

# The Voice of Truth # 500

## Hell on Earth

Let's listen to God's message on 'Hell on Earth' from the first 12 verses of the 9th chapter of Revelation. This is the study of the judgments that are going to fall upon this earth during the tribulation period. My friend, do you know the Lord? Do you?

We closed our last message with an angel flying through the midst of heaven, crying with a loud voice. **Woe, Woe, Woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpets of the three angels which are yet to sound.** Four angels have sounded their trumpets and we have heard the thunderings and seen the lightnings and felt the earthquakes. We have beheld the rain of blood with its destructive hail and fire. We've seen one third of the sea turned to blood and one third of the fresh waters turned to liquors mingled with waters of gall. Now in the midst of this Christless world stricken under the judgments of God, we're to face three more trumpet judgments that are to fall upon godless, unbelieving humanity. Judgments more terrible than have ever fallen upon this earth to break the dominion of sin. Let's not get away from this fact. Let's keep it clear in mind. All these judgments from the opening of the first seal in Revelation, the sixth chapter, on through the entire book, fall upon the same people because they cover a period of only seven years. This is the fulfillment of Daniel's 70th week of years. Just as the 10 plagues of Egypt fell upon the same people, so these seven seals of judgment fall upon the same people.

Now, my friends, I can't help but emphasize that fact this morning, breaking the power and dominion of sin in the world. The gospel only breaks the power of sin in the heart of the individual he saves. Now, I want you to get that. And we might bring you a message before we close these books on the dominion of sin, the power and dominion of sin, and show you what a hold sin has upon this world, and only the power of God and judgment can break it.

Now with your Bibles in hand, let's open to 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.**

**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. 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. 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. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment *was* as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.**

**And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the locusts *were* like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads *were* as it were crowns like gold, and their faces *were* as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as *the teeth* of lions.**

**And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings *was* as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.**

**And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power *was* to hurt men five months. And they had a king over them, *which is* the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue *is* Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath *his* name Apollyon.**

**One woe is past; *and*, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.**

The first four trumpet judgments are distinct from the last three, in that judgment falls upon *things* of the world, while in the last three, judgments fall upon *inhabitants* of the earth, and are described as woes. You noticed as we read those 12 verses of the ninth chapter of Revelation, that these woes began at the sounding of the fifth trumpet, and we're now being introduced to a new sphere, that is the underworld, or the bottomless pit. If you'll read closely the rest of the book of Revelation, you'll find that the bottomless pit comes often under consideration. When this fifth angel sounds his trumpet, the underworld begins an invasion of the earth. You've heard people talk about the invasion of the earth

from Mars, but here, friends, is an invasion of the earth from the bottomless pit. That's right. That's right. And the demons begin to play their part in the drama of the great day of the Lord God Almighty.

The prison pit, which is the abode of demons, opens its mouth to belch out upon the earth a horde of demons in the form of locusts. No wonder the angel in midheaven cried, woe, woe, woe. Woe, is the wail of grief. It is always grief when the devil comes down. Woe, is the cry of denunciation. I can think of nothing so awful than for God to reject the sinner and to turn his back upon him and leave him to the destruction of Satan, to turn him over to Satan without any mercy. God help us in this hour.

Let's notice Revelation 9:1. **And the first angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth, and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.** The first thing we notice here is that the star falling from heaven is not a literal star, because the scripture says **to him** was given the key of the bottomless pit. You listen now. Hold your seat and listen. John did not see the falling of the star, but he recognized the star as one that had fallen. The scripture refers to the star in the masculine gender, indicating he was an intelligent living being. He is a celestial being, though fallen, as he's called a star. In Job 38, we're told that when the Lord God of heaven finished his creation, the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy. We know that these were angelic beings. Jude tells us that there are angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation. Also, Peter tells us of angels that sinned, whom he did not spare, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, that is, the bottomless pit. The Lord Jesus Christ said in Luke 10:18, I saw Satan as lightning, fall from heaven. Among the angelic beings who fell is Satan, the devil.

