

Revelation— Unequaled Distress!

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Chapter 9:1-6

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Mark 13:19 *In those days shall be affliction [horror],*
Psalm 25:14 *The secret of the LORD is with them that*
1 Cor. 15:51 *Behold, I shew you a mystery*
Col. 1:26 *The mystery 27 Christ in you, the hope of glory*
Mark 13:18 *Pray that this will not take place in winter*
1 Cor. 10:6 *These events happened as a warning to us*
Isaiah 14:12 *How art thou fallen from heaven O Lucifer*
Hebrews 2:14 *He might destroy him that had the power*
1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; Satan is prowling*
John 10:10 *The thief does not come except to steal*

1 Reading Revelation warns of the coming wrath. It's time to take inventory of our spiritual condition—to make a re-assessment of our faith in the Atonement Blood of the Lamb. It is a reminder that our priority is to God and His Word—a Word that contains all the information we need to enter Heaven.

2 AV **Mark 13:19** *“For in those days shall be affliction [horror NLT], such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.*

3 **20** *And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved [the entire human race would be destroyed NLT].”*

4 God promises us divine light to know what He is saying and how He is warning us. AV **Psalm 25:14** *“The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him.”* If we walk close to God and are willing to obey His Word, the meaning of any Scripture will be known.

5 AV **1 Corinthians 15:51** *“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.”*

6 God sent the apostle as a minister to show the Gentiles NKJV **Colossians 1:26** *“The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.”*

7 God wanted to make known **27** *“What are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”*

8 Today's news is full of wars, strife, conflict, horrible crimes, and constant chaos in the world. We wonder how much longer God could, or how long He will tarry before He gives the command for His Son to return.

9 The Middle East is in serious conflict with military upheavals, government takeovers, and deadly terrorist attacks. Bible lands are in constant tension with horrific conditions in many countries surrounding Israel.

10 All this is no surprise to God, since He has predicted the very things that are happening today.

11 Jesus warned NIV **Mark 13:18** *“Pray that this will not take place in winter, 19 because those will be days of distress unequaled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now.”*

12 Revelation 4-5 shows the redeemed worshipping the Lamb in Heaven—and here chapter 9, it seems that believers have been raptured.

13 The church does not appear again until chapter 19, when Christ comes back to set up His Millennial Kingdom. Until then the saints are in Heaven.

14 It is difficult to envision the sudden rapture of believers from the earth—along with the restraining presence of the Holy Spirit.

15 All the restraints that now exist in the world will be taken away in an instant—allowing evil to sweep over the world like a tidal wave or tsunami.

16 When the levies around New Orleans gave way during Hurricane Katrina, the restraining

walls were gone, so the water quickly flooded and overwhelmed that city.

17 In a similar way, the earth will be overwhelmed with wickedness and evil following the Rapture.

18 When Israel was in Egypt, Moses demanded the release of the Jews, but Pharaoh resisted. As a result, a series of horrible plagues swept over the land.

19 These were directed against Egypt's pagan gods. One plague was against their frog-god named Heqet—so a plague of frogs covered the land of Egypt.

20 The Tribulation is similar—the world wants the darkness of the world to indulge in unrestrained sin and the wickedness of the world.

21 The apostle refers to Old Testament times NLT **1 Corinthians 10:6** *“These events happened as a warning to us, so that we would not crave evil things as they did.*

22 *7 or worship idols as some of them did. For the Scriptures say, ‘The people celebrated with feasting and drinking, and they indulged themselves in pagan revelry.’”*

23 A Christian writer mentions only two kinds of people in the world—Those who say to God: *Thy will be done*; and those to whom God will have to say—*Because of your choice, thy will, will be done* [unquote]. We can be sure that *all who are in Hell, chose it.*

24 AV **Revelation 9:1** *“And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.*

25 *2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.”*

26 People in the world can see their lives spiral out of control because of alcohol and drugs. Revelation 8 referred to a falling meteor striking the earth, but here in Revelation 9 is reference to a fallen angel—it could be referring to Satan.

27 AV Isaiah 14:12 *“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!”*

28 13 *For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God,”* and 3 more *I wills*. In verse 14 Satan says, *“I will be like the most High.”*

29 The fallen star Revelation 9:1 *was given the key of the bottomless pit*—who then opens the abyss or bottomless pit—a prison for fallen angels—dreadful beyond describing.

30 NIV Jude 1:6 *“And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.”*

31 When confronting a legion of devils NIV Luke 8:31 *“They begged [Jesus] repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss [the deep AV].”* It is *this* bottomless pit that is being opened.

32 AV Revelation 9:3 *“And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.”*

33 4 *And 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.*

34 5a *And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months.”*

35 If the maximum-security prisons of the world released all the murderers, terrorists, and hardened criminals with weapons of mass destruction, and told to wreak havoc in the world—that is what it is like when the door of this bottomless pit is thrown open, and these scorpion-like creatures are let loose in the world.

36 The apostle calls them *locusts*, but probably referring to demonic *creatures* in the kingdom of darkness.

37 He is using the Greek language to communicate that these beings are aggressive, ferocious, and cruel.

38 Their leader is Apollyon or Abaddon—which is a reference to the Devil or demonic beings working under his authority.

39 NKJV Revelation 12:9 *“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”*

40 Satan does *not* have God’s power, but he is still deceitful and wicked and roaming the earth.

41 He is *not* omnipresent like God is, so he uses a network of demons working for him who have two purposes—*hinder* the power of God; and *extend* the power of Satan.

42 AV Revelation 9:5b *“And their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.”*

43 6 *And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.”*

44 True believers are often persecuted, tempted, oppressed, or tormented by Satan and his demons, but we must keep in mind that his power was crushed—Jesus gave His life on the cross that AV

Hebrews 2:14 *“He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.”*

45 The only power Satan fears is the divine power of God and of Christ. The believer has a place of safety and refuge, but the non-believer is vulnerable with no refuge.

46 NKJV Job 2:2 *“The LORD said to Satan, ‘From where do you come?’ So Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it [watching everything that’s going on NLT].’”*

47 Satan stalks and looks for weaknesses, or for any area where he can get in to defile our conscience.

48 He is ready to attack any non-alert mind; any unguarded heart; or any vulnerable spot—he is ready to strike anyone not on-guard.

49 We must AV 1 Peter 5:8 *“Be sober, be vigilant;”* because Satan is *“seeking whom he may devour.”*

50 Jesus told us NKJV John 10:10 *“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”*

51 We have been *warned* and many times through Scripture—the *Unequaled Distress* is coming!

52 Now that we *know*—we *can* escape because we *can* be rescued; and we *do* have a choice—a choice to trust God in faith to bear spiritual fruit as a child of the King—it’s all explained in His Book.

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