

## **The Seven Trumpets (Part 1)**

### ***Revelation Chapter 8***

- I. Past the interlude.
  - A. God began His terrible judgement and wrath on the unredeemed (Chapter 6)
  - B. God pressed the “pause button” on His terrible judgement and wrath for some much needed “good news” (Chapter 7).
    - 1. 144,000 Jews are “sealed” in Christ and become evangelists for the Gospel.
    - 2. A “Great multitude too many to count” come to the Lord during the Tribulation.
  - C. The interlude is over; the judgement and wrath intensify with the seven trumpets.
    - 1. The last week in our country we saw the depravity of unregenerated man. Will there be justice? Will the innocent be avenged? Will our prayers be answered?
- II. Remembering a few things about the seven-year Tribulation in the book of Revelation.
  - A. The Tribulation is God’s judgement on the unredeemed.
  - B. All believers in Jesus Christ, which is the church, has been removed from earth prior to the tribulation.
  - C. Three main purposes in the Tribulation.
    - 1. To wake up unbelievers.
    - 2. To shake up the nation of Israel.
    - 3. To make up the kingdom of God.
- III. The main thing.
  - A. When we pray, our prayers ascend to heaven, and they unleash the power of God’s glory and our good.
    - 1. The Christians martyred for their faith (6:9-10).
      - a. Offered up their prayers to God: *When will You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?*
- IV. The seventh seal.
  - A. It is quiet for 30 min.—the calm before the storm (1).
  - B. Seven angels with seven trumpets (2).

C. The eighth angel.

1. The golden sensor—Carries hot coals from the sacrificial alter to the alter of incense (per the routine in the Old Testament tabernacle and temple).
2. The incense—Prayers rising to God.
  - a. Extra incense = the prayers of the saints, added to the prayers of the martyred saints.
  - b. Our prayers are pleasing to Him and He answers them, in His time, for His glory and our good.

D. We are in a spiritual battle—we need to pray!

1. Our battle is fierce.
2. Our prayers are effective.
3. Our God is faithful.

V. Intercession turns to judgement and wrath—the answer to the prayers of the martyred

A. First trumpet.

1. Hail, fire mixed with blood thrown to earth.
  - a. 1/3 of the earth burned, 1/3 of the trees burned, all the grass burned.

B. Second trumpet.

1. A giant mountain burning with fire thrown into the sea (8).
  - a. 1/3 of the sea turned to blood, 1/3 of the sea creatures died, 1/3 of ships destroyed.

C. Third trumpet.

1. A great star from heaven falls from heaven.
  - a. 1/3 of the fresh water sources become “bitter” (10-11).
  - b. “Wormwood” a plant that can be a poison.

D. Fourth trumpet.

1. All natural light sources are struck (12).
  - a. 1/3 of the sun, moon and stars grow dim.

VI. The eagle—announces doom and destruction to come (13).

## The Seven Trumpets (Part 1)

### *Revelation Chapter 8*

Last Sunday we had a glorious pause in the pouring out of the judgement and wrath of God which *will* be poured out during the future seven-year tribulation period... after some agonizing birth pangs brought on by the four horsemen of the apocalypse (ch.6)...

Bringing counterfeit world peace... then world violence and wars... followed by world famine, starvation, massive inflation then finally... death for ¼ the of the world's population... followed by earthquakes, a blackened sun, a blood-like moon and torrential storms... people trying to hide... trying to escape... just the beginning...

God in His mercy and grace paused His wrath for a chapter... chapter seven... so we could take a breath... and to be encouraged.... where we saw 144,000 Jews having been “sealed” by God... God's seal of ownership and protection... only available through the blood of Jesus Christ!

Likely these 144,000 Jews will become some of the greatest evangelists the world will ever see...

Then a “**great multitude**” too large to count from every tribe, nation and all people groups from all over the world... a world finally reached for Christ... (not all will come to Christ) those who came to Christ during the Tribulation... GOOD NEWS last Sunday.

But then came this last week... tough week wasn't it?... The tragic stabbing incident on a Charlotte, North Carolina light rail train, resulting in the tragic, senseless death of 23-year-old Iryna Zarutka, a Ukrainian refugee who had recently fled the war in her home country.... senseless, tragic, brutal.

