

The Trumpet Judgments **Revelation 8:1-13 (Part 16)**

Luke 23:34 *And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."*

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

Romans 2:4-5 *Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? 5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.*

- In the tribulation period, God moves from using lovingkindness to draw people to Him to tribulation and wrath.
- His lovingkindness is being overshadowed by tribulation. But grace is still available to those who turn to God and repent.

Revelation 8:1 *When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.*

Silence in heaven for about half an hour: There is a dramatic pause in worship, singing, praise and activity as heaven prepares to blow the trumpet judgments on earth.

Revelation 8:2 *Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.*

Revelation 8:3-5 *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. 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.*

Another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer: The image takes the reader back to the Old Testament tabernacle and temple.

Exodus 30:6-10 *And you shall put it in front of the veil that is above the ark of the testimony, in front of the mercy seat that is above the testimony, where I will meet with you. 7 And Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it. Every morning when he dresses the lamps he shall burn it, 8 and when Aaron sets up the lamps at twilight, he shall burn it, a regular incense offering before the Lord throughout your generations. 9 You shall not offer unauthorized incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering, and you shall not pour a drink offering on it. 10 Aaron shall make atonement on its horns once a year. With the blood of the sin offering of atonement he shall make atonement for it once in the year throughout your generations. It is most holy to the Lord."*

Luke 1:8-11 *Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, 9 according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. 11 And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.*

Leviticus 16:11-14 *"Aaron shall present the bull as a sin offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. He shall kill the bull as a sin offering for himself. 12 And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the Lord, and two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small, and he shall bring it inside the veil 13 and put the incense on the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is over the testimony, so that he does not die. 14 And he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the front of the mercy seat on the east side, and in front of the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.*

He was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne: The incense and the prayers seem to be the same as they rise up to God before the terrible judgment.

1. Prayer is an important part of God's plan and ours.

Revelation 8:5 *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.*

Revelation 8:6-7 *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.*

Prepared to blow them: A trumpet blast can mean one of three things in Scripture: first, an alarm; second, a fanfare to announce royalty; third, a summons to battle.

First angel blew his trumpet: Hail, fire and blood come down on the earth.

- There are many similarities between the plagues in Egypt and the trumpet and bowl judgments.
- The purpose of the plagues in Egypt was to break the will of Pharaoh and show that Yahweh is God alone and of everything.

Joel 2:30-32 *“And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. 32 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.*

A third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up: The ecology of the earth is severely impacted.

Revelation 8:8-9 *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.*

- When the second trumpet is blown a large mountain-like object impacts the sea.
- 1/3 of the sea is impacted, 1/3 of living things in the sea, 1/3 ships all impacted

2. God's gives grace to the world by delaying judgment.

- 1/3 is a demonstration of God's grace that not all is destroyed but God gives an opportunity to repent.

Revelation 8:10-11 *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.*

A great star fell from heaven: This is an asteroid or comet that strikes the fresh water source of 1/3 of the world. Or it could be an atomic detonation that strikes the earth.

Revelation 8:12 *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.*

- The fourth trumpet impacts the celestial bodies. God is showing his power over even the sun, moon and stars.
- We see a culmination of God judgment upon all parts of the earth: land, sea, water, and sky.

3. There are 2 ways to respond to God. Repentance or Resistance.

Revelation 8:13 *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!”*

An eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead: Some translations say angel. Before the last 3 angels sound their trumpet, a 3-fold woe is pronounced upon the earth and in a loud voice.

Those who dwell on the earth: The phrase “those who dwell on the earth” is used throughout Revelation to designate those who live in rebellion and unbelief before the true and living God.

- It occurs 12 times in the book.
- These are persons who live not only on the earth, but for the earth.