

The Trumpet Judgments Revelation 8-9

Tonight we continue to look at the events of the Great Tribulation that will come upon planet earth in the last days.

A)The Great Tribulation contains 21 major judgments:

- Seven Seal Judgments in Revelation 6
- Seven Trumpet Judgments in Revelation 8-9
- Seven Bowl Judgments in Revelation 15-16

B)Last Wednesday night Pastor Barry Stagner - took you through six of the seal judgments

C)The reason he didn't go into the 7th seal being opened is because the seventh seal is what ushers in the seven trumpet judgments

1)In much the same way - the seventh trumpet ushers in the seven bowl judgments

Now there are some well-meaning Bible teachers who like to suggest that the Great Tribulation only starts in Ch.15 bowl judgments

A)Everything prior to this is just Tribulation or it is referred to as the wrath of Satan and the Wrath of the Anti-Christ

B)But not the wrath of God - that happens later Chapter 15 - which means the rapture happens end of Chapter 14

C)Challenge to read the book of Revelation with an open mind -

1)Paying attention only to scripture - Accepted that challenge

Now Part of the reason the pre-wrath view states that the Great Tribulation doesn't start until the bowl judgments in Ch.15 is because we are told this in Chapter 15:1

Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

A)So those who hold the Pre-wrath view in which they believe the rapture happens before the bowl judgments

B)But everything that occurs during the seal judgments and the first 6 trumpet Judgments - we the church experience

1)Because it is here in Chapter 15:1 that the wrath of God is mentioned

C)But notice closely what John says here: He doesn't say the Wrath of God is started - he says it is complete

1)Meaning this is the end of it- the completion of it - meaning what has occurred prior to this has also been the wrath of God

That has been my argument all along- The Tribulation starts in Chapter 6 when Jesus opens the first Seal.

A)Everything we see is originating from heaven - from the hand of Jesus as he opens the seals

B)This to me is the example of what I mentioned on Sunday when Paul says in Romans 1:18 the wrath of God is revealed

1)He proceeds to explain - this is what the Wrath of God looks like - God is giving man over to pursue his own lust and ideas

C)We have noted that when the first seal opens - it ushers in the coming of the Anti-Christ -

1)The Anti-Christ is the epitome of Man living apart from God - being anti-God - against God

D)Pursuing and setting up his own Kingdom - things get so bad that 1/4 earth's population is killed

And then we see the 6th seal opened and all these cataclysmic things are happening on planet earth -

A)Which could be taking place further into the tribulation - but my point this this

B)Everything that we are reading in the Seal judgments is originating from Heaven - from Jesus - His Wrath being poured out

C)Tonight we are going to see a Angels being sent forth by Jesus with Trumpets of Judgment - more wrath - more death

Another thing that I will mention: Is there is also a teaching that says the Seal Judgments/ Trumpet Judgments and the Bowl judgments

- A) Are not 3 different sets of Judgments - but three different angels describing the same thing
- B) Like watching 3 different camera angles on instant replay in a football game.
- C) I think Chapter 15:1 - refutes that idea because - notice it says: Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues
- D) The Seven last plagues would indicate that there have been previous plagues or judgments
- 1) Which I think dispels the idea that these judgments are just different angles of the same thing.

Now another thing to understand about the book of Revelation is in the discussion of these 21 Judgments - Breaks

- A) What has been called Parenthetical Chapters -
- B) "Parenthetical" comes from the word "Parenthesis" which means something that is inserted as an explanation.
- 1) It could also signal an interval or interlude in the narrative
- C) Each chronological section of the book of Revelation is immediately followed by a parenthetical section,
- D) Because God, out of His pastoral heart, is intentionally pausing the story to give His Church an explanation
- 1) or an interpretative key of what had just happened or is about to happen.

