

Revelation - Chapter 8 & 9 Summary

Trumpet Judgments

John continues to describe what he sees in heaven. The 144,000 Jews who will bring about the greatest revival ever known and the Great Multitude, those martyred during the Tribulation Period, now wearing white robes and waving palm branches have joined the twenty-four elders, the four living creatures, the Church and the angels all worshipping God and the glorified Christ.



Praise ceases as Jesus begins to open the first six seals of judgments. The judgments will extinguish all evil on the earth and then Jesus will return. The first four seals include horses and riders (the Four Horseman of the Apocalypse) which bring about false peace, then war, famine and death of one-fourth of the people on the earth. The fifth seal is God's divine judgment on those who have persecuted His people. John sees the martyred souls under the altar and they are given rest until it is time for God to avenge their deaths.

The sixth seal is the greatest physical destruction ever known on earth and begins with a earthquake that shakes the entire globe resulting in worldwide panic.

Seventh Seal: Silence in Heaven & The Seven Trumpets First Seal

When Jesus breaks open the seventh seal there is silence in heaven for thirty minutes in reverence to the looming judgments coming from the seven trumpets. An angel approaches the altar and mingles the prayers of the martyred saints with incense. The time has finally come to answer those desperate pleas for God's intervention.





First Trumpet Blast: Devastation of the Earth

At the sound of the first trumpet blast, hail and fire, mixed with blood are thrown to the earth and one-third of the earth's vegetation and all its green grass are destroyed. This will likely trigger worldwide volcanic eruptions, violent thunderstorms, decimation of crops and forests,

filling the air with smoke and ash. Though not directly aimed at human beings, it will indirectly affect food supplies, the global economy, and health on a massive scale. There is a parallel to the tenth plague in Exodus 9:18-26 where there was literal hail and fire.

Second Trumpet Blast: Devastation on the Sea

At the sound of the angel's second trumpet blast, a large burning object, something like a mountain, falls from the heavens and lands somewhere in the world's oceans with an explosive power far greater than that of an atomic bomb.



One-third of the seas will become blood due to the death of the fish of the seas and giant waves will destroy ships in one-third of the seas. Those who depend on ocean life for food would suffer hunger and hardship on an unprecedented scale. Economic chaos will result. This parallels the plagues of Egypt in which the Nile River and all other bodies of water in Egypt were turned to blood when Aaron stretched out his rod over them (Ex 7:17-19).

Third Trumpet Blast: Waters Made Bitter

As the third trumpet blasts, a great star, possibly a heavenly body or mass from outer space burning as it enters the atmosphere of earth, falls on one-third of the rivers and fresh waters contaminating them with a bitter and poisonous substance, wormwood.



There is a parallel to the experience of the children of Israel at the waters of Marah in Exodus 15:23-25 and a contrast between Christ on the cross atoning for sin and making that which is bitter sweet and Christ coming in judgment that turns the vain hopes and ambitions of unbelievers into bitterness and despair.



Fourth Trumpet Blast: Heaven Darkened

As the fourth trumpet blasts, judgment shifts from the earth to the heavens. The heavenly bodies are hit with a plague from God so that one-third of the heavens are darkened.

Temperatures will plunge drastically all over the world, weather patterns and tides will be severely disrupted leading to violent

unpredictable storms, further destruction of crops, and loss of animal and human lives. Now all areas of the earth have been struck with catastrophe and the result will be anarchy and chaos. Rioting, looting and crime will exacerbate the horrors experienced around the globe.

Then John hears the loud voice of an eagle flying in midheaven at the height of the midday sun and visible to all, pronouncing a triple woe to the peoples of the earth about the judgments to come.

Fifth Trumpet: Demons Dominate

As the angel blew the fifth trumpet, Satan is permanently cast down to the earth and given the key to the abyss or bottomless pit releasing the vilest most malicious and powerful demons to attack but not kill those who have not accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior for five months. They will want to die but will not be able to. They will however, have the opportunity to repent and embrace the gospel.



The Sixth Trumpet: The Return of Death

At the sound of the sixth trumpet, 4 evil angels bound at the Euphrates river are released to kill a third of mankind. Today this would represent two billion people. Never since Noah as such a substantial proportion of the earth's population come under God's righteous judgment.

As distressing as it is to read of the horrific judgments it is even more disturbing to read that the survivors will close their ear to God's message of mercy and grace rejecting the preaching of the 144,000 missionaries, choosing instead to accept the wrath that will continue to increase in severity. John lists five sins representative of the defiance of those who refused to repent:

- Worshipping other gods and demons.
- Violent crimes like murders.
- Sorceries which is a Greek word from which the English words pharmacy and pharmaceuticals derive. During the Tribulation man will be reduced to rubble through their abuse of drugs.
- Immorality will prevail. Indescribable sexual perversions will be rampant in that day.
- People will refuse to repent of thefts as they compete for scarce supplies of food, water, clothing, shelter and medicine. There will be no consequences from civil authorities.

In these chapters we see God using an intensifying series of judgments to capture the world's attention for the purpose of redemption. If you are reading this it is not too late to be counted in the redeemed who will spend eternity with God. Do not harden your heart by turning away from God but confess with your mouth that you want Jesus to be your Lord and Savior and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead to die for your sins, you will be saved and spend eternity with God in heaven.

“while it is said, “Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.” (Hebrews 3:15, NASB95)

“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” (Romans 10:9–10, NASB95)