

Revelation: Chapters 8-9

Opening Question: How does the response of those not killed by the first four trumpet judgments compare to Pharaoh's response to the plagues brought upon Egypt?

Key Takeaways:

1. Chapters 8-9 describe the opening of the seventh seal and the beginning of the "trumpet judgments," and occur during the second half of the Tribulation.
2. Now is the time for the prayers of the saints, which have cried out for the coming of the Kingdom and the LORD's vindication of the believers killed for their faith in Christ, to be answered.
3. The first four trumpet judgments are described in chapters 8-9.
4. The nations of the earth are the focus of the trumpet judgments for their rebellion against God and their treatment of Israel.
5. The trumpet judgments parallel the plagues on Egypt telling the Egyptians to "let My people go."
6. Despite the severity of these first four trumpet judgments, the rest of mankind not killed by these judgments do not repent and continue to rebel against God.
7. The imagery of the eagle who cries "woe" three times at the end of chapter 9 comes from Exodus 19:4, Deuteronomy 32:11, and Isaiah 31 and is referenced by Jesus in Matthew 23:37.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read aloud together Revelation chapters 8-9. Now read Exodus 19:1-6; Deuteronomy 32: 8-14; Isaiah 31. Discuss the imagery of the eagle in these Old Testament passages.
2. Read aloud together Matthew chapters 23-24. Do you see that Jesus is using the same "eagle" imagery? What do these sections say about the LORD and His people and those who oppose Him?
3. Re-read Revelation 9:20-21 and Exodus 10:1-4; 2:9;14. How does Pharaoh react to the LORD's fighting for Israel? Discuss the supernatural events that took place in Israel's release from Egyptian bondage as well as those being shown to John in Revelation chapters 8-9. Discuss the idea that like the plagues in Egypt, these future judgments will be supernatural and miraculous.

Practical Application:

1. Re-read Revelation 8-10:10 which describe the wrath of God being poured out on mankind during the second three and a half year period of the seven year tribulation or seventieth week of Daniel 9. Contrast the first four trumpet judgments in this section with the first six seal judgments in chapters 4-7. Who was being judged by each of these judgments and what was the result?
2. Read Exodus chapters 7-14. Compare the plagues poured out on Egypt with the plagues in Revelation 8-9. Who was receiving these judgments, for what purpose, and to what end?
3. Read Exodus chapter 19 and Matthew chapters 23-24. How does God describe His relationship with Israel and those who persecute the believers in these sections? What do you learn about God's wrath and the restoration of Israel from these passages?

Closing Prayer:

Father, Thank You for revealing the culmination of Your redemptive history in the Your Word. May we live our lives now in light of the coming reality of the return of the King to remove the curses on creation and establish His Kingdom forever. Amen.