

GOD'S VISIONS AND DREAMS CANNOT BE DEFEATED!
REVELATION 9

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Reminder of Approach to Understanding Revelation

Faith and Knowledge:

Birth and Creation

Surgery and Healing

Religion and Education

Facts cannot destroy faith

Faith is not afraid of facts

Facts interpret reality

Faith interprets spirituality or supra-reality or reality beyond or in addition to facts

Not Competitive but Complementary

Faith completes knowledge and knowledge completes faith

Balance: left and right hands, ears, legs, feet, eyes, two nostrils

Ministry of Holy Spirit:

Teaches us correct balance

Faith + Knowledge = Wisdom

Literalism and Fundamentalism

Not words but moral truth

Sign and symbol point to truth

Introduction to Chapters 9-10

Biblical writers spoke from limited understanding of natural world and environment in which they lived.

However even though understanding was limited by environment, moral truths are eternal.

We must look beyond literal understanding to deeper message beyond limited human language and understanding.

Verses 1-2, The Unlocking of the Abyss

Falling star and to *him* was given

The Abyss or Bottomless Pit (9: 1, 2; 11: 7; 20: 1, 3)

Intermediate place of punishment for fallen angels, demons, the beast, the false prophet and of Satan (Final place of punishment is lake of fire and brimstone; Rev. 20: 10, 14, 15)

Even when evil is at its worst, it can only function within certain perimeters

Only God is omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent

The reason demons fear prayer: Prayer in the name of Jesus can restrain and confine demons to the abyss.

Verses 3-12, The Demonic Locusts

The locust plague was one of the most feared disasters in that day and context

We might think in terms of nuclear holocausts, or meteor crash to earth, or germ and chemical warfare

The unique mission of demonic locusts; human destruction not plant life

Attack to last five months because such is life span of locust

Those who are sealed

We are sealed, cleansed, covered and kept by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1: 7; 2: 13; I Peter 2: 24; I John 1: 7; Revelation 12: 11)

We are sealed by the Holy Spirit.

(II Corinthians 1: 21-22, 5: 5; Ephesians 1: 13-14, 4: 30)

The enemy knows those who belong to God.

(Sometimes the enemy has better discernment than those of us who are in church who will sometimes attack those who belong to Christ. Psalm 105: 15 applies to those inside as well as those outside of the church. Perhaps that is the reason for I Peter 4: 17

God knows those who belong to Christ.

God's people know each other

Sealing is spiritual not physical (Heart, not hair; character, not cosmetic; testimony, not tradition; devotion, not dress or denomination; salvation, not suits, fruit, not fashion; giving, not gifts (II Corinthians 8: 7; devil can bestow gifts, Acts 16: 16-18)

Abaddon (Destruction); Apollyon (Destroyer)

The real identity of the devil no matter how attractive the appearance

Evil is not leaderless and God knows who they are

Fruit of evil is always destruction, no matter how stalk or bud may look

Verses 13-21, The Horsemen of Vengeance

Exact identity unknown

When the forces of evil overwhelm, do not forget Revelation 4: 9-17.

We are not alone and have never been alone (I Kings 19: 11-18; II Kings 6: 8-17)

The intransigence of evil when the heart is not repentant

The mercy and triumph of God (Joel 2: 1-14, 23-32)