

“THE TRUMPET WILL SOUND”

Revelation 8:6-12

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Notice verse five where we see the angel taking the censer and filling it with fire from the altar and throwing the fire to the earth. The first three trumpets all have fire! God responds to the prayers of his Saints.

From the same altar of sacrifice comes also the damnation of the lost! The same fire which lifts the prayers of the obedient into God’s presence kindles the judgment and hell of the unbelieving and neglectful.

Cf. Mal. 4:1-- Earth’s history has now come to the great day which burns like an oven.

The seven trumpets may be divided into two groups:

First Four trumpets

- The first four represent natural catastrophes (cf. the first four seals)-- though animals and men are affected. Nature is affected directly.
- The judgments are partial –1/3 of nature is affected; cf. Luke 21:25-26.
- God’s wrath is not yet finished – his full wrath is yet to fall.
- Here we see the gradual subjugation of earth to God.

The last three (or two) trumpets

- Men directly affected (9:4, 15)
- Therefore, plagues on nature are just what they appear to be; these natural objects cannot symbolize men and churches etc.
- These trumpet judgments share many common details with the plagues on Egypt in the book of Exodus.
- God will again punish hostile powers that oppress people.

Now the time has come: the angels prepare to sound; the judgments of heaven are about to fall!

(Throughout these judgments we see the important involvement of angels.)

I. THE FIRST TRUMPET (v. 7)

- Notice that what is published by a trumpet is not a secret!
 - This book is an apocalypse, meaning “uncovering”.
 - These descriptions are literal facts; cf. Micah 7:15-- “I will show you miracles as in the days you came out of Egypt.” Those plagues were literal; so are these.
- A. The action: hail, fire, mixed with _____
- Compare Exodus 9:23-28 – thunder, hail, and fire.
 - What happens here is far more severe and more gruesome.
 - All these judgments are divine activities.
 - John knows how to make comparisons when he intends to do so.
- B. The result
1. One third of the earth and the trees are _____ -- especially fruit trees.
 2. All the green grass was burned-- showing that this was a worldwide judgment.

II. THE SECOND TRUMPET (vv. 8-9)

- A. The action: “A great mountain burning with fire” is thrown into the sea.
- The one who throws it is God through his angelic messengers.

- The expression “as it were” shows that this was not actually a mountain.
- Nor is it a volcano which spews fire—for this object was “burning with fire.”
- This is a meteoric activity not a volcanic one.

B. The results:

1. One third of the _____ becomes blood—compare the first Egyptian plague.
2. One third of the living creatures in the sea die.
3. One third of the _____ are destroyed, through fire, cataclysm, etc.

Why blood?

- Life is destroyed in these judgments.
- Man has been bloody, so God gives him blood!

III. THE THIRD TRUMPET (10-11)

A. The Action: a great burning _____ fell upon the rivers and springs.

- This is a meteorite or comet.
- It is absorbed by the waters of the earth.
- It falls from heaven – God is the active agent once more.

B. The result

1. One third of the Earth’s _____ waters-- rivers and springs-- became “wormwood”.
Wormwood is a bitter, intoxicating, and poisonous herb.
2. Many people who drank the water _____ due to its bitterness and poisonousness.
 - Cf. Jer. 9:13-15; 23:15-- God’s bitter dealings with Israel and with false prophets.
 - This incident is the opposite of the purifying of the waters of Marah in Ex. 15:23ff.

IV. THE FOURTH TRUMPET (12)

A. The Action: one third of the _____, _____, and _____ are smitten.

Cf. Ex. 9:31-32—the hail smites the crops.

B. The effects:

- Not one third less light and warmth
- Rather, the total absence of light for one third of both the day and the night
- Compare Old Testament prophecies: Isaiah 13:9; Joel 2:30, 31; Jer. 4:23, 28.
- The darkness represents judgment, and is also connected with the demonic.
- The fourth trumpet anticipates the transition from divine warnings to demonic woes.
- It previews the ultimate sentencing of unrepentant men to punishment.

CONCLUSION

Food destroyed, distribution crippled, water supply limited, production is hampered.

The world finds itself in a desperate condition.

God has heard the voice of his people; he also hears sin’s voice in Heaven and punishment comes at last.

- Jezebel only flourishes a while then the dogs eat her bones.
- Noah’s world derides for a while, then their bodies are dashed upon each other.
- Christ does not endure the smitings and taunts and wrongs of Pilate’s hall forever.

The trumpet will sound!