

~~Seal~~
Trumpet
The Seven Seal Judgments

Lecture 3

The trumpet judgments are treated from 8:2 through 11:18.

There was a trumpet at the giving of the law at Sinai (Ex.19:19). There were trumpets appointed in Israel for both worship and warning (Num 10:1-10); at Jericho the walls fell flat at the blasts of the trumpets (Josh 6:13-20); the Midianites were routed under Gideon when the trumpets were blown (Jud 7:16-22); and the Rapture of the church will occur at the blowing of the trumpet of God (I Thess 4:16 and I Cor 15:52).

In the very nature of the case a trumpet is blown when something of great significance transpires, which must have widespread attention.

I. The First Trumpet

In this first Trumpet Judgment, God will rain down **hail and fire** upon the earth. Literally one third of the trees and grass will be burned up.

This judgment will greatly affect the food supply, weather patterns, the housing and paper industry, and the farming and ranching industry. With massive losses of vegetation, there will be floods, soil erosions, diminishing food supplies, and mudslides.

Just imagine this on a worldwide global scale that **one third of all the trees on our planet will be burned to the ground!**

Look at Revelation 8:7:

"The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up."

Fire and Hail seems impossible to happen at the same time.

How is this judgment differ from the plagues of Egypt in Exodus?

They are more severe and universal

Walter Scott in his commentary on Revelation states: "The interpretation of the Seals is a simple matter compared to that of the Trumpets."

With the trumpets there is more of the element of mystery. The trumpet judgments, like the seal, are divided into two groups of four and three, indicating the number of the world, i.e., the four points of the compass, and the number of the Trinity.

The last three trumpet judgments have the added designation of "woe judgments" because of their severity. Some interpret the judgments literally, which is the correct starting point hermeneutically, whereas the majority take them symbolically, a method impossible to rule out in view of the symbolical character of the Apocalypse.

II. The Second Trumpet

Rev. 8:8-9

In this next judgment, a "great mountain burning with fire" is thrown into the sea, turning one third of the sea into blood, killing one third of all the living creatures in the sea, and also destroying one third of the ships that are in the sea when this happens.

This great mountain burning with fire is probably a meteor that is launched by God to the earth to continue His judgment against all the wicked people now living.

What kind of disasters will this judgment produce?

economic and ecological disasters.

What bodies of water are affected by this judgment? All salt water

3. The Third Trumpet

Revelation 8:10-11 (deals with fresh water sources)

In this next judgment by God, a "great star burning like a torch" falls from heaven on one third of the rivers and springs causing major contamination, thereby causing many men to die because the waters were made bitter.

God has His stars numbered and named (Job 9:9-10). It is likely that this fallen star is molten and that, as it nears the earth, it begins to split up and fall into the various bodies of water.

Note:

If a star actually struck the earth, our globe would be destroyed.

This star must separate as it enters the atmosphere. Of course, this event is a divinely controlled judgment; therefore, we must not try to limit it by the known laws of science.

The word translated "wormwood" means undrinkable. In the Old Testament it was synonymous with sorrow and great calamity.

Moses warned that idolatry would bring sorrow to Israel, like a root producing wormwood (Deut.29:18).

Solomon warned that immorality might seem pleasant, but in the end, it produces bitterness like wormwood (Prov. 5:4).

IV. The Fourth Trumpet Revelation 8:12-13

In this next judgment, God strikes a third of the sun, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars so they are darkened and thus give no light to the earth. This verse then ends giving a very serious warning about the next 3 trumpet judgments getting ready to be released.

These heavenly bodies not giving their light is something that should assure people of what? those plagues will be from God

What will this judgment cause men to be forced to realize?

The real nature of what will be happening involves AN
Age old conflict between God and man

V. Fifth Trumpet Revelation 9:1-12

This one is the first woe, which means that it is a very SERIOUS judgment.

A. Demonic Army

In this judgment, the bottomless pit is opened up where a huge swarm of locusts are allowed to be released upon the earth. These locusts are only allowed to attack men who do not have God's seal on their foreheads. They are not allowed to kill these men, but to only torment them with their bite. This verse tells us that their bite is like that of a scorpion and that this torment is allowed to last for how many months? 5

This judgment will be so severe, that people will literally be seeking death and won't be able to find it. They will literally be desiring to die and won't be able to do so. These locusts are also not attacking in a random fashion. They will literally have a demon from the pit of hell leading them. His name is called Apollyon, which stands for "**Destroyer.**"

The "bottomless pit" is literally "the pit of the abyss." Luke makes it clear that this "pit" is the abode of the demons (Luke 8:31), and John states that Satan will be temporarily "jailed" there during our Lord's reign on the earth (Rev. 20:1-3).

The Antichrist (i.e., "the beast") will ascend out of this pit (Rev. 11:7; 17:8).

This fallen star is a person, the king over the beings in the pit (Rev. 9:11).

This "star" is probably Satan and the army of his demons (Eph. 6:10ff). One of the names for Satan is *Lucifer*, which means brightness.

These are not literal locusts, because locusts do not have scorpion like stings in their tails.

This demonic army is given the assignment of tormenting all who have not been protected by the seal of God. The 144,000 men from the tribes of Israel would therefore escape this painful judgment (Rev. 7:1-8).

In fact, it is likely that **all** who have trusted the Lord will be sealed in some special way and protected from torment.

The normal lifespan of the locust is about five months (May to September), and this is the length of time that the judgment will last. These demons will sting people and thus create such pain that their victims will actually want to die, but death will flee from them (Jer. 8:3).

Reading the detailed description of these creatures, we realize that John is not writing about ordinary locusts. Yet, despite its obvious symbolism, it aptly portrays a powerful enemy armed for battle.

Real locusts do not have a king (Prov. 30:27), but this army follows the rule of Satan, the angel of the bottomless pit. His name is "Destroyer." "*The thief [Satan] cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy*" (John 10:10). Real locusts are inescapable destroyers, but this army only tortures those who do not belong to the Lord.

As God's people, we can be thankful that Jesus Christ holds the keys of hell and death (Rev. 1:18) and exercises divine authority even over Satan. God has His timetable for all these events, and nothing will happen too soon or too late (2 Thes. 2:6; note also Rev. 9:15).

VI. The Sixth Trumpet

This next judgment is called the second woe. This one is almost beyond human comprehension. In this very severe judgment, 4 demonic angels are released from

the Euphrates river to literally kill what percentage of all mankind? ~~200 million~~ $\frac{1}{3}$ rd
They will be leading an army of 200 million demonic spirits – I repeat, 200 million demonic spirits!

Remember, one fourth of mankind has already been killed in the fourth seal judgment. With one third now being killed in this trumpet judgment, 58% of the world's population will now have been killed after this judgment passes.

Some people will refuse to accept the truth of our Lord and Savior, even when faced with God supernaturally showing Himself with the way He will be doing during these times. Unbelievable!

VII. The Seventh Trumpet

Revelation 11:15-19

Why is heaven rejoicing at the time of the seventh trumpet?

They know the end is near, God is executing his WRATH on a sinful world

In addition, more lightnings, noises, thunderings, another earthquake, and more hail is released upon the earth once again. Are these the worst of judgments?

Believe it or not, there is still one more wave of severe judgments that will hit this earth. These are called the Bowl Judgments and there are also seven of them.

God will be turning up the heat for one last time to try and get some of these wicked people to turn from their evil ways before Jesus comes back for the second time to put a final end to all of this bloodshed.

*25%
58% of what's left
83*