

A Taste of Hell!

Revelation 9:1-12

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- **Satan's assault on the human race**
 - Begins in the Garden of Eden with temptation of Adam and Eve.
 - Romans 5:12-- *"sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned."*
 - Genesis 3:15-- *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."*
 - Attempted to produce a hybrid demon/human race (Genesis 6:1-4), destroyed by the universal flood.
 - Attempted to destroy Job's faith, but was unsuccessful as Job remained loyal to God.
 - His special hatred for God's chosen people, the Jews
- **Satan's assault on Jesus Christ and His early apostles**
 - The temptation of Christ and attempts to kill Him before Calvary
 - The testing of Peter.
 - Luke 22:31-32-- *"Simon, Simon! Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."*
 - The betrayal of Christ by Judas Iscariot
 - Luke 22:3-- *"Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve"*
- **Satan's assault on the Church, the body of Christ.**
 - Prompted Ananias and Sapphira to lie to the Holy Spirit.
 - Acts 5:3-- *"lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the price of the land for yourself."*
 - Plants unbelievers in the church.
 - Matthew 13:37-39-- *"He who sows the good seed is the Son of God. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is at the end of the age, and the reapers are angels."*
 - Infiltrates through false teachers and preachers
 - 2 Corinthians 11:13-15-- *"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works."*
- **Satan's assault on us today.**
 - Ephesians 6:11-13-- *"put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."*
 - 1 Peter 5:8-9-- *"Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."*
- **Satan's future deadly assault against mankind-- Revelation 9**
- **Recapitulation of the first FOUR Trumpet Judgments**
- **"The worst is yet to come!"**
 - Revelation 8:13-- *"And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, 'Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound.'"*

A Taste of Hell! Revelation 9:1-12

- Revelation 9:1-6-- *"Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. Then out of smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them."*

A. The Abyss or "Bottomless Pit"-- Revelation 9:1

1. Satan as the "star fallen from heaven"

a. Satan's initial fall from heaven

- Isaiah 14:12-15-- *"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit."*

b. Satan and his cohorts cast out of heaven at the middle of the tribulation period.

- Revelation 12:9-- *"the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."*

c. Satan is not happy.

- Revelation 12:12-- *"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."*

d. He indwells the Antichrist turning him from a man of peace into the "Beast" of Revelation 13

e. He sets his sights on destroying the Jewish people, but God protects them.-- Revelation 12

2. Jesus Christ gives to Satan the "key to the bottomless pit"

a. The "bottomless pit" or the "abyss" is where the most wicked, vile, and perverted of all demons are incarcerated.

- Jude 6-7-- *"Angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."*
- 1 Peter 3:18-20-- *"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water."*

b. Other demons are incarcerated there.

- Luke 8:31-- *"they begged Him that He would not command them to go into the abyss."*

B. The Opening of the Abyss

- Revelation 9:2-3-- *"a smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. And then out of the smoke locust came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as scorpions of the earth have power."*
- #### **1. Reminiscent of the Locust plague in Egypt.**
- Exodus 10:14-15-- *"And the locust went up over all the land of Egypt and rested on all the territory of Egypt. They were very severe; previously there had been no such locusts as they, nor shall there be such after them. For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they ate every herb of the land*

and all the fruit of the trees which the hail had left. So there remained nothing green on the trees or on the plants of the field throughout all the land of Egypt."

2. **Not ordinary locust, but rather swarms of demons.**

- a. They are warrior demons, prepared for battle.
 - Revelation 9:7-11-- *"The shape of the locust was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men for five months. And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek, he has the name of Apollyon."*
- b. They are led into battle by one named Abaddon or Apollyon, which means "destroyer" or "exterminator".
- c. ***"To them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power"***-- the power to afflict suffering and pain!

C. **The Limitations Set by God-- Revelation 9:4-6**

1. **Limitations on Satan and his demonic force**

- Revelation 9:4-5 -- *"They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. And they were not give authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man."*
- a. **Could not touch or harm the physical world:** vegetation, grass, trees, etc.
 - b. **Their attacks are limited to "only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads"**
 - Revelation 7:2-4-- *"another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, 'Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads. And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousands of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed."*
 - Revelation 22:4-- *"They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads."*
 - c. *"They were not given authority to kill them **but to torment them**... Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man". Possible ways of torment?*
 - 1) Could be inflicted physical pain and suffering like a scorpion sting
 - 2) Mental instability and problems
 - 1 Samuel 16:14-- *"The Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him."*
 - 3) Insanity
 - Matthew 8:28-- *"had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way."*
 - 4) Severe physical problems including paralysis and convulsions
 - Matthew 4:24-- *"Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics and paralytics; and He healed them."*
 - Mark 9:20-21-- *"Then they brought him to Him (that is, to Jesus). And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him and he fell to the ground and wallowed and foamed at the mouth. So He asked his father, 'How long has this been happening to him?' And he said, 'From childhood. And often he has thrown him into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."*

d. *"Their power was to hurt men five months"--Revelation 9:10*

2. Limitations on the Unregenerate

- Revelation 9:6-- *"In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them."*
- a. **No means of escape from the torment and agony. Death is on a hiatus!**
- b. **For five months they will experience a taste of hell here on earth.**
 - 1) **Hell is a place of torment.**
 - Luke 16:23-24-- *"being in torment in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'"*
 - 2) **There is no escaping from hell**
 - Luke 16:26-- *"Besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us."*
- c. **God does provide a way of escape through repentance and faith**
 - 2 Peter 3:9-- *"For the Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not will that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*
- d. **But unfortunately many will harden their hearts and refuse to believe.**
 - Revelation 9:20-21-- *"But the rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts."*

D. The Warning by God: *"One down, two to go"*

- Revelation 9:12-- *"One woe is past. Behold still two more woes are coming after these things!"*

APPLICATIONS FOR TODAY

1. **A reminder that God is in charge!** He is sovereign over all. God controls what we face in life, and has promised His sufficient grace to meet our needs.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13-- *"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."*
 - 2 Corinthians 12:9a-- *"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."*
2. **A vivid contrast of how Satan treats his own, and how Jesus Christ treats us.**
3. **A reinforcement of the need for people to hear the gospel today and to respond with saving faith.**