

Revelation 9
THE THREE WOES

Demons released (1-6)

Darkened skies – smoke from opening the pit (Jude 6-7 – bound angels)

Evil that seeks to corrupt and destroy mankind (Genesis 6:1-3)

Destined to harm humans – except those who are sealed (I Peter 5:8)

Always the enemy's goal – have you been sealed? (Ephesians 1:13-14)

Death is not an option – intense suffering is experienced

By God's mercy, for what comes after death is worse

Devil as their king (7-11)

Describing the demon creatures

Not like any creature we have seen

Destroyer is his name (I Peter 5:8)

Abaddon & Apollyon both mean destroyer – His purpose and goal

Destroying one-third of mankind (12-19) – compare Revelation 6:8

This means 50% of mankind has been wiped out by only two judgments (Rev. 6:8)

Releasing the four bound angels (only demons are bound)

These are demons – God does not bind the angels that serve Him

Readied for this moment and this time (hatred released upon mankind)

God's timing – always to work out His plan (Philippians 2:12-13)

Raising an army (demonic or human?)

Probably both – men are capable of great evil (Romans 1:32)

Drugs and delusions (20-21) (Matthew 24:24 / II Thessalonians 2:9-12)

Only those who refuse to love the truth will buy into the ultimate deception

Returning to idolatry – darkness of the soul (Hosea 5:4 / John 3:19-21)

We are made to worship – idolatry is refusing to worship God (Exodus 20:1-6)

Returning to immorality (II Peter 2:19-22)

Without God all of our desires lead us into immorality

Refusing to repent – only in repentance do we find forgiveness (Hosea 14:1-2, 9)

Redemption requires repentance – we must humble ourselves before God

Discussion questions for Revelation 9

What impact does un-checked evil have upon created beings? How has evil been allowed into our nation? Churches? Personal lives? (Genesis 6:5-6 / Romans 1:28 / Ephesians 4:17-19)

Evil fills the soul – only darkness is left when the Light is rejected.

Our nation has turned from God leading to a path of increased depravity.

Even our churches are turning from the truth of His Word – leading to corrupt hearts.

What causes hardness of heart? Why does sinful behavior always draw us back? (Jeremiah 17:9 / James 1:13-15 / I Timothy 4:1-2) ***Following our own sinful hearts. (Proverbs 28:26) Until we understand that sin originates within, we will never win the battle against sin. We become influenced by false teachers and demonic beings and our hearts become calloused, finding it easy to justify sinful behavior.***

How can recognizing Satan's desire help turn us from evil? (Hebrews 11:25-26 / II Corinthians 11:13-15 / II Peter 2:18-19) ***The enemy appeals to our flesh, making sin look attractive (which it is pleasurable for a season). But the enemy never reveals the long-range results of following a sinful path – it leads to death!***

What is the only path to conquering evil in our own lives and hearts? (II Corinthians 5:17, 21 / Galatians 2:20-21) ***We must first give ourselves fully to Jesus. The indwelling Spirit makes us new creatures in Christ, giving us the power to live a new life. But we must allow Christ to have His way in our lives, yielding ourselves fully to Him, being filled with the Spirit.***

Ephesians 5:11-18 describes the days as evil. How does this passage encourage us to combat the evil days?

Have nothing to do with evil – we are not to be participants in evil thought or deeds

Let His light shine in the darkness – Christ living through me

Redeem the time – knowing the days are evil and our time is short, DON'T WASTE IT

Understand His will – His Word leads us when our hearts are surrendered (Rm. 12:1-2)

Be filled with His Spirit – right now and continue to be filled

Revelation 9
THE THREE WOES

Demons released (1-6)

Darkened skies – smoke from opening the pit (Jude 6-7 – bound angels)

Destined to harm humans – except those who are sealed

Death is not an option – intense suffering is experienced

Devil as their king (7-11)

Describing the demon creatures

Destroyer is his name (I Peter 5:8)

Destroying one-third of mankind (12-19) – compare Revelation 6:8

Releasing the four bound angels (only demons are bound)

Ready for this moment and this time (hatred released upon mankind)

Raising an army (demonic or human?)

Drugs and delusions (20-21) (Matthew 24:24 / II Thessalonians 2:9-12)

Returning to idolatry – darkness of the soul (Hosea 5:4 / John 3:19-21)

Returning to immorality (II Peter 2:19-22)

Refusing to repent – only in repentance do we find forgiveness (Hosea 14:1-2, 9)

Discussion questions for Revelation 9

What impact does un-checked evil have upon created beings? How has evil been allowed into our nation? Churches? Personal lives? (Genesis 6:5-6 / Romans 1:28 / Ephesians 4:17-19)

What causes hardness of heart? Why does sinful behavior always draw us back? (Jeremiah 17:9 / James 1:13-15 / I Timothy 4:1-2)

How can recognizing Satan's desire help turn us from evil? (Hebrews 11:25-26 / II Corinthians 11:13-15 / II Peter 2:18-19)

What is the only path to conquering evil in our own lives and hearts? (II Corinthians 5:17, 21 / Galatians 2:20-21)

Ephesians 5:11-18 describes the days as evil. How does this passage encourage us to combat the evil days?