In Matthew, we read of the devil and his angels. And in Ephesians, he is referred to as the prince of the power of the air. So, we conclude, therefore, that the fallen star mentioned here can be none other than Satan himself, the anointed cherub who fell because of his pride, as recorded in Ezekiel 28, and Isaiah 14. So, the Lord Jesus Christ now gives to Satan the key of the bottomless pit. Can you imagine such thing?

Let me say that Satan, according to God's word, has no power except God grants him power. Satan had to ask Jehovah God for power to touch Job and power was given to him to touch everything Job had and even Job's body. But he did not permit him to take Job's life. This was true in the life of Peter when Christ said, **Peter, Satan has requested thee to shift thee. But I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not.** Satan cannot go beyond the limit God sets upon him. Satan has no power except that which God grants him or permits him to exercise. That is one of the greatest and most comforting thoughts to my heart as a child of my heavenly father, that Satan has no power to touch my life in any way or manner except it first be granted him of my father. And then I know it is for my good and for God's glory, even though I may not understand it.

Let me emphasize another fact, and that's this, special powers are granted unto Satan at this time because of the wickedness of this world and because men prefer the service of the devil more than they do the service of God. Therefore, God permits the inhabitants of this earth to fully experience Satan's administrations. This has been so in every age before and after the Lord Jesus Christ was incarnated, rejected, crucified and sent back to heaven, not wanted. The nations who knew God glorified him not as God. Therefore, God has turned them over to a reprobate mind, to wallow in their own lust and to experience the fullness of the service of Satan. Man, in your love of sin and rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ, why aren't you suffering in the service of Satan? Listen, to the limit as here described, why aren't you? Why are you still the recipient of the coming blessings of life? It's because and only because, get it now, hold your seat, God has not utterly abandoned you and withdrawn his grace. If you're living when this fifth angel sounds and you set yourself in defiance against Almighty God, that death knell of God's rejection and denunciation shall pierce your heart.

Woe! Woe! Woe! We are told in God's Word that God sends them a strong delusion to believe a lie because they reject the Lordship of Christ and prefer the Lordship of Satan. Man says, I will not have this man, Christ Jesus, to reign over me.

In the Garden of Eden, Satan deceived man into surrendering to his Lordship by promising him freedom from authority. And man has chosen to revolt against the

authority of Christ and believe Satan's lie. We are told in God's Word that God sends them a strong delusion to believe a lie because they reject the Lordship of Christ and prefer the Lordship of Satan (2 Thessalonians 2:11). Therefore, at the sounding of this fifth trumpet, God has given man up, get it now, God's given man up! Rejected the Christ-rejecters and cried, Woe! Woe! Woe! To the inhabitants of the earth, by the reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels which are yet to sound. Now you get that.

There's coming a day when God's given this world up. Now he enlarges the power of Satan in answer to their desire, as they have cried, let us alone, that we may come to know and to feel and to realize the tyranny of Satan, which has been the choice of their own so-called free will. As we look over the world's situation today, we see that thing taking place before our very eyes, that God is slowly turning the world over to the Lordship of Satan to believe a lie and be damned under the judgments of God. My friend, may the Lord open your heart one more time and hear what God's word says. Can you still hear the warning cry?

So, Satan has been given the key of the bottomless pit, which is God's prison house for the damned. The scripture says **he was given the key of the bottomless pit**, which means, the key to the well pit of the abyss. Now, I want you to get that because in our lesson next Sunday, we're going to see another invasion of the earth by the inhabitants of hell from another section of hell, which means the well pit or the abyss or the bottomless pit. Satan with this key in hand, to the well-pit of the abyss, opens the door, therefore to a great extent breaking down the wall of separation between earth and hell, which results in a plague falling upon the inhabitants of this earth that has never been known before, never will again will be experienced. That shaft to this well is somewhere on the surface of this earth, known by Satan, every demon spirit, every fallen angel. For instance, the demons Christ rebuked when he commanded them to come out of the demon-possessed man among the tombs, begged the Lord not to send them into the abyss, Luke 18:31, but let them go into the herd of swine. He granted their request and the whole herd rushed into the sea.

