

# Behind the Scenes of Evil

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October 29, 2023

Revelation 8:13

Eagle = A great bird of prey

3 Woe's! = You better listen up

Revelation 9:1-2

This is a glimpse into the spiritual realm

Fallen star from heaven = Satan (see also Isaiah 14:12ff, Luke 10:17-20, Rev 12)

Key to the abyss = Satan's authority over the forces of evil

Bottomless pit or abyss = hell prior to final judgment

Smoke and darkness = Deception and spiritual blindness that Satan brings

Revelation 9:3-6

Locusts: Forces of evil (demons)

Power of scorpions: Unrelenting pain but no death

Unsealed: Those who do not belong to Christ are targets of their torment

5 Months: Limited time of this judgment

Revelation 9:7-10

Locusts like horses prepared for battle = Symbolic for strength, terror, and power.

Crowns of gold = powerful

Faces like humans = intelligence to deceive

Hair like women's hair = false beauty and attraction

Teeth like lion's = ferociousness to destroy those lured in

Breastplates of iron = prepared for war

Noise of wings like chariots = multitude of warring demons

Tails and stings like scorpions = Pain of their destruction and hurt

Big picture: This is a fierce and horrific army that affect the lost in a fierce, horrific, and destructive manner.

"We should take this picture as a whole. That aspect of horses prepared for battle, those crowns of pseudo-gold foreboding victory, those faces like human beings who are bent only on destruction, that hair as of furies, those teeth as of lions, those breastplates of iron portending invincibility, that sound of wings like the noise of countless prancing horses and jolting chariots on the field of battle, and last but not least, that exceedingly painful and burning, yet not fatal, scorpion sting, striking terror into the hearts of men and filling their souls with the worse conceivable dread and utter hopelessness, so that they seek death but cannot find it. Can you conceive of a more frightful and horrible and true picture of the operation of the powers of darkness in the soul of the wicked during this present age? Here are the demons, robbing men of all light, that is, of all true righteousness and holiness, joy and peace, wisdom and understanding." Hendriksen

Revelation 9:11-12

The Destroyer = Satan (John 10:10, 1 Peter 5:8)

"Though limited in duration and severity, this outbreak of demonic activity among the unbelieving carries the expression of God's wrath in the course of history to a new level, a first woe. The terrors and anxieties during a civilization's dissolution, such as Rome would undergo in the coming centuries, epitomize but do not exhaust the torments of heart and mind symbolized by the army of the 5th trumpet." Dennis Johnson

1) Demonic powers and forces are real.

Ephesians 6:12

2) The enemies #1 weapon of choice is deception.

3) If you are sealed, you are exempt from this kind of torment.

4) You are in wartime.

5) Resist Satan and he will flee from you.

James 4:7-8a

6) Fight the good fight of faith and rejoice that your name is written in heaven.

Luke 10:17-20