We have seen one of these Parenthetical chapters already - Ch.7

- A) the introduction of the 144,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel
- B) As well as the first group of Martyred believers mentioned in Heaven
- C) The other Parenthetical sections are
- Revelation 10:1-11:14
 - Revelation 12-14
 - Revelation 17:1-19:10
 - Revelation 21:9-22:5

So Chapter 8 begins with the opening of the final seal judgment -

- A) Outline for our study tonight - The Silence - The Supplications and the Soundings
- When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.
- B) Now there has been much speculation on why it is silent in heaven at this moment
- C) Some commentators believe it is because the seal, the title deed to the earth is flipped over,
- 1) and the full plan of God, with all the judgments is recognized and heaven is taken back by the reality, the enormity of the judgement

D) Some say it is a holy moment of worship

Others think it is hard evidence that THE WOMEN arrive to heaven at least 30 minutes after the men

- A) Because there is no way there could be silence in heaven for 30 whole minutes if women are there
- B) Now that is what Pastor Steve believes, that is not what I believe, but he made me say that
- C) The truth is I think that this seventh seal contains so much devastation, it is so ominous that people are speechless

The silence just adds to the intensity

- A) Like watching a football game - 4th quarter your team is down - goal line - TD they win - Stopped they lose - Silent anticipation
- B) This silence is similar it is silence that is anticipating what is about to happen
- Be silent in the presence of the Lord God; for the day of the Lord is at hand, - Zephaniah 1:7
- C) The Day of the Lord is not speaking of a day - but a time period - begins with the Tribulations - thru 2nd coming and millennial reign
- D) Be Silent - the Day of the Lord is at hand

14 The great day of the Lord is near;

It is near and hastens quickly.

The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter;

There the mighty men shall cry out.

15 That day is a day of wrath,

A day of trouble and distress,
 A day of devastation and desolation,
 A day of darkness and gloominess,
 A day of clouds and thick darkness,
 16 A day of trumpet and alarm
 Against the fortified cities
 And against the high towers.
 17 "I will bring distress upon men,
 And they shall walk like blind men,
 Because they have sinned against the Lord;
 Their blood shall be poured out like dust,
 And their flesh like refuse."
 18 Neither their silver nor their gold
 Shall be able to deliver them
 In the day of the Lord's wrath;
 But the whole land shall be devoured
 By the fire of His jealousy,
 For He will make speedy riddance
 Of all those who dwell in the land. Zephaniah 1:14-18

So this Silence is in anticipation of what is about to happen next - as the Wrath of God continues to be poured out

A) The Supplications V.2-5

² And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. ³ Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. ⁴ And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. ⁵ Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw *it* to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

A) We have mentioned before that the tabernacle offers us a picture of what is in heaven.

B) One of the elements of the tabernacle that was before the ark of the Lord was the altar of incense

C) There was a sweet incense created specifically for this type of offering and was to be used for nothing else.

Aaron the High Priest would mix this incense with coals from the altar to take in with him into the Holy of Holies

A) And in Leviticus tells us that it served as a protection for him in the presence of God's holiness.

B) Here, the incense is mixed with prayers.

C) More than likely, these are the prayers of the saints we saw in chapter 5,

1) as well as the prayers of the martyrs we saw in chapter 6 who are crying out for God's vengeance.

It's interesting that in the OT that every time a sacrifice was offered on the altar, it was to be offered as a "a sweet aroma" to the Lord.

A) This fascinates me.

B) When you think of how God receives our prayer, which one of the senses do you automatically attribute to that? Hearing! Right?

C) God hears our prayers. While this is true, the Bible indicates that God also smells our prayers.

D) "May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice." (Psalm 141:2)

E) When we offer our prayer, worship, and obedience to God from a pure and sincere heart,
 1) he smells something sweet.

This is what the book of Revelation keeps doing to us - Scenes of Hell on earth - scenes of praise prayer - Sweetness in Heaven

A) There is a reason for this: Because - as we see these judgments come on planet earth we think - harsh - horrible

B) God must hate the people on planet earth - but nothing could be further from the truth

C) God is like a Doctor dealing with Cancer - But more than a Doctor because he really loves the patient -

1) Do everything to save the patient

D) The Patient is planet earth - and it's people - but some of the people are so far infected - too far gone

But Like a Doctor attacking Cancer - God is attacking the sin and rebellion on planet earth

A) Just like a Doctor - treating cancer might start with one approach - less radical - or aggressive

B) The attack on the cancer gets more aggressive as time passes - until the only solution is the cancer has to be removed.

