

Apollyon / Destroyer

Revelation 9:1-12

“The tribulation period unmasks human wickedness and also demonstrates the true character of Satan. In our modern day while Satan is still restricted it is easy to forget the great conflict which is raging between the forces of God and the forces of Satan referred to in Ephesians 6:12. In the great tribulation, and especially in the time of the fifth trumpet, with the release of the confined demons the full character of Satan will be starkly manifested. For the first time in history all those who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour will come under demonic possession and affliction. What is true in that hour is also true in some measure today, for there is no deliverance from the power of Satan nor from his affliction apart from salvation in Christ and the delivering power of God. Walvoord

- I. God is sovereign over and powerfully controls the spiritual realm of evil. He alone determines the extent to which evil prevails. He did not create evil, for He is holy and incapable of doing so. Satan is the one who created evil as an act of defiance toward the holiness of God. His rebellion caused him to lose his place in heaven as one of God’s chief angels. Since then, he has been doing everything in his power to corrupt the world God created. His battle plan began in the garden of Eden by introducing sin to man through deception. He caused all of God’s creation to suffer as a result. He will continue to fight God, deceive man, blind man (2 Cor. 4:4), and bring as many souls as possible into hell until he is permanently cast into the lake of fire at the end of Christ’s millennial reign.

Rev. 9:1

2 Thess. 2:7-8b

1 Jn. 5:19

Isa. 14:12-15

Ezek. 28:12-17

Lk. 10:17-18,20

Rev. 12:7-9

הַיְלֵל *hêylêl*, Lucifer = "light-bearer" shining one, morning star, Lucifer of the king of Babylon and Satan (fig.)

- II. Satan's army consists of demons or fallen angels who chose to follow him instead God. God cast them out of heaven, like he did Satan, because of their rebellion. Some roam about the earth looking to control, oppress and possess the godless in any way they can. Others have been permanently chained in the bottomless pit for judgment on the Great Day. Still others have been confined to the bottomless pit to be released during the great tribulation to inflict pain and suffering on those who do not have God's seal on them. We were sealed by the Holy Spirit the second we were saved. The evil one can't harm us, nor can demons possess us. Yet we are told that we must put on the full armor of God to keep ourselves from falling prey to their oppressive, deceptive ways. God protects His own, and he will do the same for those who come to know Him when evil is no longer held back by the Holy Spirit during the tribulation.

Rev. 9:2-6
2 Peter 2:4
Jude 6-7
Eph. 6:10-18

1 Jn. 5:18 We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.

- III. Divine judgment takes on many forms. God's purpose is not to be mean or vindictive, but to force unrepentant man to understand the true nature of the demonic forces that deceive and control them. The demons and their leader, a.k.a., the destroyer, will show no mercy. Yet, mercy, and saving grace from God, will still be available for those willing to repent and turn to Him.

Rev 9:7-11
1 Cor. 10:19-22

"The fifth and sixth seal - the locust plague torturing the nations and the demonic horsemen killing them - are closely intertwined. The entire desire of the fallen angels is to torture and kill all who are made in the image of God. Yet the great sadness here is that depraved humanity is so ensnared and deceived that they fail to realize this truth and rush after sin recklessly...These horrible events will prove to the nations beyond a shadow of a doubt that God is supreme, that the demonic forces hate them, and that God is giving them a final chance to repent." (Osborne)

- **Like** horses -- coming out for battle (they are warlike, powerful, and defiant).
- Wore something **like** crowns -- victor's crowns -- invincible, unstoppable, and all conquering.
- Faces **like** human faces -- highly intelligent, organized forces of evil.
- **Like** women's hair -- perhaps to indicate the allurements of evil and darkness.
- **Like** lion's teeth -- fierce, powerful, merciless.
- Breastplates **like** iron -- immune to destruction.
- Wings **like** the sound of chariots -- speed and impossibility of evading their attack (nowhere to run or hide).