

The 7 Trumpets

Revelation 8:1–9:21

CONTEXT: We are in the midst of our study of the NT book of Revelation. Remember so far we have covered:

- The first section, Chapters 1-3 which delivered messages to the 7 churches in Asia Minor, and some believe these 7 church are 7 epochs of church history over the last 2,000 years.
- The in chapter 4 verse 1, John hears a voice saying, “Come up here and I will show you thing things that must soon take place”. We said that this possibly had reference to the removal of the Church from history by means of the rapture. Beginning a time of tribulation.
 - Simultaneously, ethnic Israel begins to come to Christ. The Natural branch of Rom. 11 is grafted back into the tree.
 - So the Church is Protected **FROM** Tribulation.
 - Redeemed Israel is Protected **THROUGH** Tribulation by means of a mark.
- Then we saw last week the Seal Judgments - As Jesus began to open the 7 seals. We saw what has been called the 4 horsemen of the Apocalypse loosed upon the earth.
- Today we begin to see the Trumpet Judgments.

Now we are looking at the 7th seal, which contains the 7 trumpet judgements.

TEXT: Revelation 8:1–9:21 (ESV)

¹ When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

Now, I have heard that some speculate that this verse serves as irrefutable proof that there are no women in Heaven. I don't believe that of course, but there is some compelling evidence.

² Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

NOW - Trumpets in the Bible served the same purpose of a siren in our day.

ILLUSTRATION: If you are walking down the street, then all of a sudden you hear a LOUD siren behind you, what do you do? You move out of the way, you go into alert mode, you try to discover what the emergency is. You try to see if anyone you know is involved. You try to see if there is anything you can do. These trumpets are to have the same effect.

³ And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, ⁴ and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.

So here we see Israel, now once again as God's chosen people, 12,000 from every tribe. Greatly increasing in number. And they are suffering under the persecution of ungodly people. And a KING (AntiChrist) has arose that knows, not Jesus. The prayers of Israel has arisen before the throne of God. God is going to Judge the ungodly and protect His people THROUGH the judgement.

Does this sound at all familiar?

Table 19.1: Revelation's Trumpets and the Exodus Plagues

Trumpet in Revelation	Plague in Exodus
1. 8:7: hail, fire	7th: 9:23-25: hail, fire
2. 8:8, 9: sea turns to blood, one third of living creatures die	1st: 7:20, 21: Nile turns to blood, fish die
3. 8:10, 11: rivers and springs made bitter	1st: 7:19: rivers, canals filled with blood
4. 8:12: one third of sun, moon, and stars darkened	9th: 10:21-29: three days of darkness
5. 9:1-11: darkness, locusts like scorpions	9th and 8th: 10:21-29: darkness; 10:12-20: locusts
6. 9:12-19: angels released, mounted troops, fire, smoke, and sulfur kill one third of humanity	10th?: 11:1-10; 12:29-32: death angel?
7. 10:1: angel wrapped in a cloud with legs like pillars of fire	Israel led out of Egypt by the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night

This is world wide replay of the **EXODUS**. What Israel experienced in Egypt thousands of years ago, they will now experience on a Global stage in these last days.

As Moses lead Israel in to the promised land then, Jesus will lead Israel into the Millennium now.

- GREEK** minds view Prophecy as Foretelling and Fulfilling
- JEWISH** minds view Prophecy as Cyclical.

You will see many categorical similarities between the book of Revelation and books of

the Old Testament. Another is **Joshua**.

JOSHUA

The City of Jericho
 Joshua, Sun stand still, Hail Stones
 The Wealth of Jericho described
 Jericho there were two spies (who didn't spy)
 Angel of the Lord encounters Joshua
 Seven Circles around city

REVELATION

The City of Babylon
 Jesus Takes Sun, Hailstones
 Wealth of Babylon Described
 Two witnesses
 Jesus encounters John
 Seven Cycles of Judgement

⁵ Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and **threw it on the earth**, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake. ⁶ Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.

The 7 Trumpet Judgements is God calling Nature to REBEL against Rebellious Humanity. Just as Moses Called Nature to turn against Pharaoh and Egypt.

Just as the Jews were protected in the valley of Goshen, here the Jews are protected by the seal of God.

It should be no surprise to us that there will be signs in Nature as the Second coming draws near.

A. Jesus Created Nature –

John 1:1-3 1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2. He was in the beginning with God. 3. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Colossians 1:16-17 16. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Hebrews 1:2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Historically, every people group equated natural phenomenon with theological phenomenon, there is a reason that the two are so closely, naturally associated. Jesus is the Lord of nature.

b. Nature Suffers Because of Sin

Romans 8:20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21. that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

- o **Remember** – the ground was cursed at the fall of man.
- o **As lovely and enjoyable as God's creation is** – always remember, this is not how it's suppose to be. One day it will be MUCH better. He who began the good work of creation – will some day complete it. Something better than Eden will be realized.

c. Nature Responded to her Makers first coming

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem how did Nature respond? There was a new star in the heavens. If there was a new star tonight, most of us would hardly notice. But what GPS technology is to us, the star were to them. And for the Persians, what Google is to us, the stars were to them. A new star appearing was a terrifying phenomenon. It literally changed everything.

d. Nature Responded at the Cross

Matthew 27:45-46

45. Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour.

