

SEALED AND SAFE AS THE WAR RAGES ON

Revelation 9:1-11

Introduction:

- A. The war to end all wars takes a little different turn. While God is in complete control, He now uses Satan as His servant to punish the rebellious peoples of the earth.
- B. God permits Satan to exercise his demonic power as he did in the testing of Job.
- C. But as we shall see in this lesson; God set the boundaries beyond which Satan could not go.
- D. Let us look at the contents of the first WOE.

I. IDENTIFYING THE FALLEN STAR.

- A. The star is not an “it.” This star possesses being. The personal pronouns “him” and “he” are used in the star’s identity.
- B. Verse 2 reveals this star acting “he opened.”
- C. Verse 11 reveals this star to be “a king.”
- D. Another clue for identification is found in the word translated “fall.” The verb is a perfect active participle which means that the star had already fallen in some past time. The wording of other translations recognize this: “that had fallen”; “which had dropped”; “that had fallen upon the earth from heaven.”
- E. Luke 10:18 and Isaiah 14:12 record the time of the fall. “And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.” “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning.”
- A. The fallen star of verse one is the “angel of the bottomless pit” the devil – Satan – Abaddon – Apollyon – Lucifer.

II. IDENTIFYING THE LOCUSTS WHICH ARE CONTROLLED BY SATAN.

- A. These are not mindless insects that simply follow natural instinct.
- B. Note that these are also referred to by personal pronouns –“they, them, their.”
- C. These must be the fallen angels of which the Bible speaks in other places. Jude 6 “And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.” 2 Peter 2:1 “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.”
- D. The locust are specially prepared insect-like beings indwelt by fallen angels – demon angels like those that drove individuals mad in the days when Jesus walked on the earth.
- E. These fallen angels have been imprisoned waiting the time of judgment. Judgment time has arrived and the LITTLE LAMB of God is about to use these fallen angels to punish a world of rebellious people.

III. REVIEWING THE PUNISHMENT TO BE INFLICTED UPON THE EARTH’S REBELLIOUS PEOPLE. Vs. 5-10

- A. The people shall not be killed but shall be tormented for five months.
- B. The tormented people seek death and desire to die, but will not be able to end their own lives.

- C. The terrifying looks and sounds of these insect-like fallen angels shall add to the terror being inflicted upon the God-rejecting rebellious people of the earth.**

IV. GLORIFYING IN THE TRUTH THAT GOD PROTECTS HIS OWN.

- A. Looking back to chapter 7 and verse 3, we find that God has placed His seal on the foreheads of His saints. Jews? Yes, but also a great multitude which no man could number of all nations and kindreds and people.**
- B. Now, as the demon spirits are turned loose on the rebellious peoples of the earth, “it was commanded them that they should NOT hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.**
- C. While living among the tormented, God’s sealed saints shall not be hurt.**
- D. Why? Just think of what a great opportunity this will afford the saints to preach the saving gospel of Jesus Christ those all around us. Will any be saved? Would it make you mad if they were?**

CONCLUSION:

- A. Knowing that all this will surely come to pass should cause each of us to make sure of our standing before God. Am I sure that I am saved? Would I be happy to meet the Lord with the way I am living my life?**
- B. There is still time to make sure. And now is the time, the only time that you can prepare to meet God.**
- C. If there is some doubt, you are invited to talk with me about it now.**