

Q: (vv.16-19) How is this evil army described? _____

Q: One third of the human population alive at that time, were killed by these demonic forces. (in Rev 6:8, one fourth of the worlds population was destroyed). How might people react when they witness all this destruction and pain inflicted by demons? _____

Q: (vv.20-21) Instead of repentance, what is the attitude of the rest of mankind whom is NOT killed by these plagues? _____

Q: What does this say about the hardness of the people's hearts? (see Judges 21:25; Rom 1:18-32) Instead of turning to the One True God who offers to rescue them from their sins (and spare them from His wrath against sin and evil), they stubbornly refused to repent.. _____

Q: Yet, how does this also demonstrate the love and mercy of God and His patient desire for all to repent and find forgiveness and new life through Christ? (see 2 Pet 3:9; Ezek 33:11). _____

Q: In what areas of life, might you be hardening your heart against God? What do you need to do about that? _____

==> *Lord help those in my life that may not yet know you personally, that they would clearly know You are a Holy and Good God. Help them to repent of sin and turn to You and find mercy, grace, forgiveness and eternal life with You, through faith in Christ alone, and follow Him alone all the days of their lives. In Jesus name, Amen!*



HARVEST
E-FREE CHURCH

Growing Deeper

A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church
(for personal and/or small group study)

Week of February 6, 2022

Revelation 9

As we travel through the book of Revelation and the judgements of God, it may be tempting for some to only see God's wrath. He is Holy and Just, but also Loving and Merciful, offering multiple opportunities for all to escape His necessary wrath against sin and evil. His merciful way of escape is for all to repent of sin and turn to Him, receiving Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord. Christ's death in our place, paid our death penalty for our sin. His righteous life is credited to our account, so we can be welcomed into eternal life with Him. In chapter 8, the second set of God's judgements on the earth has begun. Here in chapter 9, the fifth and sixth trumpet judgements bring a demonic attack against those who continue to reject Jesus. But they are preceded in chapter 8, by a warning (the three "woes") from God, again showing His mercy and patience to draw rebellious humanity into a loving eternal relationship with Him.

Q: Describe a time when you stubbornly refused to follow sound and good advice, and the consequences of your stubbornness.

Q: What happens when the 5th angel blew his trumpet? This "star" is a person (or angelic being). The word "fallen" could also be interpreted as "descended" and could represent another "good angel" simply obeying God (see Rev 20:1). But if this angel represents a "fallen star," who would that be describing? (see Isaiah 14:12-14; Luke 10:18). Either way, these events are totally under God's command and control. _____

Q: It is good to remember that God is in total control of all these events. How have you witnessed God's steady and comforting presence with you during difficult times?

Q: (v.2) How is this bottomless pit, or abyss, described when opened? (see Matt 13:42, 50; Luke 8:31; 2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6-7).

Q: (v.3-10) A locust plague would have struck terror into the hearts of people, as they were a sign of God's judgment in Biblical times (see Exodus 10; Dt 28:38; Joel 1-2). Historically, locust plagues would turn the sky dark (due to their vast numbers) and they would eat every green plant in sight. But what is unique about these "locusts?"

Q: These were not typical locusts but clearly demonic beings. They were "given power" but also given clear limits by God. Describe their limits and notice who would be protected and who they were allowed to harm?

Q: The people of God were protected from these demonic creatures. How does this comfort you, knowing that you are protected from God's wrath, because of Jesus?! (see 1 Thes 1:10; 5:9)

Q: Despite being protected from *God's wrath*, Christ-followers most likely will suffer from the *wrath of Satan* and *his followers*. Why is it important to know this ahead of time, and how can we prepare for potential future suffering for following Christ? (see John 16:33; Luke 21:10-19; Eph 6:10-20). How are Christians worldwide already experiencing persecution?

Q: In this passage, describe what happens to those who reject Christ.

Q: (vv.7-10) How does John describe these "locusts?" Notice he uses the phrase "like." The big picture here is God uses evil to destroy evil, yet still offers mercy to those who turn to Him, by faith in Christ.

Q: (v.11) Who is their king? (these names mean Destroyer—how does this fit what is said in John 10:10)?

Q: (vv.13-14) What happens when the 6th angel blows his trumpet?

(in the Bible, God-serving, "good angels" are never bound.) So who are these that are released and what are they given power to do? _____

**note* the Euphrates River was the eastern boundary of ancient Israel (Gen 15:18) as well as the eastern boundary of the Roman Empire.*