

## Chapter 8-9: The Seven Trumpets

Chapter 4 – The Bride claimed

Chapter 5 – Redemption initiated

Chapter 6 – Seals one thru six are broken.

'Hide us from the wrath of the lamb' (they knew where the plagues originated)

Chapter 7 - a 'time-out' in Heaven. Sealing a witness and claiming a remnant

### The Nature of God's Judgment biblically

Exodus 7:3-5 – judgments on Gentiles (who is the Lord that we should serve Him?)

*“But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart that I may multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. When Pharaoh does not listen to you, then I will lay My hand on Egypt and bring out My hosts, My people the sons of Israel, from the land of Egypt by great judgments. The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the sons of Israel from their midst.”*

Acts 3:11-21 – regather Israel (chapter 7 – witnesses to world)

### The Nature of God's Judgments

**Literal:** Overt punishment/removal of blessing or hedge of protection

1. Removal from Garden of Eden: (actually an act of grace)
2. Banishment of Cain: (Abel's blood cries up from the ground, the tribulation saints under the altar cry out to avenge their blood)
3. Worldwide Flood: every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (Gen. 6:5)
4. Confusion of languages at Babel: “lest we be scattered” was God's original command
5. Fire/Brimstone at Sodom/Gomorrah: couldn't unleash judgment until Lot and his family safe

**Spiritual:** Hides Himself/lack of relationship/abandonment (Romans 1:24, 26, 28)

Are these trumpet judgments in Revelation 8-9 literal or merely figurative? Many commentators try and explain these judgment through the lens of a nuclear exchange between nations. They try and explain the huge mountain as a great kingdom of the Earth. If *earth, trees, and grass* do

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not mean earth, trees, and grass, no man can tell what they mean. If we reject the literal rendering of the text we launch out upon an endless sea of conjecture. In short, anyone can make anything in the text mean whatever they want and therefore – it is meaningless. No. God is revealing His truth to us here in this text.

Are these man-made (nuclear), or natural disasters? No! God may use whatever *method* He desires to bring judgment, but people on earth at that will KNOW these events are from God, and do not think them to be merely natural disasters (Rev 16:9, and Rev 16:11, Rev 19:19). Was the worldwide flood of water merely symbolic? Were the plagues in Egypt a result of nuclear fallout? Was the fire and brimstone of Sodom/Gomorrah “natural” or was it a divine judgment from God? (Numbers 33:4; Exodus 7:5; 12:12).

God does not need manmade or so-called "natural" disasters to accomplish His purposes and judgments. He can and will literally call down fire from Heaven.

### Regarding the seal and trumpet judgments themselves . . .

The **first four seals and trumpets** are judgments directed against the earth. In the first four seals, these were the “four horsemen” bringing global dictatorship, war, famine, and death on the earth. In the first four trumpets, these were the destruction of the vegetation, seas, fresh waters, and sky.

The **last three seals** focused upon heaven: the cry of the martyrs, cosmic disturbances, and the heavenly prelude to the seven trumpets. The **last three trumpets** will speak of God using demonic hosts as judgment.

The first four trumpets attack the ordinary means of survival, such as food and water; and He attacks all the ordinary means of comfort, and knowledge, such as light and the regular rhythm of days.

Mankind sees the “natural order” as impersonal. During the great tribulation, God proclaims His Lordship through these judgments. It will humble mankind.

The first four trumpets also reveal the mercy of God’s judgment; these are partial judgments striking only one-third, and are meant to warn and lead a rebellious world to repentance.

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	<u>The Judgment</u>	<u>Trumpet</u>	<u>Bowl</u>	<u>Egyptian Plague</u>
1.	Vegetation/sores	8:1-7	16:1-2	6 <sup>th</sup> - Boils
2.	The Sea	8:8-9	16:3	1 <sup>st</sup> – Nile to Blood
3.	The Rivers	8:10-11	16:4-7	1 <sup>st</sup> – Nile to Blood
4.	Sun, Moon, stars	8:12-13	16:16:8-9	9 <sup>th</sup> - Darkness
5.	Mankind (physical torment)	9:1-2	16:10-11	8 <sup>th</sup> - Locusts
6.	Demon-army Assembled	9:13-21	16:12-16	2 <sup>nd</sup> - Frogs
7.	King Jesus Enthroned	11:15-19	16:17-21	10 <sup>th</sup> – Death Firstborn Israel led out in triumph 1 Cor. 5:7

1] And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

**Silence:** half-hour seems short but would seem like an eternity

Heaven is always known for its worship.

Weirsbe: all of heaven sees the opened scroll and are in awe God's plan. (?)

More so, silence prior to judgment is a consistent Biblical theme . . .

**Zeph. 1:7, 12, 18** – *Be silent before the Lord God!* For *the day of the LORD* is near, Because the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, He has consecrated His guests. And it will come about at that time That I will search Jerusalem with lamps, And I will punish the people Who are stagnant in spirit, Who say in their hearts, ‘The LORD will not do good nor harm!’ The great day of the LORD is near, Near and coming very quickly;  
 Listen, **the day of the LORD!**  
 Neither their silver nor their gold Will be able to save them  
 On the day of the LORD’s anger; And all the earth will be devoured By the fire of His jealousy,  
 For He will make a complete end, Indeed a horrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth.