C) From the Vantage point of those on earth - it is brutal and intense

D) But from the vantage point of heaven - those who are close to his heart - yes intense - but from a heart of love

1) A motivation to save - what is left

The Silence - the Supplications - now the Soundings V.6

⁶ So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.- ⁷ The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

A) It is interesting that as the first four trumpets are sounded - these judgments have to do with nature

B) First the earth and then the Cosmos - we see a common # - The proportion of ecological disasters stays the same

1) 1/3 of everything is affected

C) First trumpet - Hail and fire (interesting combination) - that has actually been found in Volcanic explosions

Interesting the largest hailstone every recorded has a circumference of about 17.4 inches - size of a Volleyball

A) Imagine hailstones of that size falling to the earth - which could be the explanation for the line: mingled with blood.

B) Whatever this is - it brings much destruction - 1/3 of the trees and all the green grass was burned up

C) Could be the devastation that follows volcanic ash - think of the impact all the grass being burned up would have on farming and cattle

D) The question is - is this happening all over the world or a specific region

The Sounding of the 2nd Trumpet

⁸ Then the second angel sounded: And *something* like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. ⁹ And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

A) John sees something like a great Mountain on fire - crashing into the sea.

B) This sounds like a Huge asteroid crashing to the earth - such devastation that 1/3 of the Sea creatures die - 1/3 of sea becomes blood

1) 1/3 of the ships are destroyed

C) Any given day 30,000 ships at sea - 10,000 ships carrying 10's thousands of people killed.

¹⁰ Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning 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 men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

A) Now some commentators because of the mention of Wormwood - which means bitter

B) that this might involve - a nuclear explosion of some sort

C) Where some sort of toxin from the fall out affects the fresh water supplies -

1) Many men - people will die from this

D) The Lord declared in Jeremiah 9:15 because of the rebellion of his people - "Behold, I will feed them, this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink.

¹² Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

A) It seems that everything that is happening on planet earth during this time affects the atmosphere

B) Sun the moon - the stars - Darkened - feeling like night time all the time - Nuclear Winter

C) Whatever you think that God uses to bring these judgments about - the result is the same;

- 1) 1/3 of the trees are destroyed
- 2) 1/3 of the sea life is killed
- 3) 1/3 of the rivers are polluted
- 4) 1/3 less sun is getting to the earth's surface

D) Then it seems that there is a short break in the action - we are not sure how long but long enough for an angel to fly around declaring
 13 And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

E) You think this has been bad - wait until you see what comes next!

Chapter 9 The 5th Trumpet sounds

Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. 2 And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.

So Chapter 9 opens with the fifth Angel sounding his trumpet - and John saw a Star fallen from Heaven to the earth.

A) But this is no ordinary star - because in verse 1 the star is identified as a he. - To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.

B) There is speculation as to who this star is - some think it is Satan himself and others believe it is a high ranking Angel

C) Whoever this is: He is given the keys to unlock the bottomless pit - which seems to be a holding place for some bad demons

We learn from the book of Jude and II Peter chapter 2 that there are certain demons, so fowl,

A) God has locked them up until this day, Jude tells us

"And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day" - Jude Verse 6 (and then in II Peter)

"For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment - II Peter 2:4

B) So the fifth trumpet sounds - the bottomless pit is opened and what comes out is horrible

C) Imagine if all the prisons on the earth were opened up and the worst of the worst criminals were set free .

D) Well this is way worse.

3 Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, (wait I thought all the grass was burned up? - Well apparently enough time has passed for it to grow back)

4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

A) So out of the smoke comes these locust - but these are not normal locust

B) Locusts thrive on vegetation - but these locusts are commanded not to touch the vegetation -

1) But instead they can attack people

C) Except for the 144,000 Jews who have the seal of God on their heads

But notice V.5 And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.

A) I believe these are Demonic beings that are tormenting the people of the world

B) Because notice how John proceeds to describe them - not normal locust

6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

7 The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.

8 They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. 9 And they had breastplates

like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. 10 They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.

A) Interesting that the normal lifespan of a locust is five months

B) Another thing that is different about these creatures from regular locust is that they have a leader. 11 And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

"The locusts have no king, Yet they all advance in ranks..." - Proverbs 30:27

C) That is what makes them such an amazing part of God's creation. They fly in formation with no leadership

But these again are different locusts

A) They have a leader, a ruler. His name in Hebrew "Abaddon", in Greek "Apollyon"

B) Some believe this to be Satan himself, I don't think so because he comes from the bottomless pit as well and Satan isn't bound there yet

C) But Satan or not, this leader of the demon army of locust is a destroyer

Note V.6 again 6 In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

A) People will be attempting to commit suicide but it is not going to work

B) They will be inflicting harm on themselves - various means and methods in an attempt to kill themselves

1) But they will not die

C) Guys this is horrific - Do you want to be here for this? - Do you want anyone you know to be here for this?