Matthew 27:51

51. ... and the earth shook and the rocks were split.

Since Nature has responded in harmony with everything not Jesus ever played, one would only expect that there would be some reaction from Nature as her creator draws near to set all things right.

I find the writings of C.S. Lewis helpful at this point as it grants to creation some sense of personality. That is not entirely unwarranted.

e. Nature will Respond to her Maker's Return

1. Trumpet #1 - Hail and Fire

⁷ The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a **third of the earth** was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

So this is God's attacking the **land**. Suddenly, the landscape becomes barren and sparse. Crops are destroyed.

- No doubt this will add further stress to the global economy. The cost of food will sky rocket.
- Imagine WestRock with no trees to process.
- Imagine the smoke that would fill the Skies if a third of the earth was torched.
- What impact would that have on climate?
- What about all of these people who have seen solar energy as the answer?

2. Trumpet #2 - Sea Becomes Blood

⁸ The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the **sea**, and a third of the sea became blood. ⁹ A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

This is God attacking the Salt water. It is very hard to imagine how dependent we are on the oceans of this planet. Transport of goods, provision of food.

- There are currently over 90,000 commercial vessels at sea. Imagine 30,000 sunk over night. That's not to mention pleasure craft.
- The red tide we see on Florida's west coast becomes spread over 1/3 of the planet.

3. Trumpet #3 - Fresh Water Becomes Bitter Poison

¹⁰ The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. ¹¹ The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.

Now this is God attacking the Fresh Water. Any military strategist knows that you have to attack the Naval fleet, then cut off the water to the city.

Interestingly, the method of attack is this great star, “wormwood” falling from the sky. The Greek word is Ap-sin-thos. It means to make unusable. Interestingly the Russian word is Chernobyl. Could this be an allusion to a massive Nuclear disaster? Something to consider.

4. Trumpet #4 - 1/3 of Light Taken (Sun, Moon, Stars)

¹² The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.

So there, as you might expect in this apocalyptic world things literally become very dark. Can you imagine that as evil increases, how much looting there will be? Hollywood hasn't scratched the surface on this yet.

¹³ Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!”

5. Trumpet #5 - Locust Attack Lost Humanity, 1/3 Killed

¹ And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. ² He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft. ³ Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. ⁴ They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

What do locust typically eat? Green vegetation. But not these locusts. They feed on flesh.

ILLUSTRATION: Do the, “No see ‘Ems” bother you here in North Florida? Well, you will really hate these guys. Imagine scorpion with wings that crave human flesh.

⁵ They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone. ⁶ And in those days

people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.

Death is such a mystery, the separation of the person from the body. We shun death, we fear death, we weren't made to be separate. But the pain of the body can become so intense that we long for death. Many of you have seen people suffer that way.

Well here, people will yearn to die, and won't be able. Until the 6th trumpet sounds.

6. Trumpet #6 - Death Angels Come and Attack 1/3 of Humanity Destroyed

¹⁴ saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." ¹⁵ So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

So remember 1/3 has been killed in the 5th trumpet, now 1/3 of those remaining will be killed.

I believe these are the same Angels mentioned in Genesis **6:4 prior to the flood (ESV)** ⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

Jude 6 (NASB95)

⁶ And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.

These are those angels. They roamed the earth in Noah's day, in tribulation they do so again.

WHAT IS GOD'S PURPOSE IN JUDGEMENT

1. To Vindicate His Holiness

God never has overlooked a single sin, no matter how small. They will all be judged. From the first bite of fruit to the final rebellion - all sin is judged. No one ever gets away with anything.

2. To Avenge His People

Remember this is all started by the prayers of God's people. If you are a follower of Jesus and you are walking in repentance of sin...Don't ever think God is not listening

when you pray. He is listening. He is storing your prayers on an alter of incense and He will most surely and radically answer.

3. To Motivate Repentance

²⁰ The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, ²¹ nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Think of it, in the midst of all of this:

- People cling to idols. Thing trust in things that cannot save them. Things built by people. Do you look to THINGS for significance? That's idolatry. If you cling to them now, what makes you think you won't cling to them then?
- People are filled with hatred and murder - We've already alluded to the danger in the streets.
- People turn to sorcery - Ancient religions will be on the rage, secret societies will flourish.
- Sexual immorality will about - in the midst of all of the chaos, no one will be safe. Friend, you can't build an arsenal big enough to protect your family.
- Theft, looting will occur. Thieve will be looting one another in that day. Nothing will be safe.

CONCLUSION/INVITATION: Each of these Judgements are designed to motivate people to repent. BTW, that is also the design of this sermon. Is it frightening? Yes. But not to no effect - the intended end is that you will turn you Christ with your whole heart and lead others to do the same.