

DEATH WILL FLEE FROM THEM

REVELATION 9:1-21 // TODD DUGARD
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When I agree with God's Word and turn to him, I escape the torment of future judgment (9:1-5, 12-19), the terror of facing God (9:6), the trauma of sin's effects (9:7-11), and the tragedy of human pride (9:20-21).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. The Revelation given to John holds our attention and captures our imagination because it paints the picture of the end for God's enemies. As the fifth trumpet sounds, John sees a bottomless pit open, smoke rises, and, from the billowing ash, a horde of dangerous locusts emerges to torment only the people who do not have God's seal. As you read the opening verses of chapter nine, what feelings does this part of the vision evoke? How might an unbeliever feel as they read this?*
- 2. This passage makes it evident that God knows the difference between who follows him and who does not. It also removes any sense of a proverbial fence where a person can safely remain undecided about following Jesus. Anyone out of favour with God will suffer when he displays his wrath against sin. Why might people refuse to turn to God despite the warnings of judgment?*
- 3. Many people prefer to talk about God's love and Jesus' forgiveness without drawing attention to the wrath that comes as the consequence of rejecting God's authority. Some even claim to have God's promise of salvation without repenting of their sin. Does Revelation 9 support that claim? What are some reasons that would cause you to be more direct with people concerning the wrath of God?*

4. *As Christians, we can experience quiet joy about the vindication of our faith as we read through this revelation. We can exalt God for the victory to come and for his power to sustain believers to the end. At the same time, we also long to see more people saved, especially those we know and love. We may fear that they will never repent and come to the Lord.* What hope can you draw from 2 Peter 3:9 concerning God's desire and timing for their salvation? What can you do next to encourage a person you know to repent and believe?

2 Peter 3:9

“But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”