

Morning Sermon September 12, 2021

"The First Four Trumpets, Judgments - Taking Away Good"

Revelation 8:1-13

I. Silence in Heaven, one half hour – Revelation 8:1

No one knows for sure what this silence is symbolic of

1. Awe at what did happen? Chapter 6
2. Awe at what is about to happen? Chapter 8
3. Time to think contemplate the grace of God in chapter 7?
4. The silence of judgment, meaning the silencing of a wicked, ungodly world –

¹⁷ Do not let me be ashamed, O LORD, for I have called upon You; Let the wicked be ashamed; Let them be silent in the grave. Psalm 31:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ The dead do not praise the LORD, nor any who go down into silence. Psalm 115:17 (NKJV)

⁵ "Sit in silence, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; For you shall no longer be called The Lady of Kingdoms. Isaiah 47:5 (NKJV)



The Roman Colosseum – once was the center of a city, the center of an empire, a place where Christians were killed, while crowds of the ungodly, cheered, loudly! Now it is a dead, silent place... maybe the silence in Heaven, that John experiences in his vision is silence representing the end of the NOISE of an ungodly world?

²⁰ **"But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."** Habakkuk 2:20

¹³ **Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!"** Zechariah 2:13

II. What is obviously true about these first four trumpets –

1. They are answers to the prayers of the Saints for justice / revenge –

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. Revelation 8:3-4 (NKJV)

A. Remember they had prayed -

¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Revelation 6:10 (NKJV)

B. Answers to these prayers, even the beginning of answers, would indicate nearness to the end –

... it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed. Revelation 6:11 B (NKJV)

2. Trumpets are symbolic of judgment and victory in battle –

² And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. Revelation 8:2 (NKJV)

A. Just like Jericho, so will the world be destroyed that is judged by God, but first are the fearful trumpets –

⁴ And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. Joshua 6:4 (NKJV)

B. Note also, even in Joshua's day, with the trumpets, the number seven was symbolically significant –

- seven priests
- seven trumpets
- the seventh day
- you shall march around the city seven times

- C. *Jericho was completely destroyed*
- D. *The trumpets were the prelude to that destruction*
- E. *Similarly, here the trumpets indicate the end is NEAR*

- A. *These first four judgments are a judgment upon the natural world – :5-6*
- B. *The first trumpet hits vegetation - :7*
- C. *The second trumpet the seas, water - :8-9*
- D. *The third trumpet – rivers, water - :10-11*
- E. *The fourth trumpet – light is darkened - :12*

3. *All these judgments bring about partial, increased, but not total destruction –*

... a third of the trees were burned up - Revelation 8:7

... 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. - Revelation 8:8-9

... and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water...
Revelation 8:10 ... A third of the waters became wormwood Revelation 8:11

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. Revelation 8:12

1/3 referenced repeatedly represents an increase of judgment mentioned during the seals –

And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.
Revelation 6:8 B

Is this a literal 1/3 that would be obvious / or is 1/3rd an increase from ¼ normal death, destruction, brought to a higher level? Maybe less obvious? Especially if lights sun, moon and stars are darkened ...

- 4. *These judgments are not man-made, human caused, anthropogenic global warming or climate change –*
- A. *These things are brought about by God, His angels*

B. *These things are judgments of sin, and the answers to the prayers of martyrs – Revelation 6:10*

C. *These things are not caused, as an ungodly world claims, by our not keeping our thermostats at certain government approved levels, they are not caused by our burning too much gasoline in our cars, and they are definitely do not happening because we did not give enough of our tax dollars to crooked politicians to battle so called “climate change” – as if the politicians themselves with enough money could control such things, they CANNOT, they may think they are “gods” but only God is truly God!*

D. *When an ungodly world claims these things are caused by our not caring for Mother earth, the environment. They are presenting us with an alternative morality, one which says abortion, homosexuality, adultery, transgenderism, atheism and every kind of sin that goes against God’s Ten Commandments are OKAY, as long as you worship Mother Earth instead of Father God, in Heaven...*

Yet, their mother earth, will be destroyed -

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 2 Peter 3:10 (NKJV)

E. *The solution is not sending more money to politicians, the solution is being right with and walking with God –*

¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
2 Peter 3:11–13 (NKJV)

Now, if these are interpreted literally, they cannot really be happening now; for instance, we still have green grass in the world, and we are not witnessing great fiery mountains tossed into the sea, but ...

