

REVELATION



Let's Talk

What has been the relationship you've had with the power of prayer? How has the concept of prayer and the supernatural been explained to you? Has there ever been a point in your life where you've doubted God has heard your prayer?

Let's Study

Read Revelation 8:3-5.

What is mixed together and burned on the gold altar before the throne? Do you think this is pleasing to God? What happens when this mixture is poured out on the earth?

Read Revelation 8:4 and Ezekiel 33:3-5.

Consider the nature and purpose of a trumpet. What is the duty of the watchman in Ezekiel? How does the blowing of seven trumpets highlight God's mercy and help us to understand the significance of the trumpets in Revelation? How does it help us to understand our role as 'watchmen' in the 21st century?

Read Revelation 8:7-12.

We learned in the sermon this week that this passage is about judgement and mercy. Notice the repeated indication of what part of the earth, sea, and heavens are destroyed or darkened when each trumpet is blown. Why do you think it is significant that 'one third' was affected in each event?

Compare and contrast the imagery of Revelation 8:6-12 with Exodus 7:20-21, 9:24, and 10:21-23. How do the events that took place in Egypt foreshadow what John describes in Revelation? Compare and contrast the imagery in Revelation 9:2-3 with Exodus 10:14-15 and Joel 2:31. What can we understand from these passages about the meaning of the locusts?

Read Revelation 9:1-2.

What happens when the fifth trumpet is blown? What does the fallen star represent?

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Read Revelation 9:14-21.

More terror is released when ‘the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates are ‘turned loose.’ Describe these events and how the people who survived responded to this. What does this tell us about their depravity? How can this be a lesson for us as Christians today?

Let’s Apply

This week we learned about God’s divine mercy and judgment. He provides warnings and second chances because he loves us and longs for us to come to him. However, we can see in Revelation 9:20-21 that though people lived through all these terrible events, they still did not repent and turn from their sins.

Paul writes in Romans 1:18 that God shows his anger towards ‘sinful people who suppress the truth with their wickedness.’ Let’s examine our hearts this week and ask God to reveal in what areas of our lives we have been suppressing the truth. Have we been acting like He is not near? Have we been acting like the end times are not coming, or denying that they are already upon us?

This week, let’s facilitate our spiritual growth through prayer. As we draw closer to God, we will draw closer to us (James 4:8). He will reveal to us where in our lives we have put idols outside of Him, been distracted by the world, or misinterpreted his Word. Discuss with your group how you intend to make prayer a special priority this week.

Let’s Pray

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your mercy and Your just ways. We are so blessed to know You, God. We pray for family members and loved ones to come to know You, for the softening of hearts, and the urgent spread of your good news to all the nations. Let us not give up on our friends and neighbours, or shy away when You give us a mission. Let us be Your ambassadors, unencumbered by distractions or the suppression of truth by our sins. Help us to remember the completeness of our Lord God, merciful and just, God of love. Amen.