

Revelation

Chapter 9

Lesson 10

Purpose of the Plagues

- ◆ “Revelation functions neither as an accurate transcript of divine information nor as a factual prediction of future eschatological events. Instead, it must be read as a rhetorical work of vision written in the language of image and myth. ... The terrible visions of such literature that portray a totally manipulated and dehumanized future seek to shock us out of our current lethargy. ... Revelation’s rhetoric seeks to engender trust and confidence in God’s justice and powers of well-being even though experience and evidence seem to mock such hope and faith.”

Revelation 9:1-2

- ◆ ¹ And the fifth angel sounded his trumpet and I saw a star having fallen out of heaven unto the earth, and the key to the shaft of the abyss was given to him ² and he opened the shaft of the abyss, and smoke rose out of the shaft as smoke from a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened from the smoke of the shaft.

Revelation 9:3-4

- ◆ ³ And out of the smoke came locusts unto the earth, and it was given to them power like the power the scorpions of the earth have. ⁴ And it was told to them they were not to harm the grass of the earth nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God upon their foreheads.



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Revelation 9:5-6

- ◆ ⁵ And they (the locusts) were not allowed to kill them, but only to torture them for five months and their torture (was) like the torture of a scorpion when it stings a man. ⁶ And in those days the men will seek death and they will not find it; and they will long to die and death will flee from them.

Revelation 9:7-8

- ◆ ⁷ And the likeness of the locusts were like horses prepared for war, and upon their heads (were something) like crowns similar to gold and their faces were like the faces of men, ⁸ and they had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like lions,

Joel 2:4-5

- ◆ They have the appearance of horses, and like war-horses they charge. ⁵ As with the rumbling of chariots, they leap on the tops of the mountains, like the crackling of a flame of fire devouring the stubble, like a powerful army drawn up for battle.

Revelation 9:9-10

- ◆ ⁹ And they had breastplates like the breastplates made of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound horse-drawn chariots running into war, ¹⁰ and they have tails like scorpions and stingers, and in their tails the power to harm the men for five months.



Revelation 9:11-12

- ◆ ¹¹ They have as king over them the angel of the abyss, his name in Hebrew (Aramaic) is Abaddon, and in Greek the name he has is Apollyon. ¹² The first woe has departed, behold two woes are still to come.

Revelation 9:13-14

- ◆ ¹³ And the sixth angel sounded the trumpet and I heard one voice out of the [four] horns of the golden altar, the one that is before God, ¹⁴ saying to the sixth angel, the one having the trumpet, “release the four angels having been bound upon the great river Euphrates.”

Enemies from the North

- ◆ Isaiah 14:31; Jeremiah 1:14f.; 6:1, 22; 10:22; 13:20; 25:9, 26; 46:20, 24; 47:2; Ezekiel 26:7; 38:6, 15; 39:2

Revelation 9:15-16

- ◆ ¹⁵ And the four angels were released, who had been ready for this hour, the day and the month and the year, in order to kill the third of men. ¹⁶ And the number of the soldiers of the calvary was twenty thousands of ten thousands (20 million); I heard their number.

Revelation 9:17

- ◆ ¹⁷ And so I saw the horses in the vision and the ones seated upon them, having fiery red breastplates and blue (hyacinth-colored) and yellowish (sulfurous), and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire and smoke and sulfur.

Revelation 9:18-19

- ◆ ¹⁸ From these three plagues the third of men were killed, from the fire and the smoke and the sulfur coming out of their mouths. ¹⁹ For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails were like serpents, having heads, and with them they inflict harm.



Revelation 9:20

- ◆ ²⁰ And the rest of mankind, who had not been killed in these plagues, did not repent from the deeds of their hands, so that they did not stop worshiping the demons and the idols made of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which neither are able to see nor hear nor walk.

1 Corinthians 10:20-22

- ◆ ²⁰ No, I mean that what the pagans sacrifice¹³ is to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be partners with demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot take part in the table of the Lord and the table of demons. ²² Or are we trying to provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we really stronger than he is? NET

Isaiah 44:18-20

- ◆ They do not know, nor do they comprehend; for their eyes are shut, so that they cannot see, and their minds as well, so that they cannot understand. ¹⁹ No one considers, nor is there knowledge or discernment to say, "Half of it I burned in the fire; I also baked bread on its coals, I roasted meat and have eaten. Now shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?" ²⁰ He feeds on ashes; a deluded mind has led him astray, and he cannot save himself or say, "Is not this thing in my right hand a fraud?" NRSV

Wisdom of Solomon

- ◆ 14:12 For the idea of making idols was the beginning of fornication, and the invention of them was the corruption of life; NRSV

Revelation 9:21

- ◆ ²¹ And that did not repent from their murders nor from their sorceries nor from their sexual immorality nor from their thefts.