

ONE WOE IS PAST...THERE COME TWO WOES MORE REVELATION 9

Text: Revelation 9:12

Revelation 9:12

¹² One woe is past; *and*, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

Introduction:

There can be little doubt that the Book of Revelation contains some of the most frightening images in the entire Bible. This passage may be the most frightening of them all.

We are in the midst of the seven trumpet judgments. The first four trumpets have been sounded and they brought forth horrible scenes of death and destruction. The earth's environment has been shattered and mankind is writhing under the awful judgments of a holy God. **Chapter 8** closes with an angel flying through Heaven pronouncing three "**woes**" upon the "**inhabiters of the earth**". This angel knows that the plagues unleashed by the sounding of the last three trumpets will be far more horrible than anything we have witnessed yet.

Why does the Lord give us these graphic descriptions of what the world will face during the Tribulation? Why write about such tragedy, death and suffering? I think there are three very good reasons why these things are dealt with in the book of Revelation.

1. These things are mentioned so the church will know what we have been saved from. It is exciting to know that God will deliver His people from this kind of judgment.
2. He extends this glimpse of the future as a warning to those who have not trusted Jesus as their Savior. He wants them to know what they will face if they continue on in their sin and in their rejection.
3. They are given so that those of us who know the truth might be motivated to share the Gospel with the lost.

As we consider the judgment associated with the fifth trumpet, I would like to share some of the awful realities that are presented in these verses. Regardless of whether you are saved or lost there's something here for you.

We are living in a day when the subject of Hell is viewed with much skepticism. People just don't believe in a literal place of torment. In fact, many preachers and church members reject the notion of Hell, as it is

presented in the Bible. People joke about Hell and use the word as a byword in everyday language. But, these fact is, Hell is a real place! Real people are going to endure real torments for a real eternity in a real place called Hell. They can attempt to deny it is they wish, but Hell is still real. In these verses, Hell visits earth. I would like to take these verses and point out the terrible realities that will be visited upon the earth in the last days. I want to preach on the subject “One Woe is Past ...There Come Two Woes More.”

Notice:

1. A HORRIBLE PERSONALITY (REV 9:1)

Revelation 9:1

¹ 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.

A. He’s a Famous Personality

When we think of stars, we often think of celebrities; of those who are famous in this world. There is a sense in which this person is famous. In fact, he is known in three worlds. He is known in Heaven; he is known on earth and he is known under the earth. He is a famous personality.

Of course, the Devil has a name. His name is “*Lucifer*”, **Isa. 14:12**.

Isaiah 14:12

¹² How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

The name “*Lucifer*” means “*Brilliant star; Light-bearer or Shining one*”. So, we are introduced to Lucifer, a famous personality.

B. He’s a Fallen Personality

The word “*fall*” refers to something that took place in the past which still has present results. In other words, the sense of that word is “*fallen*”. We are dealing with a fallen personality.

Satan’s fall took place sometime in the past, **Luke 10:18**.

Luke 10:18

¹⁸ And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

As you know, Satan or Lucifer was a highly exalted archangel, but he was not content to be what the Lord created him to be. He wanted to be God, **Isa. 14:12-17; Eze. 28:11-19**.

Isaiah 14:12-17

¹² How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:

I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. ¹⁵Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. ¹⁶They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, *and* consider thee, *saying*, *Is* this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; ¹⁷*That* made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; *that* opened not the house of his prisoners?

Ezekiel 28:11-19

¹¹Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ¹²Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. ¹³Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. ¹⁴Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. ¹⁶By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. ¹⁸Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. ¹⁹All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never *shalt* thou *be* any more.

Pride was found in Lucifer and he was cast out of Heaven. He still has access to the presence of God where he accuses the brethren, **Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7.**

Job 1:6-12

⁶Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. ⁷And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. ⁸And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that *there is* none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? ⁹Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? ¹⁰Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. ¹¹But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. ¹²And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath *is* in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:1-7

¹Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. ²And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. ³And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that *there is* none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause. ⁴And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. ⁵But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. ⁶And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he *is* in thine

hand; but save his life. ⁷ So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

Satan is the “*prince of the power of the air*”, Eph. 2:2.

