

Revelation 9

Read Revelation 9:1-11: We have no idea how good we have it until things unravel. We assume that the sun will rise in the morning; and that we will live in a free country with enough food to eat. We assume that we can do our own thing; and make determinations with outside influence. As mankind rejects God he is rejecting wisdom, protection, grace, love, provision and protection. We think that we are getting away with something; and that we will enjoy sin. Ultimate freedom always seems to be something that mankind gives away. In reality; we are ruining our own nest and poisoning our lives. We are creating our own monsters. God lets us get a taste of the consequences of forbidden lifestyles in very limited helpings. We become willing to look past increasing consequences the further out we go from God. As we give in to ungodly choices; our ability to discern right from is muted. Only pain can re-gain the attention of people who are so far gone.

A time is coming when the Bible won't be taught anywhere; and men's hearts will grow cold towards each other. In the end, true happiness is lost in all selfless pursuits. We can only find peace living for God's purposes. Deep down, we cannot lie to ourselves. Now we enter into a time when men would rather die than to repent. The phrase that is coined for the lowest level of living is: *"I'm not o.k., and you are not o.k."*

God is the LORD over all things obedient and disobedient. The Devil and his demons are shoveling coal just as fast to accomplish God's plan as the obedient angels are. They just do not believe it. God sends an angel with a key to open up a cell in hell; which is holding hordes of demonic beings intent on torturing men. The angelic being given the key to open hell may even be a demon. It really does not matter. The description here is of a *falling star* which was given a key. It may even be a demon who thinks he stole the key from heaven. God wins even when the dark forces think they are winning. God's commitment to justice can require a distasteful act. God would not relish the idea of opening hell to let a bunch of demons out; but a demon would gladly do it.

Hell is God's incarceration facility before final sentencing (at the great white throne judgement) to an eternity in the Lake of Fire. The demons currently there

did not precisely follow God's limitations placed upon them. Demons have an extremely-precise amount of latitude from God.

Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. (Luke 8:30-32)

And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" (Matthew 8:29)

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; (Jude 6)

The extra-bad demons are re-released upon the earth. There are so many that they are like a locust swarm, with a great noise. There are two things happening here. There are stinging creatures torturing men; and there is demonic activity. A physical reality is often the tip of the iceberg for the spiritual reality. God allows locusts with a scorpion's tail that stings men to cover the earth. They have heavier exoskeleton than a locust. They are described as having armor-plated chest covers. They also have lion-like teeth and long hair with a gold crown. They are limited to not harm any greenery (like a locust normally would). They only sting unsaved men for five months.

There are some creatures that only emerge from the earth periodically. The cicada only bursts out from the ground in massive numbers every 17 years.

The pain of the scorpion locust will drive men to attempt suicide (unsuccessfully). Their leader is called Abaddon/Apollyon. That means *the destroyer*. Apollyon is one of Satan's field commanders who was thrown in Hell for around 6,000 years. Satan has never been to Hell (The Bottomless Pit). Satan lets his demons get in trouble; but he is smart enough to not get incarcerated now. The stinging locusts may be controlled by demonic influence. Demons do not actually have physical bodies. They are spirits. They long to be seen and heard. That is why they long to inhabit the living-physical beings.

The bottomless pit is hell; and is in the depths of the earth. If you take an hourglass of sand and keep it turning over (like the earth's rotation) you will never stop the falling process. The smoke of a furnace rises out of the pit when it is opened. The core of the earth is extremely hot and has unbearable pressure.

to be cast into hell fire— where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.' (Mark 9:47b-48)

Satan would have us believe that this stuff could never happen; but God is telling us that it can and it will.

Read Revelation 9:12-21: We see that both angels and demons are in rank and file organizations. The angel involved in prayer activity (at the altar of incense in heaven) commands the angels who do the heavy lifting and fighting. We are also men under authority.

This sixth trumpet angel directs the four angels holding down the spiritually-demilitarized zone at the Euphrates River to make way for enemy advancement. Now the east can attack the nations to the west. The world's events begin with the spirit world.

In the same way the priests who blew the horns to God long ago at Jericho were over the army of Israel that rushed into Jericho and defeated the enemy. Prayer is where stuff gets done. The Old Testament shows the priests and prophets as the leaders. The kings were instituted by men. We keep abbreviating our prayers; so that we can get out there and get stuff done. Bad strategy! That will produce a lifetime of perpetual frustration.

Now a 200 million man army in red, blue and yellow come in with tanks and kill 1/3 of mankind. China only has a 3 million man army now. It would have to draft heavily. The Euphrates River is not a boundary between China and India. Those two countries comprise 40% of the world population. This advancing army from the east will actually wipe out 1/3 of the world population. Who are they advancing on; on the other side of the Euphrates River? That number would require it to advance completely over Asia, Africa and Europe (if this is a land war). It is odd that all forces are advancing towards Israel. There is nothing there to obtain. It is likely that the army of the antichrist (European nations) will be their enemy from the west.