

REVELATION

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Week 5

Summary

As we delve into the Book of Revelation, we're confronted with the powerful imagery of seven trumpets, each heralding God's judgments upon the earth. These trumpets, reminiscent of those in the Old Testament, serve as both warnings and calls to repentance. We're reminded of God's patience and mercy, even in the midst of judgment, as He provides opportunities for people to turn back to Him. The parallels drawn between these events and the plagues of Egypt highlight God's consistent character throughout history. As believers, we're challenged to consider our role in this unfolding drama. Are we, like the two witnesses mentioned, willing to stand firm in our faith and proclaim God's truth, even in the face of opposition? This message urges us to examine our hearts, to repent not only of our personal sins but also to intercede for our nations and families. It's a powerful reminder that our lives, as living testimonies, can have a profound impact on those around us, even when we feel insignificant.

Key Points

- The Tribulation Period is a seven-year period described in Daniel and Revelation
- The seven trumpets in Revelation symbolize God's judgments and calls for repentance
- There are parallels between the plagues of Egypt and the Tribulation events
- The "naos" represents the true believers, the inner sanctuary of the church
- The two witnesses in Revelation 11 may symbolize the resilient witness of the church
- God's patience and desire for repentance are evident even during judgment
- Believers are called to be witnesses and to confess the sins of their nation and families

Scripture References

Mentioned

Here are the scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon, along with some suggested relevant verses for general themes discussed:

1. Daniel 9 (general reference to 70 weeks prophecy)
2. Revelation 2-3 (reference to seven churches)
3. Revelation 4-5 (reference to vision of heavenly throne)
4. Revelation 8-11 (main focus of sermon)
5. Psalm 2:1-2
6. Romans 1:24-25
7. Genesis 12:1-3
8. Exodus 12:38
9. Exodus 19:16
10. Numbers 10:1-2
11. Numbers 29:1
12. 1 Kings 1:34
13. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
14. 2 Corinthians 6:16
15. Zechariah 4 (general reference)
16. 1 Kings 18 (reference to Elijah)
17. Deuteronomy 29 (general reference to poison)
18. John 4 (reference to woman at the well)
19. John 7 (reference to Feast of Tabernacles)
20. Jeremiah 51:25
21. Revelation 11:1-14 (detailed discussion of two witnesses)

Main Themes

Suggested relevant verses for themes discussed:

1. Matthew 24:14 (gospel preached to all nations)
2. 1 Thessalonians 5:9 (God's wrath and salvation)
3. 2 Peter 3:9 (God's patience and desire for repentance)
4. Ephesians 1:13-14 (believers sealed with the Holy Spirit)
5. Matthew 5:13-16 (believers as salt and light)
6. 1 Peter 3:15 (being ready to give an answer)
7. Romans 8:38-39 (nothing can separate us from God's love)
8. Revelation 7:3-4 (sealing of God's servants)
9. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 (description of last days)
10. Matthew 28:19-20 (Great Commission)

Small Group Guide

Key Takeaways:

1. The tribulation period echoes the plagues of Egypt, showing God's desire for repentance.
2. Trumpets in Revelation symbolize calls to repentance, judgment, and worship.
3. The two witnesses represent the resilient witness of the true church (naos) in the face of persecution.
4. God's patience and mercy are evident even during judgment, giving people opportunities to repent.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions that the tribulation period is about giving people maximum opportunity to repent. How does this change your perspective on God's judgment?
2. Reflect on the idea of "divine restraint" in the trumpet judgments. How does this showcase God's mercy even in times of judgment?
3. The speaker suggests that being raptured before tribulation might not be the best outcome if it means missing opportunities to share the gospel. What are your thoughts on this perspective?
4. How does the symbolism of the two witnesses encourage you in your faith, especially in the face of potential persecution or opposition?
5. The sermon emphasizes the importance of confessing not just personal sins, but also the sins of our nation and families. Why do you think this is significant, and how might we incorporate this into our prayer lives?
6. Discuss the concept of being "sealed" by God. How does this assurance impact your daily life and witness?



Practical Applications:

1. This week, spend time in prayer confessing not just personal sins, but also those of your family, community, and nation.
2. Reflect on your role as a "naos" (true temple) of God. How can you be a more effective witness in your daily life?
3. Consider areas where you might be relying on your own strength rather than the Spirit's power. How can you shift towards greater dependence on God?
4. Identify one way you can be more intentional about sharing the gospel, even in the face of potential opposition or discomfort.
5. Spend time meditating on God's patience and mercy. How can you extend these qualities to others in your life?



Day 1: God's Mercy in Judgment Reading: Exodus 7:14-25, Revelation 8:6-13

Devotional: As we read about the plagues in Egypt and the trumpet judgments in Revelation, it's easy to focus solely on God's wrath. However, these passages reveal God's mercy even in judgment. Each plague and trumpet serves as a warning, giving people opportunities to repent. God's heart is not for destruction, but for redemption. He uses incremental judgments to draw people to Himself.

Reflect on areas in your life where God may be trying to get your attention. Are there "smaller judgments" you've experienced that are actually merciful warnings? How can you respond to God's gentle corrections before they escalate? Remember, even in difficult times, God's ultimate goal is to bring us closer to Him.

Day 2: The Power of True Witness Reading: Revelation 11:1-14, 1 Kings 18:20-40

Devotional: The two witnesses in Revelation remind us of the power of faithful testimony, even in the face of opposition. Like Elijah on Mount Carmel, these witnesses stand firm in proclaiming God's truth. Their story teaches us that our witness may face temporary setbacks or even appear to be defeated, but God's truth will ultimately prevail.

Consider your own witness for Christ. Are there areas where you've been hesitant to speak up or live out your faith? Remember that as a "true temple" of God's presence, you have the Holy Spirit empowering your testimony. How can you boldly yet lovingly represent Christ in your spheres of influence today?

Day 3: The Mystery of God's Plan Reading: Romans 11:25-36, Revelation 10:1-7

Devotional: The sealed scroll and the "little book" in Revelation remind us that there are aspects of God's plan that remain mysterious to us. While this can be frustrating to our human desire for complete understanding, it's an invitation to deepen our trust in God's wisdom and sovereignty.

Reflect on areas in your life where you're struggling to understand God's plan. How can embracing the mystery actually strengthen your faith? Practice surrendering your need for control and express your trust in God's perfect, though sometimes hidden, purposes.

Day 4: Endurance in Tribulation Reading: Romans 5:1-5, Revelation 7:9-17

Devotional: The tribulation described in Revelation can seem terrifying, but we're reminded that God seals and protects His people through trials. This doesn't mean we won't face difficulties, but it assures us of God's presence and ultimate deliverance. Our sufferings, when endured with faith, produce perseverance, character, and hope.

What trials are you facing right now? How can you view them as opportunities for spiritual growth rather than just hardships to endure? Ask God to reveal His presence in your difficulties and to use them to refine your character and deepen your hope in Him.

Day 5: The Urgency of Repentance Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15, Revelation 9:20-21

Devotional: The intensifying judgments in Revelation highlight the urgency of repentance. God's patience in allowing time for repentance is an act of love, not indifference. Yet, there will come a time when opportunities for repentance end. This sobering reality should motivate us both to examine our own hearts and to share the gospel with others.

Take time today for honest self-examination. Are there areas of sin or compromise in your life that you've been reluctant to address? Confess these to God and embrace His forgiveness. Then, consider who in your life needs to hear the message of repentance and salvation. How can you lovingly communicate the urgency of turning to Christ?