Ephesians 2:2

² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

There will come a day when Satan will be eternally cast down to the earth, **Rev. 12:10**.

Revelation 12:10

¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

So, here we see Satan, cast out of Heaven and forced to confine his activities to the earth.

C. He’s a Fearsome Personality

This famous, fallen figure is given a key to the bottomless pit. He is given the authority to unlock a terrible prison and unleash a horrific plague upon the world. We were told in **Rev. 1:18** that Jesus has the keys of “*death and of Hell*”.

For a short time, the power over a host of demonic spirits imprisoned in Hell is given to Satan.

2. A HORRIBLE PERSONALITY (REV 9:2)

Revelation 9:2

² 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.

In this verse, Satan takes the key he has been given and he uses it to open the door to Hell. This verse tells us just how close men are to Hell. One turn of the key and Hell is unleashed upon the earth. This verse has some things to say about that place called Hell.

- A. It’s a Deep Place – Bottomless Pit
- B. It’s a Dark Place – Smoke that will darken the sun.
- C. It’s a Disturbing Place - simply because it even exists.
- D. It’s a Demonic Place

3. A HORRIBLE PLAGUE (REV 9:3-12)

They are described as locusts. But, these are no insects. The description probably comes from the greatness of their numbers. One locust swarm reported in 1889 covered over 2,000 square miles. The image here is of an innumerable host of demons being allowed to ascend out of Hell onto the earth.

Note:

A. The Power they Posses

Revelation 9:3-4

³ 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. ⁴ 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.

B. The Pain They Produce

Revelation 9:5-6

⁵ 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. ⁶ And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

C. The Picture they Paint

Revelation 9:7-11

⁷ 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. ⁸ And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth *were* as *the teeth* of lions. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power *was* to hurt men five months. ¹¹ 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.

1. Horses prepared unto battle.

Mighty war horses, prepared for battle.

2. Golden crowns on their heads.

They come to the earth as conquerors

3. Faces like men

This speaks of their intelligence. The human face is so expressive. It reveals the emotions buried beneath the surface. These beings are intelligent.

4. Hair like a woman

They are attractive to people. It may be that they have some seductive charm by which they lure their victims to them. People have always been attracted to the occult.

5. Teeth like a lion

Their bite is infectious and painful. A lion's bite never really heals. There is so much infection and bacteria in the bite of a lion that the wound will rarely heal completely.

6. Breastplate of iron

Men will try to kill these demons, but that will be impossible. Men will scream in their pain and will beg for mercy, but their pleas will not touch the hearts of their tormenters.

7. Wings that sound like chariots

This implies swiftness. They will be able to surround and capture their prey with ease. Men will attempt to run, but there can be no escape.

8. Stingers in their tails

9. They have a king over them

They will be organized and united in their attacks upon humanity. The fact that this king's name is given in Hebrew and Greek shows us that all unbelievers, both Jew and Gentile, will be targeted by this demonic invasion.

Close:

When the bubonic plague was ravaging Europe during the Middle Ages, men tried every way they could think of to cure the disease. They came to believe that the plague was caused by clean, fresh air, so they plugged up their chimneys, burned disgusting things in their

fireplaces, sat in smoke-filled houses, believing they were going to be all right. Whole cities were clothed in foul-smelling, putrid smoke. They would fire their cannons regularly to blow away the fresh air. If you had walked into one of those towns and told the people that the plague was being caused by an invisible organism transmitted by tiny fleas, they would have laughed you out of town. We now know that what they couldn't see was killing them.

Modern man has adopted the same attitude regarding the spiritual realm. He can't see demons, so they must not be real. Well, they are! Jesus believed in them and He even had confrontations with them in the Gospels. Paul had a run in or two with demons in Acts. They are real and they are coming to this earth.