III. *Revelation 8:1-12 can in its entirety be symbolic, much more than it first appears –*

The first trumpet trees and grass can be symbolic of people –

1. *The first trumpet speaks of hail and fire mixed with blood and trees being destroyed –*

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. Revelation 8:7 (NKJV)

Hail, comes naturally with fire – lightning, striking tress and other things, but “blood” is mentioned? Do TREES bleed? Does a tree bleed when it is struck by lightning or hit by hail? No, trees do not bleed!

2. *Hail, mixed with fire was part of God’s judgment upon Egypt –*

²² Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt—on man, on beast, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt.” ²³ And Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground. And the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt. ²⁴ So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, so very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. ²⁵ And the hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt, all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field. ²⁶ Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail. Exodus 9:22-26 (NKJV)

3. *Trees are symbolic of people, in Psalm 1 the godly man is compared to a fruitful tree –*

¹ **Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. Psalm 1:1-3 (NKJV)**

And Psalm 1 is not the only passage that compares people to trees –

²⁴ And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the LORD, have brought down the high tree and exalted the low tree, dried up the green tree and made the dry tree flourish; I, the LORD, have spoken and have done it.” Ezekiel 17:24 (NKJV)

¹² And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Matthew 23:12 (NKJV)

4. *The ungodly may persecute, and kill the godly, but this is the first part of God’s judgment on persecutors, they are eliminating for themselves part of the source, here 1/3rd of the fruit of God’s Spirit –*

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Galatians 5:19–23 (NKJV)

5. *Note a third of the trees were destroyed but all of the green grass, grass also is symbolic of mankind –
... and all green grass was burned up. Revelation 8:7 (NKJV)*

²⁴ because **“All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, 1 Peter 1:24**

- A. *Now, if Revelation 8:7 is speaking literally of all the green grass, we would notice it is or would be gone, and if that is the case, the trumpets have not started!*
B. *Yet, if this is symbolic, written in such a way only godly people, Bible reading people might figure out –*

Grass is symbolic of the shortness / the temporary nature of man’s life on earth! All the “green” grass being gone could mean when the trumpet starts blowing no human being’s life is long on this earth, all human glory or youth is even normally short lived and even more so is this the case when the time of judgment begins!

----- *If these judgments of trees, grass, water and light are symbolic of people and spiritual influences; these judgments could be happening, NOW!*

The second and third trumpets, water both in the seas and rivers are symbolic of God's Life Providing Influences, His Word and His Spirit and also His ministers –

1. *Note the Healthy, Blessed Christian is compared to a tree, planted by the rivers of water –*

² **He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water ...**

2. *God's / Christ's Word(s) and the Holy Spirit are compared to water and are life giving things –*

⁶³ **It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. John 6:63 (NKJV)**

³⁷ **On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. John 7:37–39 (NKJV)**

3. *Yet, this water in Revelation 8 does not bring life – Two things happen to the water which is God's Word –*

A. *A Great mountain with fire gets in it, the Mountain with fire (if symbolic) is Sinai, from which God's law was given, the law if not obeyed brings condemnation, and death – Romans 6:23 A –*

• *Fish, living things are killed,*

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, ...**

See also Proverbs 14:12 & 16:25

• *Commerce is destroyed because God does not allow the ungodly to prosper forever -*

and a third of the ships were destroyed. Revelation 8:9 B (NKJV)

B. *The star wormwood, a Demonic being gets into the waters, especially the rivers and springs, and poisons them --- Wormwood represents distortion of Scripture, false teaching--- Rivers and streams might be the pastors, teachers, evangelists who are bringing God's word, yet bring truth mixed with lies -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. Revelation 8:10-11

False teaching is running rampant in the church today and many die spiritually because of this Wormwood, demonic poison finding its way into the word, the water of life, poisoning even preaching -

The fourth trumpet impacts the sun, moon and stars, heavenly lights –

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. Revelation 8:12 (NKJV)**

1. *These heavenly lights are symbolic of God and Christ and their gracious influence, enlightening our lives –*

¹¹ **For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly. Psalm 84:11 (NKJV)**

¹² **Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." John 8:12 (NKJV) Compare also Genesis 1:1-5, with John 1:1-5**

2. *Among the first of the judgments, these good influences are taken away and evil influences take their place (next week) -*

¹⁴ **But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him. 1 Samuel 16:14 (NKJV)**

One of the great and first judgments of God is to take away His gracious influence when we do not value it! In our society this is being taken away FAST! Added to this are evil influences, woes –

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!" Revelation 8:13 (NKJV)**

3. *In the New Heaven and earth, no light other than Christ is needed –*

²³ **The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. Revelation 21:23 (NKJV)**

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