1) IT GETS WORSE

12 One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

¹³ Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

A) The Four horns of the golden altar were the priest would tie the limbs of the animal for sacrifice - for atonement

B) It prefigured how Jesus would be nailed to the Cross in paying the price for our redemption

C) The Voice that John is hearing is once again the voice of Jesus - the atoning sacrifice - (originating from heaven)

John hears the voice ¹⁴ saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." ¹⁵ So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. ¹⁶ Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

- Again we have more fallen angels who were bound for some reason we cannot be sure of
- But they are released to destroy man

These judgments pour out as God releases the evil that is currently being held back

- Thank God so much for the restraining power of the Holy Spirit – He holds back so much evil
- So thankful for Him

God is holding back evil and when He releases it in this sixth trumpet watch out...

- these four demons lead another army of 200 million
- that is so many people, there were 1 million soldiers in all of the gulf war, this is 200 times that many
- in World War II there were 50 million soldiers fighting on all sides – this is four times this number
- And even more incredible is the fact that when John saw this, there wasn't even 200 million people on earth at that time

- but John is seeing something in the future and in today's world

China just recently boasted it had 200 million soldiers -

A) Is this a human army or a demonic army - I think it is a demonic army because

#1 – with all the devastation on the earth, up to this point some don't think it will be possible to field 200 million soldiers at this time

#2 – Why would they fight the whole world?

- Now I do think an army from the far East may be tied into Red China is in view in chapter 16 and we will cover that when we get there

#3 – the language here does not seem to fit modern warfare

¹⁷ And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. ¹⁸ By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. ¹⁹ For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

Some believe that just as with the 5th trumpet, this is a demon army from the pit of hell

A) They set out to kill people on planet earth - because that is what Demons love to do

B) Jesus said Satan is a thief and robber - Kill rob and Destroy -

C) These Demons are simply doing what they love to do - Destroy -

1) The Pigs - Cliff

We read here that 1/3 of the population destroyed another 2 billion people

A) The current population is 10.3 Billion - let's say close to 1 billion go in the rapture

B) 9.5 billion left - but we saw last week that after the 4th seal - 1/4 of the earth population is killed = 2 billion

C) Now we read here another 1/3 of earth population is killed - so another 2 billion

By this time almost half of the earth's population is dead.

A) We haven't even gotten to the bowl judgments yet

B) LET THAT SINK IN!

C) Guys this is gut wrenching - this is impossible to imagine - but it is real

Here is what is really sad:

²⁰ But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. ²¹ And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Even after all of this, the world will not repent and come to the Lord – they are still holding onto their sin

A) They are still into demon worship- They are into Idolatry – anything worshiped above God

B) They are Murdering – killing

C) They are into drugs, Sorcery – it's the Greek word pharamkia (which is speaking about drugs and witchcraft)

D) And they are being Sexual immorality and stealing

The Hardness of heart and propensity toward sin is so great - it doesn't stop it only grows

A) This just goes to show you, people love the darkness rather than the Light – even after all of this judgment

B) We read this and maybe you wonder: Why doesn't God just end all of this - like he did with the flood.

C) Why not just get rid of the rest of the population- that is not God's heart

But what is God's heart???

A) Close by reading Joel 2:10-14

"For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it? "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm. Who knows if He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him" - Joel 2:10-14

B) Even after all of this: God just wants the people to repent and turn to Him

C) Because God is the same yesterday today and forever

- The same God that just doesn't do away with all the people but wants them to repent and get right with God

D) That same God feels the same way about you

- we get wrapped up in idolatry- things above God
- maybe you're wrapped up in sorcery (drugs)
- maybe you're in bondage to immorality (porn)

Understand

- It will devastate you and then destroy you
- And God will not let your rebellion be easy because He loves you
- But His heart is that you would repent

God will restore

- He will bring life to barrenness

The people in that day would not, and they will be destroyed

What about us?