Another school shooting in Colorado... two students shot... the shooter died self-inflicted.

We are stunned by the murder/assassination of conservative commentator influencer Charlie Kirk... shot in the neck by an assassin during a speaking event at Utah Valley University last Wednesday... I think of his wife and two children.

So disturbing was the joyful glee from some who celebrated his murder... disturbing like the indifference of passengers sitting near Iryna on that train while she was stabbed...

And the day after Charlie Kirk's assassination... memories we wish we didn't have to have... that “day in infamy”... September 11... four coordinated Islamist terrorist suicide attacks by al-Qaeda against the United States in 2001.

I don't know about you but it was a hard week... the darkness, the depravity of man's heart was on full display... the world is NOT getting better... Is there any justice? God... *will you avenge our blood on those who are wicked?*

Somebody made the comment with a question... *It can't get any worse, can it?*

Somebody else asked... *are you sure we're not already in the tribulation?*... Oh yes! To both question..., I am SURE it WILL get worse... and we are not yet in THE Tribulation as described in the book of Revelation!...Not even close!...and that should give us all pause...

Now...we come to chapter 8 and God takes His finger off the pause button from chapter 6 and after a 30 minute moment of silence... His judgement and wrath continue... so hold on to your seats... and Bibles.... Turn into your Bibles to Revelation chapter 8.

If you are new to Trinity or are just visiting... you have the disadvantage of coming into Revelation in the middle of the Tribulation... we began this journey early last March... we're 17 messages in... there has been a lot of preparation looking at those chapters to get to this point... you can go to our website and listen to all 17 messages... and you'll be caught up...

And my prayer is that you all will be caught up with us in the clouds so that we don't have to experience this time of God's judgement and wrath....a little review

Remember a few things about this future seven-year tribulation period:

1. Remember that **it is God's judgement on the unredeemed**... He is causing all the calamity either directly or through indirect means such as Satan himself and his demons...
2. I believe for reasons I've given in previous sermons... that all believers in Jesus Christ... which is the church... has been removed from earth prior to the tribulation... 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

**For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.**

**17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.**

So, all that is left on earth are the unredeemed... But God's salvation is still available.

There are three main reasons for the tribulation:

- **To wake up unbelievers.**

You would think that when a great portion of the population is suddenly gone, those who didn't accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior would think *Maybe my Christian friends were right*... But it is a hard thing to pry someone's sin away from them!

Even as Christians...we know that when things are going great... the kids are singing my praises, I got a raise at work, the freezer is full of steak... that is usually when our prayer life is at a low... but when the heat turns up... when problem after problem comes in and steals away the peace and tranquility and steaks.... stress... financial woes... our prayer lives are at a high!

Humans tend to seek God when everything is going bad... forgets Him when things are great!... God is going to help the unbeliever in this... through the tribulation... Another reason for the tribulation is...

- **To shake up the nation of Israel.**

Israel... the “Irrevocable” covenant people of God have throughout history been unfaithful to God... Today, many if not most of Israel, the Jews have rejected or ignore God... God will be faithful in His promises to true Israel... but He’s going to give them seven years to rethink things!

- **To make up the kingdom of God**

The door is not closed when the Tribulation begins... Many, many more unbelievers are going to come to Christ during the tribulation... Many believe and I think it is reasonable to believe that during the tribulation, more will come to Christ than any other time in history.

The unfortunate reality is despite all these terrifying judgements...and all the worldwide preaching of the gospel during the tribulation... most people will still refuse to believe.

Revelation 9:20 - 9:21

**And the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. 21 And they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their sexual immorality nor for their thefts.**

God must be thinking *What do I have to do to you? ... how many times do you need to be beaten over the head to wake up?*

Revelation 16:9

**9 And men were scorched with fierce heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has the authority over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.**

This really is insanity if you think about it... God claims responsibility for causing the fierce heat... for making burning mountains crash into the sea... these people are getting physically burned by God’s proclaimed wrath.... And to blaspheme Him?...profane speech to God?

Here’s the thing... John 3:19-20 says it clearly...

