

The Trumpets are Sounding

October 21, 2023

Revelation 8:6-13

6 Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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!"

God warns that He will come in judgment on the unbelieving, and unravel the securities of this world.

In the Egyptian plagues God sent, there was judgment on the earth, the water sources, and the skies (Exodus 7-10), very similar to the first four trumpets.

First Trumpet: God's judgment through warfare and famine (8:7). Hail, fire, and blood poured out and 1/3 of the earth is burnt up with 1/3 of trees and all grass.

Second Trumpet: God's judgment upon wicked kingdoms and the sea (8:8-9)

Something like a great mountain burning with fire thrown into the sea and 1/3 of the sea became blood, killing 1/3 of living sea creatures and destroying 1/3 of ships.

Revelation 18:21

Jeremiah 51:24-25

Later at Jeremiah 51:63-64

Third Trumpet: The bitterness of God's judgment on the idolatry of men (8:10-11)

A great star from heaven blazing like a torch disrupted 1/3 of the waters that give life) and the polluted water killed many people.

Isaiah 14:12-13

Jeremiah 8:19

"Babylon, the prevailing world system, has influenced the earth-dwellers and some in the covenant community to become idolatrous. And the consequence of such pollution is judgment on both Babylon and those under its sway." G.K. Beale

Fourth Trumpet: God's judgment of darkness (8:12)

The luminaries are struck darkening 1/3 of the light impacting day and night.

1/3 Destruction = Partial judgment not full
Even greater misery than the elect

Psalm 73:2-3

Psalm 73:16-19

Consider the patience of God towards the unbelieving world and towards you.

When your securities are stripped away, do not fail to listen to God.

Finally, as Christ followers, sound the alarm:

Ezekiel 33:1-4