:20-21** reveals that what is at the root of humanities rebellion is a **defiant, hard heart**

- They refused to repent
  - Judgment is coming for such hearts
- What about you beloved of God?
  - Whom the Lord loves He disciplines!
- Christ was judged in your place—but shouldn't that yield in us a **soft, obedient heart** that is open to God and resistant to sin?
  - You have a new nature!
    - Romans 6:11-18 (NLT)
- Live in a way that represents that new life and God's light now—and stands in contrast to darkness