**19 And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light lest his deeds be exposed.**

I'm pushing this because this is serious!... When Jesus came to the earth nearly 2000 years ago **He was rejected**...His life-giving message of the gospel **is rejected today**... and when He puts His power on display through His wrath... people **will continue to reject** it when the truth is staring them in the face!

Hebrews 10:26 - 10:27

**26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.**

One of the main things I want us to see in chapter eight has to do about prayer... *when we pray...our prayers ascend to heaven and they unleash the power of God's glory and our good.* (D. Akin)

That's what we will see here... if you remember back in chapter 6, when the 5<sup>th</sup> of the 7 seals is opened... we see Christians who have been martyred for their faith... for their *testimony* and *proclamation* of Jesus Christ... the gospel....unjustly, unrighteously slain.

They are "under the alter"... they are in heaven... verse 10 says: **and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Master, holy and true? Will You not judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"**

This is an intense prayer to God... "*God, will you put your judgement and wrath on those who killed us? "...will there be any justice?...*[That's what is being said today isn't it?]*You said in Your Word...* Deuteronomy 32:35

**35 It is mine to avenge; I will repay. In due time (due time is God's timing not man's) their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them."**

*When we pray...our prayers ascend to heaven and they unleash the power of God's glory and our good.*

This is the context of chapter 8

Remember Jesus opens seven seals of the scroll many have called the "*Title Deed of the Earth*"...One at a time Jesus opens a seal and with each seal... judgement comes out onto the earth...Six of seven seals have been opened... the last seal... the seventh seal is now to be opened...

Remember... there is a succession of judgements that make up God's wrath during this seven year Tribulation... think of it as an extending telescope...the first six seals are opened ...a glimpse of what happens over the entire seven years..... when the seventh seal is opened, not a judgement comes out but seven trumpets...

With the first six of the trumpets... a more intensified revelation of the Tribulation period... With the seventh trumpet... the telescope is fully extended and God's judgement and wrath are most clearly seen... and **wrath has greatly intensified when the seven bowls are released** ....at the seventh bowl... God's wrath on the earth will have been completed.

### Read 8:1

Why is heaven quiet for 30 minutes?... the six seals were so terrible, so horrifying that the kings of the world along with their slaves hid in caves, wanting the rocks of the mountains to fall on them to hide them from God's presence...

The seventh seal is opened and it is all quiet... literally the "*quiet before the storm*"...when something very big is about to happen... when you know it is imminent...you hold your breath...

This silence I think reveals an intense expectation of awe at what God is about to do...Habakuk 2:20 **But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him.**" Before the final day of the Lord the prophet Zephania said... **Be silent before Lord Yahweh! For the day of the Lord is near. For the Lord has prepared a sacrifice; He has set apart His guests.**

### Read verse 2

God is going to use angels to carry out His will... each of the seven angels will blow a trumpet... the trumpet is the most significant musical instrument in the Bible... it is an instrument of announcement.

We get the first four trumpets here in chapter eight... with each of them comes a great ecological disaster... caused and brought on by God Himself... the fifth and sixth trumpets bring on demonic destruction...God uses Satan and his demons... and the seventh trumpet announces the seven bowls..

### Read verse 3

An eighth angel... some think this angel is Jesus... I don't think so...(1) "**another**" is "*allos*" which literally means *another of the same kind*...this angel is like the kind of angels with the trumpets....

(2) Nowhere in the New Testament is Jesus ever referred to as an angel...(once in the O.T. as "the angel of the Lord)...but never in the New Testament...this is a great picture...

This angel stands before the alter... which is “**before the throne**”... holding a “**golden censor**”.

This picture played out over and over again in the Old Testament tabernacle and temple... a priest would, once in the morning and once in the evening... would fill a “firepan” or “censor” with hot burning coals from the alter where sacrifices were offered... and take these coals to the alter of incense...

They would then light the incense with the hot coals... the fragrance would rise toward heaven... all this represented the prayers of the saints... These prayers would be a pleasing aroma to God... That’s the basic picture...

That’s what is happening here... the angel goes to the sacrificial alter... fills the censor with hot coals... goes to the incense alter, light the incense...it says **MUCH incense**...the angel is adding the prayers of ALL the saints to the prayers of the martyred saints in chapter 6... and sends them to God....The fragrance rises to God.

