

Revelation 9: Demonic Locusts from the Bottomless Pit

Revelation 8:13–9:14 | Sunday, June 7 | Revelation Series

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OVERVIEW

Hal opens not with the text but with demons, and with the claim that he has met them — he has been involved in exorcisms, and says so bluntly before turning to the chapter. Pure evil, he says, has two sources: the fallen nature every one of us is born with, and the fallen angels who followed Satan. Revelation, more than any other book, shows the most insane destructive things men do as the direct work of those angels playing on that nature. Then the text. The eagle in midheaven names the last three trumpets the three woes — a word meaning unprecedented catastrophe. A star fallen out of heaven, who is a person because he is given a key, opens the bottomless pit, and what comes out is described by a first-century man reaching for comparisons: like horses prepared for battle, like crowns of gold, like faces of men, like the teeth of lions. Their king is Abaddon, Apollyon, the ultimate destroyer. The message closes as the sixth trumpet sounds.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 8:13 — The eagle in midheaven — woe, woe, woe, because of the remaining trumpet blasts

Revelation 9:1 — A star fallen out of heaven, given the key of the bottomless pit

Revelation 9:6 — Men will seek death and will not find it

Revelation 9:7 — The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle

Revelation 9:8–10 — Hair like women, teeth like lions, breastplates of iron, tails like scorpions with power to hurt men five months

Revelation 9:11 — Their king, whose name is Abaddon in Hebrew and Apollyon in Greek

Revelation 9:12–14 — The first woe past; the sixth angel sounds and the four angels bound at the Euphrates are released

Ephesians 6 — Demons are well organized into ranks and disciplined into levels

KEY TERMS

The three woes — the last three trumpet judgments, announced by the eagle in midheaven; the word means something of unprecedented catastrophe and suffering and destruction

The star fallen out of heaven — literally in the Greek a star out of heaven — a person rather than an object, since he is given a personal pronoun and a key is given to him

The bottomless pit — the prison whose key is handed to the fallen star at the fifth trumpet

“Like” — the repeated word through this passage — he is not saying the thing is a locust, but that it looked something like one

A horse prepared for battle — in the Roman legions, a horse draped in elaborate armour so a lance or an arrow would not bring it down

Abaddon / Apollyon — the king over the released host; in both Hebrew and Greek the name means the ultimate destroyer

Out of fellowship — the state of a believer with unconfessed sin, in which demons cannot possess him but can have quite an influence on him

Restraint — what the Holy Spirit has always exercised over the natural evil in our fallen natures, and over angels vicious enough to incite unbelievable acts of horror

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer from the message itself. Every answer is in the teaching.

1. What two sources of pure evil does Hal name?

2. What does Hal say the book of Revelation shows about human destructiveness?

3. Can a demon possess a believer, in Hal's teaching?

4. What does the eagle of the last verse of chapter 8 announce?

5. What does the word "woe" mean here?

6. Who is the star of 9:1, and how does Hal know it is a person?

7. What does verse 6 say, and what does Hal make of it?

8. Why does the writer keep saying "like"?

9. What did a "horse prepared for battle" mean in the first-century world?

10. How is this host described?

11. Who is their king, and what does Hal notice about the way he is named?

12. What has kept the world from being as bad as it could be, and what changes?

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. Hal says he has come face to face with demons and that it is not something to play with or ever to seek. How do you keep a right seriousness about evil without becoming preoccupied with it?

2. He ties demonic influence to being out of fellowship — unconfessed sin left sitting. What does staying in fellowship look like in practice for you this week?

3. The man who saw this can only tell us what it was like. Where does that leave you when a passage will not resolve into a clear picture?

4. Hal says the world has lasted this long only because the Holy Spirit restrains evil. Where do you see restraint at work, and what would you notice if it lifted?

5. He suggests some games train a callousness about killing. What in your own intake shapes you more than you would like to admit?

6. Hal's answer to all of it is not fear but urgency — introducing as many as we can to Jesus because the time is short. What would urgency actually change about your next month?

MEMORY VERSE

“Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”

— Revelation 9:14, as Hal reads it in this message