

PASTOR: Kip McCormick
DATE: September 15, 2024

SERIES: Rev'd Up
SERMON: Let Go of the Snake

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Revelation 9:1-21 (NASB)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE: Revelation 8:13; 2 Peter 2:4-6; 1 Peter 5:8; James 4:7;
John 10:10; Romans 8:28

MESSAGE TAKEAWAY: God will go to great lengths to bring us to repentance.

SUPPORTING THOUGHTS:

- Repentance = to change one's mind => change of heart => change of actions => change of direction in life.
- "Star" -- Option 1: Good angel. Option 2: Fallen Angel/Satan/Demon
- Whether angel or Satan/demon, this entity must obey God, who imposes limits on the power and authority of angels and demons.
- Abyss: the eternal destination of the wicked. (For more on this, listen to Kip's sermon on Revelation 6, Aug 11, 2024, "Here Comes the Judge," in which he teaches on the doctrine of heaven/hell)
- Hell is occupied right now only by powerful demons who fell with Satan before the creation of mankind.
- God gives *limited* power to demonic beings aka "locusts."
- Four things about these demonic creatures: 1) They can do nothing w/o God's permission; 2) their targets aren't plants but people; 3) They can only inflict pain on those who don't worship God; and 4) their sting is excruciating but not deadly.
- Have you ever considered how we can empower the demonic in our lives?
- We can empower the demonic. Yet Satan is already defeated, so we can fight from a position of authority and power. Demons have limitations and flee at the name of Jesus.
- Just as the Holy Spirit gives us strength as we read and heed God's word, so does the enemy zap our strength when we give him permission to enter our lives.
- These locusts are evil, powerful, spiritual, demonic soldiers in the kingdom of darkness.
- The King of the Abyss is not Satan, but one of his lieutenants.



(OVER)

SUPPORTING THOUGHTS (Continued):

- Hebrew: Abaddon; Greek: Apollyon. Both mean “destroyer.”
- Fire, smoke and brimstone (sulphur) throughout scripture represent the wrath of God.
- The addiction to “the world” – unbridled passions, ungodly pursuits, unhealthy pleasures – will harden hearts so much that even the most extreme judgments will fail to wake up the masses.

CHALLENGE: Ask yourself two questions.

1. What’s that “one little thing” that’s keeping you from becoming the man or woman God called you to be?
2. What will it take to let it go?

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” - Romans 8:28 (1984 NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What or who is the star fallen from heaven?
- Who allowed the key to be given to this being? Why?
- What came out of the bottomless pit?
- What do you think these locusts are?
- What does it mean that they “were given” power? What did they have power to do? What were they not allowed to do?
- Who will be protected?
- Why would the people attacked by them want to die?
- What can you learn from these creatures by the description of their appearance?
- Who is their leader?
- What motivates them to torture mankind? What can we learn about demons from this?
- What happens at the sixth trumpet?
- Should we take these beasts as literal or symbolic? Why?
- How did most people respond to this judgment?
- What do verses 20-21 show you about God’s purpose for allowing these judgments?
- At the beginning of Kip’s teaching, he asked two “have you ever considered” questions: 1) Have you ever considered how sin can be a lot like a rattlesnake? It keeps striking you and striking you as you wrestle with it with no end in sight? 2) Have you ever considered that sometimes we may be holding onto a sin like Jay was holding onto the rattlesnake, refusing to let go of it, until God uses life to pry it from our grip? Discuss these two considerations with your group.
- What does today’s teaching prompt you to do?

SOURCES: Jason Dexter (Study and Obey on-line Bible Study, Revelation, with excellent discussion questions and commentary); Eliyahu Lizorkin-Eyzenberg, Israel Bible Center (multiple books and commentaries); [Gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org); Michael Heiser (Naked Bible Podcast; *Unseen Realm* and multiple books); Life Application Study Bible Commentary, Revelation; John MacArthur (multiple books, sermons, study bible; Grace to You Ministries); Chuck Swindoll (New Testament Commentary – Revelation); **Through the Word Bible App**; **YouVersion Bible App**.