

The Four Trumpets!

Revelation 8:6-13

East Berlin Community Church

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June 5, 2022

Introduction:

- Question regarding the structure of the Book of Revelation
- **Framework for the Book of Revelation**
 - **Key verse: Revelation 1:19** -- *“Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.”*
 - *“Things which you have seen”*-- the past vision of the exalted Christ
 - Revelation 1:18-- *“Alpha and Omega, the first and the last”, the One “who lives and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and death.”*
 - *“Things which are”*-- the seven letters to seven historical churches in Asia Minor -- Revelation 2-3
 - *“Things that will take place after this”*-- future, Revelation 4:1--22:5
 - **Revelation 4**-- John taken up to heaven, foreshadowing the rapture of the church.
 - Revelation 4:1-2-- *“After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, ‘Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.’ Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.”*
 - **Revelation 5**-- Jesus Christ receives from God the Father the seven sealed scroll containing the title deed to the earth and the plan for reclaiming it. Happens prior to the beginning of the tribulation period.
 - **Revelation 6**-- **Jesus begins to break the seals one by one.**
 - The first seal unleashes the Antichrist, who makes a covenant to protect Israel. From a human perspective, this starts God’s timeclock in fulfilling the last seven years of God’s 490-year plan of Daniel 9
 - The fifth seal uncorks the cries of the martyrs who ask God to avenge their deaths.
 - The sixth seal, the cosmic disturbances, marks the beginning of the “Day of the Lord” or the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation period, known also as the “Great Tribulation”
 - *((Revelation 7-- parenthetical, providing supplemental, additional information regarding two groups of saved individuals during the Tribulation: the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, and the myriad of Gentile martyrs))*
 - **Revelation 8:1-5 -- Opening of the Seventh Sealed Judgment**
 - The continuity in Revelation 6:1--19:21 provided by the events symbolized in the seals, trumpet, and bowl judgments, culminating in the collapse of the Antichrist’s spiritual and political empire, the battle of Armageddon, and the return of Jesus Christ.
 - The seventh Seal unleashes the Seven Trumpet judgments, and the Seventh Trumpet contains the seven Bowl Judgments-- and the judgments move the narrative along.
 - **Revelation 8:6--9:21-- The first six Trumpet Judgments**
 - *((Revelation 10:1--11:14-- another parenthesis))*
 - *((Revelation 10-- John and the “little book”, no delay in judgment))*

- Revelation 10:7-- *“that there should be delay no longer, but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.”*
- ((Revelation 11:1-14-- *The career of the “two witnesses”. Their death signals more judgment.*))
 - Revelation 11:14-- *“the second woe is past, Behold the third woe is coming quickly.”*
- **Revelation 11:15-19 -- the the Seventh Trumpet which unleashes the Seven Bowl Judgments**
- ((Revelation 12--14-- *Another parenthesis with additional, supplemental information*))
 - ((Revelation 12-- *Satan banished from heaven and makes war with the Jews who flee Jerusalem and are protected and provided for by God for 3 ½ years.*))
 - ((Revelation 13-- *The reign of terror by the Antichrist and false prophet*))
 - ((Revelation 14-- *Glimpse of still future events: return of Jesus Christ, the fall of Antichrist’s kingdom, and the final Great White Throne judgment.*))
- **Revelation 15:1--16:21-- The Seven Bowl Judgments**
 - Sixth bowl is preparation for the battle of Armageddon.
 - Revelation 16:14-- *“spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty”*
 - Revelation 16:16-- *“And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.”*
 - Seventh bowl God pours out judgment on the Antichrist’s religious and political empire
 - Revelation 16:19-- *“And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.”*
 - ((Revelation 17-- *judgment on Babylon, his religious empire*))
 - ((Revelation 18-- *judgment on Babylon, his political empire*))
- **Revelation 19-- Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the defeat and demise of the Antichrist.**
 - Revelation 19:20-21 -- *“the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.”*
- **Revelation 20-- Christ’s Millennial Kingdom and Satan bound. Great White Throne Judgment.**
 - Revelation 20:15-- *“Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”*
- **Revelation 21--22 -- New Heavens and new earth. The eternal kingdom of God.**
 - Revelation 21:1-- *“a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.”*

The Four Trumpets

A. The Trumpets INTRODUCED

1. Seven trumpets given to seven “presence” angels when the seventh Seal was opened by Christ.
2. Revelation 8:6-- *“So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.”*
3. Trumpet judgments broken down into three groups:
 - a. Trumpets 1--4: Judgment on the earth and creation, causing ecological catastrophes.
 - b. Trumpets 5--6: Demonic harassment and destruction
 - c. Trumpet 7: Contains the last round of severe Bowl Judgments
4. For many, the big concern today is saving the environment. But for some the environment has become a ‘god’ and they worship “Mother Earth”
5. Man was given the responsibility to take care of the earth
 - Genesis 2:15-- *“Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.”*
6. The Trumpet and Bowl Judgments will totally devastate the earth

B. The Trumpets SOUND

1. Trumpet #1: Earth's vegetation.

- Revelation 8:7-- *"The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown down to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up."*
 - a. *"Hail and firestorm"* likely the result of the gigantic earthquake on Revelation 8:5 and the volcanic eruptions to follow.
 - b. The *"mingled with blood"* may be actual blood of entrapped men and animals, or could be a description of the water drops contaminated with the gases and dust from the volcano.
 - c. The effects are devastating to the earth's vegetation. 1/3 burned up. Scorched earth
 - d. Question concerning all the *'green grass'* being burned up in light of the Trumpet #5 where the demons are commanded *"not to harm the grass of the earth and any green thing"* (Revelation 9:4)
 - e. This is a fitting judgment for man who worships the creature rather than the Creator . Rom 1:25

2. Trumpet #2: Sea and sea-life.

- Revelation 8:8-9-- *"Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed."*
 - a. The importance of the sea as a blessing for mankind
 - b. A massive burning object, probably a large meteor or asteroid crashes into the ocean.
 - c. Causes one-third of the sea to turn to blood (possibly caused by one-third of the sea creature to die) and one-third of the ships destroyed (possibly caused by enormous tsunamis)

3. Trumpet #3: Fresh Water.

- Revelation 8:10-11-- *"Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning with a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the water became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter."*
 - a. Caused by another meteor or asteroid hit, disintegrating in the earth's atmosphere, the debris landing in lakes, streams, and springs of fresh water. One-third of the fresh water supply becomes toxic.
 - b. Wormwood-- a toxic plant that very bitter and can cause death.
 - Jeremiah 23:15-- *"Behold I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall."*
 - c. Man cannot live without fresh water, and so many will die as a result.

4. Trumpet #4: The Heavens.

- Revelation 8:12-- *"Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night."*
 - a. Partial eclipse of the heavenly bodies causing darkness during the day and at night.
 - b. It's only temporary.
 - Revelation 16:8b-9a-- *"on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat."*
 - c. Cause disruption in the earth's weather patterns, tides, leading to severe storms and tidal flooding.

C. The Trumpets PREVIEW:

- Revelation 8:13-- *"And I looked and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, 'Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpets of the three angels who are about to sound!'"*

1. The worst is yet to come!
2. With each judgment, God gives men time to repent and to call upon the name of the Lord to be saved.
3. But in spite of the fact that men will acknowledge that the judgments are from the hand of God, they refuse to repent of their evil ways.
 - Revelation 9:20-21-- *"But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by the plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders, or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts"*
 - Hebrews 3:7-8 -- *"Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says; 'Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.'"*