

The Trumpet Judgments

Revelation 8:1-6

I. **Introduction:**

A. **Context review**

- *Review of the tribulation period thus far:*
 1. – Preceded by the rapture of the church
 - a. The tribulation period's a time of God's judgment upon the rebellious and wicked.
 - b. The tribulation is a time of God's wrath. The N. T. clearly states those saved by faith in Jesus are delivered from wrath to come.
 - c. The church will be raptured, called out of this world before the tribulation begins.
 2. – Seven years in length
 - a. The tribulation will last for 7 years with the 1st 3½ years having false peace under the antichrist & the last 3½ years being horrendous.
 - b. Antichrist will demand that the world worship him as god and there will be death and destruction in this world on a scale never known before.
 - c. Billions of people will die by war, famine, disease, and persecution.
 3. – Judgment
 - a. The judgment of God is revealed in three sets of seven;
 - (1) The seven seal judgments
 - (2) The seven trumpet judgments
 - (3) The seven bowl judgments
 - b. Chapter 8 begins w/ opening of the 7th seal which introduces 7 trumpet judgments.

II. **The trumpet judgments (Revelation 8:1)**

A. **Silence in heaven**

1. Up to this point John has recorded a lot of noise in heaven.
2. The 4 living creatures surrounding God's throne cry holy, holy, holy worshipping God.
3. The angels & the redeemed in heaven are singing. The elders representing the raptured church in heaven are praising God. Heaven reverberates with praise and worship.
4. Silence: But as Jesus opened the 7th seal on the scroll a silence fell over all of heaven.
5. When the angels, the redeemed, and the elders saw the coming judgment contained in the 7th seal, they fell silent in anticipation of the horrible events to come.

III. **Seven angels (Revelation 8:2)**

A. **Angels who stand before God**

1. John saw seven angels who stand before God.
2. The Bible describes various orders & ranks among the angels including; Cherubim, Seraphim, Archangels, Thrones, dominions, rulers, authorities, and powers.
3. These angels are specifically identified as among those who stand in God's presence, differentiating them from other angels & angelic beings.
4. Example: Gabriel, the archangel who appeared to Mary, declared to her that he stands in the presence of God (**Luke 1:19**).
5. Application: To be allowed to serve in the presence of a king was considered a great honor. We who are saved are allowed to enter His presence any time.
6. In Jesus we have access to the very throne of God.

B. Trumpets

1. Each of the 7 angels have a trumpet which is most significant instrument in the Bible.
2. The blowing of a trumpet was used for many purposes:
 - a. Signified a call to come together
 - b. Signified an alarm or call to battle
 - c. Signified the arrival of royalty, the king
 - d. A trumpet call will signify the rapture of the church.
3. Here the trumpet call will signify God's wrath and judgment upon the wicked.
4. Each angel will blow his trumpet in prescribed order bringing judgment upon the earth.
5. Severity: Each successive set of judgments is more devastating than the last.

IV. Supplication (Revelation 8:3-5)

A. Prayers of the saints

1. In the O. T. offerings in the temple were accompanied by incense burning on the alter.
2. The offering was presented to God w/ sweet smell of incense rising up toward heaven.
3. Prayers Offered: This refers to prayers of the saints offered to God in the tribulation.
4. These are prayers of saints as they'll be persecuted, tortured, & martyred for their faith.
5. These saints will pray for God's deliverance & justice against the wicked who perpetrate such hate. Those prayers will be offered to God with "**much incense.**"

B. Answer to the prayers

1. Silence brakes as this angel filled the censer with hot coals & flung them upon earth.
2. James states the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much (**James 5:16**).
3. The act of this angel is in direct response to the prayers just offered to God.
4. Result was; Noises or sounds, Peals of thunder, Flashes of lightning, & An earthquake.
5. Application: – God hears every prayer: Prayers of God's saints are precious to Him.
 - a. We may not see an answer right away or in this lifetime, but God hears us.
 - b. Prayer is the most powerful resource we have as Christians.
6. Application: – God will bring judgement & justice: World today lives as if there's no accountability for sin. People live today as if there is no day of reckoning.
 - a. God will forgive all sin if a person will confess & turn from their sin, placing their faith in Jesus. God is gracious & longsuffering, not willing any should perish.
 - b. God does not want to judge anyone. God said to Ezekiel (**Ezekiel 33:11**).
 - c. But Know This: All who reject God & His law will face His judgment.
 - d. Day of Grace: Today one can be forgiven of sin & receive pardoning by faith in Jesus

V. The angels prepare to sound their trumpets. (Revelation 8:6)

A. Time of delay has ended.

1. Every event in God's sovereign plan has its exact time.
2. The prayers of the saints have been offered to God.
3. It's now time for the angels to sound their trumpets & the judgment of God to fall on an unrepentant world. The warnings via the threatening sounds and events have passed.
4. Application: The opportunity to repent and be saved is a finite period of time.
5. God will not always strive with man (Genesis 6:3).
6. There comes a time when God simply judges the wicked.