Every demon knows his future punishment is to be consigned to the bottomless pit. Satan knows that that is his future punishment. Every fallen angel knows it. I

wish that every one of you who do not know Christ would realize definitely that that is your future punishment if you do not turn to Christ.

One day Jehovah said to Job, **Have the gates of death been opened unto thee, or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?** No, like Job, we cannot imagine the darkness and horror of that pit, the prison house of the damned. We cannot imagine the horrible creatures who are imprisoned in that court of the damned. This bottomless pit is nothing more than the heart of the earth, where the soul of every one of the damned is driven from light into darkness and chased out of this world at death. Job 18:18.

Speaking to John in Revelation 1, Christ said, **I am he that liveth and was dead and behold, I'm alive forevermore. Amen.** Get it now, hold it, **and have the keys of hell and of death.** It is this key the Lord Jesus Christ gives to Satan to unlock the bottomless pit. Notice the expression, **to him was given the key.** Let's now read 2nd verse 9:2. **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. 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.**

Just as soon as Satan opened this pit, there arose a smoke from it, as the smoke of a great furnace. The smoke was so intense, that it darkened the air and obscured the sun. Very few have any concept whatsoever of the horror of the pit of darkness. Then out of this smoky blackness proceeded living things. It's a scourge of demons. It seems that these had been confined to the bottomless pit for this day and hour of the tribulation period when God will permit them to be turned loose upon a Christless people who have made fun of the gospel, trampled the blood of Christ under their feet, and counted it as an unholy thing, and have done despite unto the Spirit of grace. Man's iniquity is full, and here he's facing hell on earth.

My friend, drop by drop, you're treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of God's righteous judgment. And it's about to spill over now. When this fifth angel sounds, men are going to be given a taste of the torments of hell while living here on earth. Do you get that?

The average individual today thinks it's a disgrace to be seen with a Bible under your arm, to have one in your possession while at work. The individual who dares carry his Bible with him to his work is laughed at, belittled, called every insulting name that can be imagined. The college student who dares stand up and say he believes the Bible, is ridiculed, his intelligence is questioned, and he's cried down as an utter extremist, narrow-minded, mentally deranged. But this class of people, those who have not the seal of God in their foreheads, is going to get a taste of judgment of the torches of hell before they reach hell. Now, you laugh at these judgments if you want to, but they're just and righteous all together, and they shall take place just as the Bible says they will.

These living creatures that pour forth from this pit of darkness are horrible in shape, malignant in disposition, and they are armed with power to afflict and torment men's bodies. As John looked upon them, he called them locusts, but they are supernatural, infernal things of the pit and not of the earth. Let me say again, these horrible, infernal creatures come from the seething, boiling lava of the pit and inflict a judgment of intolerable agony. The entire scene is one of a great eruption of volcanic character belching forth an awful brood of locusts as the product.

And now with your Bible in hand, let's look at that 7th verse. **And the shape of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle, and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men, and they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth was the teeth of lions, and they had breastplates as it were breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle, and they had tails like unto scorpions, And there were stings in their tails, and their power was to hurt men five months.**

So, we see here winged creatures whose flight was very noisy, like chariots and horses running in the battle. They looked like locusts, but they had tails like scorpions with stings in their tails. The average scorpion is about six or eight inches long, but no doubt these were larger in size. They were hairy all over, John says, having hair as the hair of women. They appeared to have breastplates of iron, teeth like lions, heads crowned with gold. They do not consume or injure any

of the grass of the field or any green thing of any tree. In other words, they do not appear to eat at all. But from the picture John gives, they seem to dwell mostly in the air, shrouded in the smoke and darkness from the pit. What an infernal creature, a creature of the pit. They seem to imitate the cherubims, they're fallen creatures let loose upon a Christless world for one purpose, to torment a godless people. It is God's judgment on men and women who will not have Christ to rule over them. It is God giving men and women the demons they have been worshipping.

Now I wish I could impress on your hearts and may the Holy Spirit drive the arrow home to your souls. It is Christ or hell. It is the Lordship of Christ or the Lordship of Satan. Here is a foretaste of hell, a glimpse of what hell will be like, whether you believe it or not.