#### **Read verse 4**

I love this picture of prayer... a glimpse of how our prayers actually do reach God...they are pleasing to Him... and He answers them... in His time....for His glory.... And our good... The greatest spiritual battle of all time is going to be unleashed upon the earth... we are in a terrible, terrible spiritual battle now.

In that great passage in Ephesians 6, the armor of God... Paul tells us in verse 18 that we need to be **praying at all times with all prayer and petition in the Spirit, and to this end, being on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,**

We are in a spiritual battle in this world... in this country... no one is excluded... we see that clearly after weeks like this last one... oh the theories out there seeking answers to this wretched brokenness of man...

1. **Our battle is fierce**—there are demons who are fighting you and want to destroy you... our battle is not against the assassins... the murderers... **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.**

2. **Our prayers are effective**—“*our cries go up and His kingdom comes down*”.

3. **Our God is faithful**—He will demonstrate His power, vindicate His people, extend His mercy, and uphold His justice.

I collect quotes... listen to these.

*“When there is no hope on the horizontal level, there is always hope on the vertical level” –*  
Adrian Rogers



*“Prayer releases the grip of Satan’s power; prayerlessness increases it. That is why prayer is so exhausting and so vital” – Alan Redpath*

*“God does nothing but by prayer, and everything with it.”—John Wesley*

*“God moves in the response to the cries (prayers) of His people”—unknown*

God smelled the fragrance of the incense and it was pleasing to Him... He hears the prayers of the saints and the judgements to come upon the earth are His answer to them.

### **Read verse 5**

Intercession has turned to judgement... the day of reckoning has arrived...the martyrs cries for justice, judgement and avengement has arrived....the trumpets are ready to blow... as terrible as things will be... the day is getting closer when God will make everything right.

Saints from the time Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount till today have been praying **Our Father who are in heaven hallowed be Thy name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done... on earth as it is in heaven.**

Well... here we are! First trumpet

### **Read verses 6-7**

This is a great ecological disaster... 1/3 of the earth is burned up...1/3 of the trees are burned up...All of the grass is burned up... just think for a moment of all the ramifications of just the first trumpet!

All of the products that come from 1/3 of the earth will no longer be available...1/3 of the trees burned up...

**1. Ecological Impact:** A third of the trees would significantly reduce the forest cover, affecting biodiversity and habitat for various species.

**2. Climate Change:** The loss of trees would lead to increased temperatures and altered weather patterns, as trees play a crucial role in regulating the climate.

**3. Water Quality:** The burning of trees would also affect water sources, as trees help filter and purify water, and their removal could lead to increased pollution and degradation of water bodies.

**4. Human Activities:** The loss of trees would impact agricultural practices, as they provide shade and moisture, and their removal could lead to increased soil erosion and desertification.

**5. No grass?... no grazing animals... no steaks!**

By the way... what happens in chapter eight is strikingly similar to the Old Testament plagues in Egypt... this one is like the seventh plague... 1/3 occurs 13 times in chapter 8... 1/3 means God's judgment is not finalized yet... there's two thirds left...this is still a warning to those alive during this... there's still time!

### Read verses 8-9

John has trouble describing all this... the human language falls short... I tried to speculate what would be **something like a great mountain being thrown into the sea** could possibly be...a giant meteorite? Asteroid?

Obviously it was something John had never seen before... so the closest thing he could grab onto was that it was **like a giant mountain burning with fire**...sounds like an asteroid...for kicks I researched if there are any known asteroids up there that could possibly hit the earth.

The *Journal of Science* reports that there is an asteroid up there that could possibly hit the earth... the name of this asteroid is 1950DA... it has a 1 in 300 chance of hitting the earth on March 16<sup>th</sup>... 2880... over 800 years from now.

They say it is about 1 kilometer wide... that would be over ½ a mile wide... *they say*...that an ½ mile wide asteroid hitting the earth would be the equivalent of 1 Million tons of dynamite...

Whatever it is... it is devastating... 1/3 of the sea turns to blood...1/3 living sea creatures die...1/3 ships are destroyed.

Remember Exodus 7:20 - 7:21

**So Moses and Aaron did thus, as Yahweh had commanded. And he raised up the staff and struck the water that was in the Nile, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, and all the water that was in the Nile was turned to blood. 21 And the fish that were in the Nile died, and the Nile became foul, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. And the blood was through all the land of Egypt.**

1/3 sea to blood...water is ruined.

