

**Revelation #25****January 29, 2023****Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon****Today's Message: The First Four Trumpets; Revelation 8:7-13**

Remember that the sounding of the Trumpets in Revelation is in response to the prayers of the saints.. The prayers were powerful prayers offered with incense before the throne of God (8:4). Then, as 8:5 says,

“Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

Then,

“Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.” (8:6)

Then, in sequential order the seven “presence angels” begin sounding the trumpets of judgment in seemingly rapid succession, one right after another. We can learn that once judgment begins it will be swift and it will be final.

It is fitting to spend a moment thinking about these “presence angels” and the work of angels in general. A scholar named Henry Morris observes, “No doubt, these angels had been waiting for this particular ministry a long time.” Morris notes that they were acting according to the will of God on behalf of the saints. As Hebrews 1:14 teaches, “Are not angels ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” And certainly, we see in the blowing of the trumpets and the judgments that follow, these “presence angels” ministering **for those who are heirs of salvation!**

And, the angels were ministering in response to the prayers of the saints. They were praying for God to avenge their blood, for Satan to be overthrown, for glory to God and to the Son! And, then, at just the right time the Father responds and the “presence angels” begin blowing the trumpets of judgment. I can't help but hear Jesus teaching his disciples to pray in John 14:13-14 and John 16:26-27, and that they could ask anything in His name and He *will* do it, “so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.” Surely, the prayers, the incense and the trumpets provide a shining example to us that when we pray for God's will to be done, He will do it, and all perfectly accomplished in His time!

**I. The First Four Trumpets: The Increased Intensity of the Judgment of God upon Life Sustaining Ecosystems (8:7-13). (More severe than the first six seals of judgment)**

**A. (8:7) The First Trumpet– Judgment on the Land**

**1. Hail: A Judgment exceeding a similar judgment of the seventh plague in Egypt**

**a) In Egypt God acted on behalf of the cries of the Israelites**

(1) Exodus 3:9: “And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.”

- (2) Exodus 9:22-26: God sent the plague of hail like never before experienced by men. "It was the worst storm in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation." (Ex. 9:24b)
- (3) The people and land were decimated: "Throughout Egypt hail struck everything in the fields—both men and animals; it beat down everything growing in the fields and stripped every tree." (9:25)
- (4) God's people were spared: "The only place it did not hail was the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were." (9:26)
  - (a) Compare with Revelation 7:3 and Revelation 9:4.

**Application: Psalm 91:4-9:** "He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked."

- b) Hail is a judgment upon the wicked idolaters, like stoning was in the OT for blasphemy and idolatry: (See Leviticus 24:14-16; Deut. 13:6-10, etc.)
  - c) This hail storm may have covered the whole earth
2. Fire mingled with blood
- a) MacArthur describes this mixture as "a deluge of death" and it was hurled upon the earth.
  - b) The Fire and blood was an inseparable mix.
    - (1) Joel 2:30 predicted this: "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, **blood and fire** and billows of smoke."
    - (2) The fire is unquenchable as Matthew 3:12 warns, "His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will clear His threshing floor, gathering His wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."
      - (a) Here you see the separation of the saints and the wicked.
3. A third of the earth will be burned up.
- a) That is an area that would cover North and South America.

#### B. (8:8-9) The Second Trumpet– Judgment on the Sea

- 1. Something **like** a huge mountain
  - a) All ablaze
    - (1) Probably like a meteor, **or** it could be something supernatural

- b) Was **thrown** into the sea
        - (1) Probably by an angel, but the verse does not say.
  - 2. A third of the sea was decimated by the “large mountain” that was thrown in it.
    - a) A third of the water turned to blood (became deadly). (**note:** according to Garland, “blood may simply denote death” which was caused by the toxicity of the meteor or supernatural object. Its submersion into the sea will severely pollute the seas. The meteor polluted a large area,  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the seas.)
      - (1) A third of the sea life died
    - b) A third of the ships of the sea were destroyed.
      - (1) Probably a huge tidal wave produced by the meteor or supernatural object.
      - (2) Isaiah 2:16 predicts that in the Day of the Lord “every trading ship and every stately vessel” will be destroyed.
        - (a) Here in the second trumpet  $\frac{1}{3}$  will be destroyed.
- C. (8:10-11) The Third Trumpet—judgment on  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the freshwater systems of the earth.
- 1. A great star, blazing like a torch fell from the sky on  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the fresh waters of earth.
    - a) Literally an asteroid or comet
    - b) Rivers and springs of water
      - (1) Literally, this object decimates  $\frac{1}{3}$  of this life-giving source for human survival.
      - (2) God is intentionally removing everything man has depended on and taken for granted to sustain life.
        - (a) Again, quoting Garland, “God is systematically removing all the props which allow earth dwellers to imagine there is no God.”
  - 2. The name of the star is Wormwood
    - a) Wormwood is a shrub with leaves which are used to produce a toxin so toxic that its manufacture is banned in many countries. (McArthur)
      - (1) The word Wormwood is used 8 times in the OT and is always associated with bitterness, poison and death.
        - (a) Dt. 29:18: idolatry as root of bitterness
        - (b) Pr. 5:4: death of soul associated with adultery
        - (c) Jer. 9:15; 23:15: bitterness of soul from pursuing idols.
        - (d) Lam 3:15,19; death of soul from ungodliness
        - (e) Amos 5:7; 6:12: the fruit of unrighteousness which is common among the inhabitants of the earth during the Tribulation.
    - b) This Wormwood star literally brings ecological disaster and death to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the waters on earth which leads to the death of **many** inhabitants of the earth.

