

BOOK OF REVELATION

12. The Seven Trumpets



Revelation 8

Introduction

In our last study of the book of Revelation we saw how Jesus, the Lamb, opened the 7 seals which reveal the events that will take place in the near future. When the 6th seal is opened, catastrophic events take place in the heavens, which mark the beginning of God's judgment on earth.



Read Revelation 6:12-14, 17. Compare this scripture with Matthew 24:29 and Acts 2:19-20. What event has come before this, and what events will take place after this?

(In Matthew 24:29 Jesus said that the sun and moon would be darkened after the Great Tribulation. The Great Tribulation is described in the 5th seal when John saw the souls of those who had been slain. (Revelation 6:9) Then in Acts 2:19-20 we read that the sun and moon will be darkened before the Day of God's wrath. (Revelation 6:17)

Tribulation ⇒ Sun & moon darkened ⇒ Day of wrath

Those Christians who have died for their faith during the Tribulation now stand before the Throne (Revelation 7:9, 14) and their cries for justice have been heard. (Revelation 6:10) As the 7th seal is opened the 7 trumpets begin to sound, releasing the judgments of God on the earth. This is the Day of God's wrath.

Scripture Reading: Revelation 8:6-12



The trumpet was used in Israel for various reasons, and it became a symbol to warn people of approaching judgment. Joel 2:1, Ezekiel 33:4.

Describe what happens when the first 4 trumpets are blown. Revelation 8:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12. What do you think these judgments could be?

(These judgments are probably natural disasters that are on a scale greater than has ever been seen before: hail, lightning, thunder, fires and falling meteorites.)



These judgments resemble those that came upon the land of Egypt. What are the similarities and what are the differences to the plagues in Egypt?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 st trumpet | - compare with Exodus 9:22-25 |
| 2 nd & 3 rd trumpet | - compare with Exodus 7:20-21 |
| 4 th trumpet | - compare with Exodus 10:21-22 |



How much of the earth was affected by these judgments? 8:7, 9, 11, 12. Why do you think God sends such horrifying plagues and yet still limits them? Revelation 9:20-21, 2 Peter 3:9.



How should we respond when people say to us: "How can God be a God of love when He sends such terrible things to the earth?" Discuss.

Conclusion

The first 4 trumpet judgments will bring great destruction to the world as a warning for people to repent of their sin. Although judgment has begun, God still desires for men to repent. Sadly though, just like Pharaoh refused to repent, so do those left on the earth, but time is about to run out. Let's make sure that we are not among these people. Now is the time to get our hearts and lives right with God! Now is the time to share with those who don't know the Lord as their Savior! Let's make the most of the time.