Notice one other thing. They had a king over them, which John said, is the angel of the bottomless pit. This angel is not Satan, but is one of the majestic cherubim's who had fallen. His name is given in both the Hebrew and Greek and means destruction. This indicates that the plague of demons will visit both Gentile and Jew and will be worldwide over all the earth. These demons were under the command of their leader, their king.

Now let's notice what they were commanded to do and also what they were commanded not to do. In the first place, they were not to hurt the grass or green things of the earth. In the next place, they were to torment only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. Did you get that? Here in the first woe, God begins to make a difference between his elect and those of the earth, in meting out judgment upon the inhabitants of the earth. This was true in the plagues upon Egypt. God made a difference between the Egyptians and the Jews. Go back to Revelation 7 and you'll find those who are sealed. These, the Lord Jesus Christ draws a line and says, you cannot hurt them. Those who have the seal of God in their foreheads, don't you touch them. Don't you touch them. Again, they were commanded that they should not kill the men that did not have the seal of God in their foreheads, but they should torment them five months. This is the only judgment we're told how long it lasted, five months. And the scripture tells us their torment was as the torment of a scorpion when he striketh a man.

We are told that the sting of a scorpion is one of the most fierce, distracting pains a human can endure and not die. These infernal demons were to torture humanity five months with the torment of a scorpion. As I read the record, I get the impression that these demons kept on striking a man many times and no one but God's elect are immune from them.

They seem to have a degree of intelligence because they're able to distinguish between those who have the seal of God upon their foreheads and those who do not. Their power is limited. Now, Satan's power was limited when he was given permission to torment Job. The extent to their power is to horrify and torment, and they inflict their torment by stings, which are like the stings of scorpions which are in their tails. They are supernatural creatures, yet they have the capacity to injure and torment men just as the natural scorpion has.

Let me call your attention to one of the strangest things found in God's Word. Listen, here's one of the strangest things that you'll find in God's Word; **In those days shall men seek death and shall not find it, and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.** Isn't that strange? In the normal person, the greatest human motive is self-preservation or the deep desire to live. But here during this judgment, there'll be five months upon this earth that men will seek death and death will flee from them. The torment of these demons will be so painful, so maddening, and all but past the point of endurance until men will cry to die and can't. They'll scream from torture, but no relief. They'll try to commit suicide, but cannot. They'll place the gun to their temples and pull the trigger, but they won't be able to take their own lives. No knife will be sharp enough to pierce their hearts. The hangman's rope will not work. They'll jump from high places, but can't take their own lives. God sees to it that death flees from them. Why? They'll try to persuade men to kill them, but God has the key of death, and no man can die without his will. Now God's on the throne, brother. I don't care what you say. He holds the key and seals every man in the state he's in. And they are forced to face the torments of these infernal demons with no way of escape, even through death. Won't that be an awful day? to think that hundreds of millions of people can't rest, can't sleep, tormented day and night, and can't even die? There'll be five months upon the earth during this awful judgment when there'll be no deaths, not one funeral procession. There'll be crying and wailing and gnashing of

teeth, but no deaths. You'll say that's fantastic. I can't believe it. There's nothing fantastic about that, my friend. It's just you facing the judgment of a sin-avenging God. Your sins have long cried unto the Lord of glory for vengeance, and this is the day of vengeance. It's the day God breaks the power and dominion of sin. And the sinner who's refused to be separated from his sins is going down under God's judgment upon sin.

Oh, if you only believe God's word now while there's mercy. I never cease to praise my Lord for his distinguishing grace upon me as I behold God's righteous judgment upon my sin in Christ Jesus, my Lord. Let me tell you something, friend, Hell and hell's torments are not mere fiction, as infidels would have you believe. Neither are they so far removed from this present world as the average man believes. Let me tell you, there is the fiery abyss with its myriads of evil beings consigned within its gates, and there is but a door between this world and the underworld. Hell is a real place, the city of the damned. This is also true about heaven, which is a city of the saints of God, where Christ dwells. Heaven is above. Earth is beneath. There's just a thin veil between this life in the flesh and the life above. And there's just a door between this world and hell beneath. Where are you going, friend? Do you know Christ?