3. Wormwood in contrast with the life-giving “springs of living water” of Rev. 7:17
  - a) The cross of Christ is our very tree of life from which flows the “springs of living water.”
    - (1) To everyone who refuses the “living water” of Christ, God will give them “Wormwood. This poisonous water will bring death rather than life. To the contrary,
      - (a) In **John 7:37-38**, Jesus declared, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”

D. (8:12) The Fourth Trumpet—judgment on the physical sources of natural light

1. Isaiah sees this Day of the Lord and the judgment on these sources of light and the effect it has on the inhabitants of the earth.
  - a) Isaiah 13:9-10: “See, the day of the Lord is coming—a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger—to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it. The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light.”
  - b) In doing this, God is once again removing all physical sources of security man has embraced. Isaiah goes on to say in 13:11,
    - (1) “I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless.”
2. The prophet Joel sees in his vision of the Day of the Lord the darkening of the heavenly bodies in advance of His army. Garland supposes that His army will be the unfettering of demonic forces that we will see in Revelation 9.
  - a) The army of locusts in Revelation 9, are under God’s control.
3. A third of the day and a third of the night is **dark**.
  - a) Some commentators speculate that this darkening is the result of intense cloud cover from the dust and debris produced by the previous “star”.
  - b) The darkening becomes an ominous setting for what comes next.

II. (8:13) Woes of Warning Preceding the next three trumpet blasts.

- A. As John watched these trumpet judgments he heard an eagle that was flying in midair
  1. KJV identifies this “eagle” (NIV, ESV) as an “angel”. Nevertheless, it is an imposing figure in the sky, visible to the inhabitants of the earth!
    - a) Flying in midair with a **loud voice** for all to hear.
  2. Triple “Woe”

a) Warning! Warning! Warning!

(1) One threat for each of the three remaining trumpets

(a) Addressed to all who are dwelling on the earth and have rejected God's Messiah!

(b) These people acknowledged that the judgments unleashed are from God (Rev. 6:15-17), but they will not repent from their ungodliness!

(i) God HAS BEEN PATIENT! Hebrews 3:7-8 warns, "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness."

(ii) Today is the day of salvation!

(2) Three woes: "**to the inhabitants of the earth.**"

(a) The first "Woe" of the last three, or the fifth trumpet:

(i) Demonic forces are unleashed (Rev. 9:1-12)

(b) The second "Woe" of the last three, or the sixth trumpet

(i) Four fallen angels are released (9:14-15) that will lead a demonic army (9:16) of 200 million mounted troops, to kill 1/3 of mankind.

(c) The third "Woe", or the seventh trumpet

(i) 12:12: The devil will be unleashed upon the earth!

**(a) The devil is not a friend of sinners!**

(i) "He is **filled with fury**, because he knows that his time is short."

(ii) The devil is the adversary, our "accuser/slanderer" (Zech. 3:1; Rev. 12:10); "deceiver" (Rev. 12:9); full of pride, corruptor, confuser

### III. **Jesus is the Friend of Sinners!**

A. Contrast the work of the devil with that of Jesus

1. John 10:10: Jesus said, "The thief only comes to steal, kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

B. The work of God in Christ was a demonstration of God's love, grace and mercy.

1. Romans 5:6-8, "You see at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

2. I John 4:9-10, "This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He love us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."
- C. Other Scriptures that speak to this great truth that Jesus is the Friend of Sinners. He is not just all you *need*, Jesus is all you *have*!
1. Matthew 9:10-13; 11:28-30; 12:20; Luke 4:18-19; 23:34; John 4:1-42; 6:35-40; 8:1-11; Romans 3:23; 6:23; 8:1; 8:31-39; Eph. 2:1-10; 1 Tim. 1:15; 1 Pet. 3:18