1/3 sea life killed... Just the Phytoplankton alone...Phytoplankton are at the base of the marine food web, so their decline would disrupt the entire oceanic food chain....not to mention the air we breath!

Around 50% of the oxygen we breath is present in the atmosphere thanks to phytoplankton People often think that trees are the reason we have breathable air, but without phytoplankton oxygen would decrease about 50%!

1/3 of the ships destroyed... there are approximately 60,000 cargo ships on the ocean at any time... imagine if 20,000 of them were sunk... tariffs would not be our problem!...still this is only 1/3... judgement is not total or final...

### Read verses 10-11

Where the salt water was polluted in the second trumpet... 1/3 of all the fresh water will be contaminated as a result of a "falling star"... this is serious... fresh water is drinking water... all human and animal life rely on fresh water...another meteor or comet?... the name of the star is "Wormwood"... and the fresh water will turn into wormwood.

Wormwood is a shrub whose leaves are used to make *absinthe*...today a liqueur...but the word means literally "*undrinkable*"...wormwood is very bitter...it can also be very lethal...so the picture here is 1/3 of all the rivers and lakes will be made toxic from this plant.

Here's something interesting... to me... if you were alive in the 80's you might remember the disaster at Chernobyl...in the then Soviet Union Ukraine...a nuclear power plant in 1986 had a terrible accident... a partial meltdown.

8 tons of radio-active materials escaped into the atmosphere... 8000 people died suddenly...over 200,000 people were affected...all the fresh water rivers were contaminated... scientist say that because of the level of radioactive materials... it will be 20,000 years before Chernobyl will be inhabitable...

This disaster affected thousands and thousands... On July 26, 1986, the New York Times ran an article on the disaster... let me read to you the first paragraph.

*A prominent Russian writer recently produced a tattered old Bible and with a practiced hand turned to Revelations. "Listen," he said, "this is incredible: 'And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; and the name of the star is called wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.' "*

*In a dictionary, he showed the Ukrainian word for wormwood, a bitter wild herb used as a tonic in rural Russia...is what?: Chernobyl.*

*The writer, an atheist, was hardly alone in pointing out the apocalyptic reference to the star called Chernobyl.*

Is this prophetic?... I don't think so... but it certainly is interesting!... it gives us a glimpse of what the third trumpet will bring forth.

**Read verse 12**

All the light sources.. the sun, moon and stars are darkened by 1/3... Luke tells us in Luke 21:25 speaking n the events prior to Christ's return: **"And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth anguish among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves..."**

There's going to be a great disruption with light...it will be like a permanent eclipse of everything that gives light... the sun will dim by 1/3... the moon which reflects the light of the sun will of course be 1/3 less light... and the stars as well...

The world is going to get very cold!... now it will be a colder earth with less oxygen...bad drinking water... people dying... asteroids crashing... dead fish everywhere... this is a bad scene!

Joel prophesied this in the Old Testament... Joel 2:31

**The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.**

Isaiah 13:9 - 13:10

**9 Behold, the day of Yahweh is coming,  
Cruel, with fury and burning anger,  
To make the land a desolation;  
And He will exterminate its sinners from it.  
10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations  
Will not flash forth their light;  
The sun will be dark when it rises  
And the moon will not shed its light.**

Chapter 8 closes with a haunting statement...

**Read verse 13**

You think it has been bad... just you wait!

WOE...WOE...WOE! To those who dwell on the earth in this day...woe is judgement... one woe is terrible... two woes are much worse... three woes are triple terrible!...one Woe to each of the remaining three trumpets...

Here's what I get... **Don't put your ultimate hope in created things**...we have never awakened on any morning wondering if the sun would be there... it always is... we never have wondered if the earth might stop its rotation around the sun...it just always does...

But the truth is... ALL things are passing away.

**God is in control of all things... God alone is on the throne...**

**Prayer is an action of finite sinful humans that in some amazing and mysterious way moves into action a sovereign and omnipotent God.**

Time is short...Judgment is coming...Salvation is as near as a prayer... **"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"**. Romans 10:13