

# Revelation 9 — The Woes

## Episode Summary

Revelation 9 marks a dramatic turning point in the trumpet judgments as the final three trumpets are introduced as “Woes.” Unlike the earlier trumpet judgments that primarily affected creation itself, these judgments reveal a terrifying spiritual dimension behind the rebellion of humanity. Hell is opened, demonic entities are released upon the earth, and mankind is given a horrifying preview of the torment that awaits those who reject God. Yet even amid overwhelming judgment, humanity still refuses to repent.

This chapter forces us to confront several realities:

- The reality of hell
- The reality of spiritual warfare
- The existence of fallen angels and demons
- Humanity’s deep love of sin
- God’s mercy in warning mankind before final judgment
- Christ as the only refuge from wrath

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### Primary Text

- Revelation 9

### Supporting Texts

- Matthew 25:41, Isaiah 14:12, Genesis 6:1–4, Numbers 13:33, Jude 1:6–7, 2 Peter 2:4, Joel 2:4–10, Isaiah 26:14, 2 Corinthians 11:14, Hebrews 13:2, Genesis 2:10–15, Genesis 10–11, Revelation 17, 2 Thessalonians 2:9
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# Section 1 — The Fifth Trumpet: The First Woe

## Revelation 9:1–6

The fifth trumpet introduces the first “Woe.” A fallen star is given the key to the bottomless pit, and hell itself is opened.

### Key Observations

- The “star” is not a literal meteor but a spiritual being.
- The text suggests this being had already fallen previously.
- Many connect this figure with Satan himself.
- Smoke rises from the abyss and darkens the atmosphere.
- Demonic locust-like beings emerge from the pit.
- They are permitted to torment humanity for five months.
- They are not permitted to kill.
- Only those without God’s seal are affected.

## Theological Themes

### Hell Is Real

Jesus taught repeatedly concerning hell. Revelation 9 reveals hell not merely as symbolic imagery but as a horrifying spiritual reality.

### Judgment as Warning

The torment appears to function as both:

- judgment
- warning

Humanity is being shown what eternal separation from God ultimately produces.

### Divine Restraint

Even demonic powers operate under God’s authority.

- They are given limits.
- They cannot act beyond divine permission.
- They cannot touch those sealed by God.

## Section 2 — The Description of the Demonic Locusts

### Revelation 9:7–10

John describes the demonic entities released from the abyss.

#### Their Description

1. Like horses prepared for battle
2. Crowns of gold upon their heads
3. Faces like human faces
4. Hair like women's hair
5. Teeth like lions' teeth
6. Breastplates of iron
7. Wings sounding like rushing chariots
8. Tails like scorpions
9. Power to torment for five months
10. Forbidden from harming vegetation

#### Important Observations

These are not normal locusts.

Unlike natural locusts:

- they do not consume vegetation
- they target people specifically
- they operate with intelligence and purpose
- they are connected to the abyss

## Connection to Joel 2

Joel appears to describe a similar terrifying invasion:

- horse-like appearance
- military imagery
- unstoppable advance
- darkening heavens
- overwhelming fear

Joel and Revelation together portray a horrifying supernatural judgment.

## Section 3 — Abaddon / Apollyon

### Revelation 9:11

The demonic locusts have a king over them.

#### Names

- Hebrew: Abaddon
- Greek: Apollyon

Both names mean:

- Destroyer

#### Important Themes

- This being appears to be a powerful fallen angel.
- He is associated with destruction and the abyss.
- Revelation later connects abyss imagery with the Beast system.
- He may be connected with the satanic empowerment of the Antichrist.

#### Old Testament Background

Abaddon is associated with:

- destruction
- death

- Sheol

See:

- Job 26:6
- Proverbs 15:11

## Section 4 — Fallen Angels and Genesis 6

### **Genesis 6:1–4**

The “sons of God” took human women and produced the Nephilim.

#### **Key Observations**

- The text describes angelic rebellion.
- Jude and 2 Peter connect this event with severe judgment.
- Certain fallen angels were imprisoned because of this sin.
- The Nephilim existed both before and after the Flood.

### **Jude 1:6–7**

Jude compares the angels’ sin with going after “strange flesh.”

### **2 Peter 2:4**

Some fallen angels were cast into Tartarus and chained in darkness awaiting judgment.

## Section 5 — The Possible Origin of Demons

The Bible never explicitly states the exact origin of demons.

However, some theological traditions connect demons with:

- the disembodied spirits of the Nephilim
- hybrid beings destroyed in the Flood

#### **Reasons Some Hold This View**

#### **Angels vs. Demons**

Angels:

- can appear physically
- can change form
- appear as men in Scripture

Examples:

- Hebrews 13:2
- Genesis 18–19
- 2 Corinthians 11:14

Demons:

- consistently seek embodiment
- desire to inhabit people or animals
- appear disembodied and restless

Example:

- Legion requesting permission to enter pigs

### **Isaiah 26:14**

Some connect this passage to defeated spirits:

“They are dead, they will not live; they are shades, they will not arise...”

While not explicitly identifying demons, some interpret this as connected to fallen or giant spirits existing in a powerless state.

## **Section 6 — The Sixth Trumpet: The Second Woe**

### **Revelation 9:13–21**

The sixth trumpet releases four bound angels at the Euphrates River.

#### **Key Observations**

- Four angels are released for a specific appointed time.
- They lead a catastrophic judgment.
- A third of mankind is killed.

- Massive supernatural armies accompany them.
- Fire, smoke, and sulfur proceed from the horses.

### **The Euphrates River**

The Euphrates has deep biblical significance.

It was:

- Israel's eastern boundary
- associated with ancient Babylon
- connected geographically with Eden
- linked to the Tower of Babel rebellion

### **Biblical Associations**

#### **Eden**

Genesis 2 associates the Euphrates with the garden region.

#### **Babel**

Genesis 10–11 places Babylon and the Tower of Babel in this region.

#### **Boundary Between East and West**

Historically, the Euphrates served as a dividing line between major world empires.

## **Section 7 — Humanity Refuses to Repent**

### **Revelation 9:20–21**

Despite horrifying judgment:

- mankind still refuses repentance
- idolatry continues
- demon worship continues
- murder continues
- sorcery continues
- sexual immorality continues

- theft continues

### **Major Theme**

Sin hardens the human heart.

Even overwhelming evidence of divine judgment does not automatically produce repentance.

Humanity still clings to:

- idols
- rebellion
- sinful desires

## **Christ at the Center**

Revelation 9 is terrifying, but it ultimately points us to Christ.

Jesus Christ:

- conquered sin
- conquered death
- defeated Satan at the Cross
- delivers believers from wrath
- rescues humanity from hell

Hell was not created for mankind.

According to Jesus, it was prepared for the devil and his angels.

Yet humanity chooses either:

- Christ  
or
- rebellion

The judgments of Revelation serve as both:

- warnings
- invitations to repent

The only true refuge from judgment is Jesus Christ.

## Reflection Questions

1. Why do you think Revelation 9 emphasizes the reality of spiritual evil so strongly?
2. What does the refusal of humanity to repent teach us about the nature of sin?
3. How does Revelation 9 deepen your understanding of why Christ came?
4. What differences do you observe in Scripture between angels and demons?
5. How does this chapter shape your understanding of judgment and mercy?