

## **Discerning of Spirits in Revelation 9: Exposing the demonic realm to the church of the end times**

Patricia Baird Clark



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In Revelation 9 the Holy Spirit is giving us a detailed picture of our human condition as a result of the Fall and how evil spirit entities take advantage of this fallenness to try to achieve their own evil purposes. A spiritual interpretation is given for each verse wherein is revealed the working of God to bring believers into the full stature life of the Lord Jesus Christ. The demons merely serve His purposes to uproot us out of our complacency into a concerted effort to know God at all costs, even death to self...the only thing that brings total victory. This interpretation is inward and allegorical rather than outward and literal. Each entity in the chapter represents something within us. The bottomless pit, for example, represents our sin nature. The smoke that arises from it is our pride which blinds our eyes to spiritual things (sun and air). The locusts with power like scorpions are demons that are permitted to torment us according to our pride and wrong thinking. Out of our torment we are to seek and obey God such that when humility and truth come into our understanding, the demons will lose any rights to torment further and will have to flee. The author has divided Revelation 9 into four segments: Segment One - vs. 1-6: Spiritual Problems Common to All People Segment Two - vs. 7-11: The Characteristics of Demons Segment Three - vs. 12-15: Coming into Perfection Segment Four - vs. 16-21: The Spirit Realm Opens This book gives many examples from the author's life and ministry that illustrate the truths revealed in each verse. Descriptions include how she and her church have learned together how to discern the enemy's imposters that come into our lives and churches to wreak havoc. These deceivers are absolutely undetectable by the natural eye and understanding. Only by the spirit can they be discerned but there are many injunctions in God's Word that Christians ignore that are actually there to protect us from the Devil and his deceivers. Jesus warned us that false prophets would come into our churches; however, rarely are any discerned because our level of spiritual discernment is so low. Even without our discernment they would not be able to bring damage if we only obeyed God's warnings clearly stated in Scripture but mostly ignored. The physical descriptions of the locusts in Revelation 9 are actually descriptions of the functions of demons. In these verses we learn where they get their power, how they affect our thinking, how they travel from place to place, things they can and cannot do, how to recognize their activity and many more interesting details about them. This chapter is not limited, though, to merely exposing demonic activity; it reveals how our godly response to demonic torment ultimately brings us into full maturity in Jesus Christ. Old partial and imperfect beliefs are exposed and removed in the process of maturing so that believers can understand the full truths of God that could not be received until this time. ("For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.") At this point God can open to these believers the entire spiritual realm where demons and also God's angels operate. This will enable these full-stature Christians to minister into the church of the end times with power and authority unmatched since Jesus Christ walked on earth two thousand years ago thus greatly accelerating the maturing process of the church at large. The end of the book provides Bible study questions for those wanting to delve into Revelation 9 for their own study.

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