

October 8, 2023
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Revelation: The Trumpets Sound // S3-E1
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Revelation 8:6-13 (NIV 1984)

Vs.6 Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them. **7** The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. **8** The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, **9** a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. **10** The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky 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 turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter. **12** The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, 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 turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night. **13** As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"

Revelation Recap: John's vision (Ch. 1)— Letters to the 7 Churches (Ch. 1b-3)— Visit to the throne of heaven and the lamb (Ch. 4-5) —3 sets of 7 divine judgements (Ch. 6-16) —7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls.

The Trumpet Judgements: The 7 trumpets are a continuation of the 7 seals which began the tribulation period and are divided into 2 parts, the first 4 trumpets and the last 3 trumpets. The trumpets are meant as an **ANNUNCIATION and a WARNING**.

- The seal and bowl judgments representing **7** years are derived from a prophetic week of **7** days mentioned in the Book of Daniel (Daniel 9:24-27), where each 'day' represents a year.
 - The Seven Seals and Seven Trumpet Judgments often are seen as occurring during the first 3.5 years of the Tribulation. The Seven Bowl (or Vial) Judgments are in the second 3.5 years, known as the "**Great Tribulation**."
- **The 7 trumpets are preempted by silence and conclude with commotion.**
 - **Rev 8:1** *When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.*
 - **Rev 11:15** *The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and He will reign for ever and ever."*

The 4 Trumpets: Environmental Disaster

- **The First Trumpet:** Hail, Fire, and Blood (Revelation 8:7) A. Description of the event 1. Hail and fire mixed with blood 2. Destruction of a third of the earth's vegetation.
- **The Second Trumpet:** A Blazing Mountain in the Sea (Revelation 8:8-9)
- **The Third Trumpet:** The Star Called Wormwood and poisons freshwater. (Revelation 8:10-11)
- **The Fourth Trumpet and the Eagle** (Vs. 13): Darkening of the Heavenly Bodies (Revelation 8:12)

Practical takeaways:

1. **Repent:** God is warning and calling people to repentance. Encourage listeners to heed God's warnings in their own lives and turn to Him in repentance, knowing that His mercy is available.
2. **Prepare:** Be spiritually prepared for the future. Just as the trumpet judgments reveal the unpredictability of life, stress the importance of being spiritually prepared through a personal relationship with Christ, prayer, and study of God's Word.
3. **Trust:** Our faith should outweigh fear. God's sovereignty is evident in the trumpet judgments, and they can trust that He is in control of their lives and circumstances. Encourage a faith-driven perspective.
4. **Share:** Use the trumpet judgments as a motivation for evangelism and outreach. Share the gospel with others so that they may also find salvation and hope in Christ.

Small Group Questions:

- Repentance and Warning: How can we apply the concept of heeding God's warnings and embracing repentance in our daily lives?
- Spiritual Preparation: What are some practical steps we can take to be spiritually prepared for the uncertainties of life?
- Faith vs. Fear: In what areas of your life do you struggle with fear, and how can you develop a faith-driven perspective in those situations?
- Evangelism and Outreach: How can our understanding of the trumpet judgments encourage us to share the gospel with more urgency?
- Application and Prayer: Which practical takeaway from the sermon resonated with you the most, and how do you plan to apply it this week?