

THE DAY OF THE DEMONS

Revelation Chapter 9

Ancient mariners once feared what lurked underneath the sea. The Kraken was believed to be a huge squid-like monster that would wrap its tentacles around ships and drag them to the sea floor. No sailor dare utter the word “kraken”, else it would summon the monster.

As we look at Revelation 9, you might be relieved there are no krakens beneath the sea, but the creatures we will meet in this chapter are terrifying, and they are real, and at the appointed time, will be released upon the earth to do their destructive work.

THREE WOES TO THE DWELLERS OF THE EARTH

The first four of the seven trumpet judgements were against the earth, but the final three will be against unbelievers.

Why do you think that God sent the angel/eagle to declare with a loud voice that the remaining horrific judgements were coming? There was apparently a pause for this to happen. Why? It was a final chance for the unbelievers on earth to repent. They knew God existed because he had made it much known to them, and He had made it very clear that you are either on his side or not.

THE FIFTH TRUMPET (First Woe)

Demonic Tormentors

Revelation 9:1-2

What fell from heaven? Was it really a literal star or meteor? This “star” was called a “him” so it is some sort of being. **Was this a holy angel or a messenger from God?** Angels are always “sent” down from heaven, they never “fall” from heaven. **Can you think of any other being that “fell” from heaven in Biblical history?** Read Isaiah 14:12. Speaking of Lucifer, he was told to have “fallen from heaven.” This fallen angel is best viewed as demonic.

What is this bottomless pit that the demonic figure has been given the keys to? The word is abyssos in Greek in which we get the word abyss.

Understanding the different “places of hell”: When a Christian dies, their spirit immediately goes to be with the Lord although their body will be “regenerated” upon Christ’s return. But what about those who leave this world unsaved? What about the fallen angels that rebelled along with Lucifer? What about the “lake of fire”?

- The Abyss: This is some sort of holding place where a group of demons are held captive until final judgement comes at Christ’s return when they will be cast into the eternal lake of fire along with Satan, the Antichrist, and the false prophet.

- Hades: This is a temporary destination of suffering for the unsaved. Many debates still continue on what exactly this “suffering” is. No matter the exact view, it will be a place of darkness and despair where you know there is no longer any chance for salvation and heaven. It is eternal separation from God.
- The Eternal Lake of Fire: Upon Christ’s return, all the demons and all the souls of those that have refused and defied God’s gracious gift of salvation will be cast into this lake of Fire for eternity.

Revelation 9:3-12

The locusts of the judgement against Egypt in the Book of Exodus stripped Egypt bare of all vegetation. Was that the mission of these locusts? These scorpion like locusts were released to cause pain on people. **Did these locusts attack anybody and everybody?** They were only allowed to hurt unbelievers who did not have God’s seal of protection.

Were the locusts here to kill? No, they tormented, for 5 months which is the typical lifespan of a locust. God will not allow their wickedness to continue without divine retribution.

Read description of locusts from page 146-147

THE SIXTH TRUMPET (Second Woe) A Demonic Army

Revelation 9:13-19

Are these beings “holy” angels released from the great river Euphrates? Holy angels are not “bound” so these were demons as well. We are not sure when or why God imprisoned these demons but they were separately chained for this specific purpose at the exact time that God had ordained from the beginning.

What was their purpose? They would slay 1/3 of the population. **What could be their number?** 200 million.

Is this number hyperbolic or literal? Some say it is just referring to a large army, but it seems since John heard the exact number from someone in heaven it is probably literal. This is easily doable. For example, China has over 400 million men of military age along with some 300 million women. There could easily be an army of 200 million people.

Is this a human army or a demonic army? There are good arguments for both views. I believe it is a human army empowered by Satan, led by the demon.

Were these horses really breathing fire and brimstone?

- Normal horses don’t, but that doesn’t mean God could not make it happen. One view is that this really is a horde of centaur-like animals, half horse, half lion, with serpent tails. Demons can take many forms!

- Another view takes this into consideration: **if John, living in the first century, was trying to describe weapons of modern warfare (tanks, helicopters, missile launchers, and whatever new weapons that create), what kind of language would he use?** He would try to use the things he knows to describe things he has never seen before. A second popular view is that John was attempting to describe real war with real technology as best as he could.

What is the death count at? The seal judgements already killed ¼ of humankind, and now add 1/3 more deaths, which means more than half of the world's population will be dead.

THE RESPONSE TO THE FIRST TWO WOES

Revelation 9:20-21

What did the first woe (fifth trumpet) bring? Pain and distress, but not death. **What did the second woe (sixth trumpet) bring?** Death. **Did these things bring the unbelieving world to their knees to repent and turn to God?** Can you believe that even these things would not bring many humans to acknowledge God and cause them to turn from their evil ways. Instead, they would continue to sin even more frequently and intensely.

What kinds of things will they refuse to repent and turn away from?

- **Their worship of demons:** Even if they refuse to call them demons, behind every false religion is a demon leading them away from God.
- **Idols of gold and silver:** Not just statues, but money, possessions, and anything that replaces the love of God
- **Murders, sorceries, immoralities, or thefts:** the word sorceries comes from the greek word pharmakon, which we get our word pharmacy from. This is not just occult worship, but drug use that opens the way to the demonic world. The Greek word for immorality here is the Greek word porneia – all types of sexual immorality and perversions.

At this point, God has revealed to them the THREAT of punishment if they do not turn to Him, and He has gave them sign after sign that he means business. Is there anything else He can possibly do to get to them?

Have you ever heard anybody say “If I could see a sign from heaven, then I would turn to God?” According to most of mankind's reaction to all these things going on, what do you think the answer to that is?

If the threat of eternal punishment or supernatural signs can't cause somebody to repent, then what causes a person to repent? Only one thing. The work of God in that person's heart. A person's ability to turn away from sin and turn to Christ is a gift that comes from God. Realizing that you are a sinner and in need of Jesus is not something that YOU come up with. God grants you that ability to repent. It's a gift, but not a gift that lasts forever. It can be

ignored until it is too late. The sooner one realizes this, the sooner they come running to God just like the prodigal son.