

How to Have Victory Over the Devil

Revelation 9:1–21 (NKJV) – Bible passage [my explanatory notes]

The Fifth Trumpet – A Demonic Army from the Abyss (**Rev. 9:1-12**)

Their **Abode** (**Rev. 9:1-2**)

¹ Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth [this is an angelic being. Some believe this is a good heavenly angel, because it is in heaven. However, the word “fallen” instead of “sent” points to Satan, called Lucifer – the fallen angel described in Ezekiel 28:11-19 and Isaiah 14:12-17]. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. [literally “the abyss” – see 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6 and 7 – the holding place for a group of demons who cohabited with men and women (see Genesis 6:2-7) producing a strange-mixed race, ultimately destroyed by the world-wide Flood. This is not Hades (current place of the unsaved dead) or the eternal lake of fire (future abode of unsaved and demons).]

² And he [the devil] 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.

Their **Activity** (**Rev. 9:3-6**)

³ Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. [demons in the form of locust-like scorpion creatures]

⁴ 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 [the 144,000 Jewish evangelists and their converts – Rev. 7:3].

⁵ And they were not given authority to kill them, but to **torment** them for five months [the average lifespan of real locusts is 5 months]. Their **torment** was like the **torment** of a scorpion when it strikes a man.

⁶ In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

Their **Appearance** (**Rev. 9:7-10**)

⁷ The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle [the word “like” appears 9x in this chapter. John is having difficulty describing what he sees in the vision.]. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.

⁸ They had hair like women’s hair, and their teeth were like lions’ teeth.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.

- “[I]n reality these are spirit beings that probably will not be seen by human beings but whose effects will be strongly felt. These evidently fulfill the locust-type judgment the Lord predicted would come on the earth during the Tribulation (Joel 1-2). They are not to be interpreted literally, not symbolically, but spiritually, for they depict a spirit creature able to effect a physical response on humanity.”¹

Their Administrator (Rev. 9:11-12)

¹¹ And they had as king over them [Proverbs 30:27 says that real locusts do not have a king – another point that these are not literal locusts but demons] the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. [literally means “the Destroyer” – not Satan, but a high-ranking demonic being – see Ephesians 6:12 to see the structure of satan’s demons. “Apollyon” is currently chained in the Abyss].

¹² One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

The Sixth Trumpet – A 200-Million Demonic Army (Rev. 9:13-)

¹³ Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

¹⁴ saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the **four angels** who are bound [not heavenly angels, but demons – they are bound] at the great river Euphrates.” [Starting with Babel, this region has spawned many of the world’s pagan religions.²]

¹⁵ So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. [Rev. 6:8 – 1/4th have already died; Here, 1/3rd of those that remain have now died. It totals 50% of those on earth at the beginning of the Great Tribulation have now died. These are people who have rejected God and will never receive Him as Lord and Savior.]

¹⁶ Now the number of the army of the horsemen was **two hundred million**; I heard the number of them. [not people, but demons]

¹⁷ And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.

¹⁸ By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.

¹⁹ For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

The Rebellious Response (Rev. 9:20-21)

²⁰ 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.

²¹ And they **did not repent** of their **murders** [Someone has said, “Wherever the influence of the gospel is unknown, human life is cheap.”] or their **sorceries** [Greek is “pharmakia” (think pharmacy) meaning “the use of drugs.”] or their **sexual immorality** or their **thefts**.

Christians today will not suffer the fate of Revelation 9, but we do contend with demonic activity today. 1 John 4:4 says, “**Greater is He that is in You than he that is in the world.**” How can we experience victory over the devil?

- 1) **Claim the blood of Jesus over your life** (Revelation 12:11) – accept Jesus’ offer of salvation.
- 2) **Know who you are in Christ** (Revelation 12:11 – the word of their testimony) – remind the devil and yourself that you are accepted (Eph. 1:6), forgiven (Eph. 1:7), an heir of God (Rom. 8:17), etc...
- 3) **Speak God’s Word to answer the devil’s lies** (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; Matthew 4:1-11)
- 4) **Resist and rebuke the devil in the Name of Jesus** (Luke 10:17; 1 Peter 5:8-9)
- 5) **Submit to God in all areas** (James 4:7)
- 6) **Don’t give the devil a foothold through sin** (Eph. 4:27 – “nor give place to the devil”)

² John MacArthur, *Revelation: The Christian’s Ultimate Victory*, MacArthur Bible Studies (Nashville, TN: W Publishing Group, 2001), 54.