

Revelation 9 Part 1

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, and we are looking at Revelation chapter nine, this is part twenty in our series on the book of Revelation.

Verse one, *'And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.'*

'And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.'

'And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.'

'And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.'

The seal of God, of course, is the Holy Spirit. We are sealed unto the day of our redemption, so having the Holy Spirit and being sealed into Christ is the key thing.

Anyway, back to verse five, *'And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.'*

'And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.'

'And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.'

'And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.'

'And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.'

'And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.'

Now these, of course, are demons. They are not horsemen with real horses galloping across the plain. These are demons, and they've been let loose. And we'll soon pick up how they've been let loose.

Verse eleven, *'And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.'*

Apollyon was, of course, the destroyer. The one who, in the book 'Pilgrim's Progress', John Bunyan has pictured trying to kill Christian, and a pretty apt description.

Verse twelve, *'One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.'*

Now the woes, the three woes, are the three world wars. The first world war, of course, is the first woe. And the trouble started with that first world war, the beginning of the twentieth century, these demons have been let loose and they are starting to affect anything and everything.

Verse thirteen, *'And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,*

'Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

'And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.'

God's judgement is on its way.

'And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.'

Two hundred thousand thousand is, of course, more horsemen than there are in the world, so obviously we're talking about demons here.

'And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

'By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

'For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

'And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

'Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.'

We have here a pretty picture of today's world. And, of course, as I understand it from history, things are getting worse and worse.

The idea, of course, amongst those that issue such things is to change the basis on which crimes and so on are based. But certainly in my youth, back in the fifties and sixties, to hear of a murder was something astounding. But nowadays it's pretty common. Something's going on nearly all the time.

So, anyway, the key thing here, we are not dealing with Christians. The Christians were sealed by the seven seals. The seven seals revealed to us what is actually going on. What we're dealing with here in chapters eight and nine are Jews. And Jews are in the state they're in because they have been blinded by God so that they cannot recognise the grace that He is offering to them through Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is, of course, God. But it's the representation, the modern understanding and representation of God that counts. God is an 'I Am' God, not just an 'I was' and 'I will be', He is an 'I Am' God.

And these Jews are being persecuted by the very same spirit that was in Rome, they've been plundered and beaten and killed by Stalin, by Hitler, Mussolini and so on, and even today, of course, there's plenty of attacks on Israel, trying to control them and trying to get rid of them. Some nations are claiming that their main aim is to completely destroy Israel. That has continued, it's the same spirit that was in Rome, back in 70AD when they tried to destroy completely the Jews, to get them out of their land, destroy them as a nation. And it's still going on today.

So chapters eight and nine are to Jews. The Jews were, of course, blinded so that us Gentiles, us non-Jews, could have a chance. That we could actually receive grace. And that really comes in in the next chapter in the next issue, number twenty-one in this series.

May God bless you.