**Hab. 2:20** – But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him.”

**Zech. 2:13** – Be silent, all mankind, before the Lord; for He has roused Himself from His holy dwelling.”

**Joshua 6:10** – prior to God's defeat of Jericho = 6 days of silence

2] And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

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“the seven angels” – 7 “archangels” always before the Lord's presence to carry out His will

“...seven trumpets...”

Joshua 6:4 – 7 trumpets at Battle of Jericho

The voice of Jesus sounded like a trumpet in Rev. 1:10.

The voice of a trumpet summoned John to heaven (Rev. 4:1)

Trumpets were special to the Jews. According to Numbers 10 they heralded:

- 1) the gathering of God's people (Number 10:1-8)
- 2) declaration of war (Numbers 10:9)
- 3) historical moments (Numbers 10:10)

The Trumpet of God sounded when the law was given (Ex 19:16-19); when the king was anointed (1 Kings 1:34, 39) and there were seven trumpets at Jericho (Josh 6:13-16).

***Don't confuse the 7th trumpet judgment with the “last trump” of 1 Cor 15:52. There will be trumpets in the Millennium.***

3] And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

4] And the smoke of the incense, *which came* with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

“Another” Greek, *allos*, of the same kind (thus, not Christ).

“Altar”: Tabernacle and Temple are but “figures” of the true altar in heaven (Heb 9:23,24; 8:5).

Hebrews 9:23-24; 8:5 – *Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, “See,” He says, “that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.”*

Adam, Noah, Abraham, David, and Paul prayed this prayer: “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done.”

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The purpose of prayer is not to get man's will done in heaven, but God's Will done on earth.

Golden altar of incense stood before the veil separating the Holy of Holies.

“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done” (that age-old prayer is about to be answered)

Tribulation martyrs praying under the altar – Rev. 6:9-11

The prayers of us, God's people, affect the judgments He sends (Psalm 7, 26, 35, 52, 55, 58, etc.).

5] And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast *it* into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest would put frankincense on the coals in his censer and with the blood of the sacrifice, enter the Holy of Holies (Lev. 16:11-14). In this scene John witnessed, however, the angel put the incense right on the altar and cast the coals from the altar upon the Earth (foreshadowed in Ezekiel 10:2).

6] And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

Angels are ministering spirits sent from God (Hebrews 1:14)

Angels take an active part in future judgments against humanity . . .

**2 Thess. 1:5-9** – This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you indeed are suffering. For after all it is ***only right for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted, along with us, when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God,*** and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These people will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

Angels eagerly desire to look into the workings of God's plan of salvation for mankind (1 Peter 1:12).

7] The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. These judgments are so unique that **the 'Earth-dwellers'** will recognize they are of a divine

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origin (Rev. 6:16; 16:9, 11, 21).

“Hail” = Ex. 9:23-25 –

always used of judgment (Isa 28:2; Job 38:22,23; cf. Egypt, Ex 9:23-25).

“fire”: Amos 7:4 – This is what the Lord GOD showed me: Look, the Lord GOD was calling for judgment by fire, and it was drying up the great depths of the ocean and consuming the land.

2 Peter 3:10 – elements themselves will be burned with fire

refining/purifying – Joel 2:30-32 – I will display warnings in the heavens, and on the earth blood, fire, and columns of smoke. The sun will be given over to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the coming of the great and terrifying Day of the LORD. And everyone who calls upon the name of the LORD will be delivered. For as the LORD has said, 'In Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who escape, the survivors whom the LORD is calling.'

“blood”:

Rev. 6:10 – how long our Lord before you judge and avenge **our blood on 'Earth-dwellers'**

Gen. 4:10 – The blood of your brother Abel **cries up to me** from the ground

Hebrews 10:28-29 – Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on *the testimony of* two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

“Trees”: Greek word, *dendron* = “fruit trees.”

“green grass” – Genesis 1:29-30 – Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food”; and it was so.

8] And the second angel sounded, and as it were a *great mountain burning* with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

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### Meteor / asteroid

**Psalm 78:41-44** – Again and again they tempted God, and pained the Holy One of Israel. They did not remember His power, the day when He redeemed them from the adversary, When He performed His signs in Egypt And His marvels in the field of Zoan, And turned their rivers to blood, And their streams, they could not drink.

**Psalm 105:27-29** – They performed His wondrous acts among them, And miracles in the land of Ham. He sent darkness and made *it* dark; And they did not rebel against His words. He turned their waters into blood And caused their fish to die.

Revelation 11:6 – two witnesses power to perform every plague, water to blood

9] And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed. (world food supply and commerce)

**Zep 1:2-3** – “I will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth,” declares the LORD. “I will sweep away man and beast; I will sweep away the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, and the rubble with the wicked. I will cut off mankind from the face of the earth,” declares the LORD.

**Hos 4:1-3** – Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, and all who dwell in it languish, and also the beasts of the field and the birds of the heavens, and even the fish of the sea are taken away.

More than 3/4 earth’s surface is ocean. [Atlantic = 1/3?] There are over 61,000 ocean-going merchant ships registered 2020

10] And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

not random, specific, controlled judgments by God

11] And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

**Deut. 29:18-20** – Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose

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heart is turning away today from the LORD our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing gall and wormwood [*poisonous and bitter fruit*], one who, when he hears the words of this sworn covenant, blesses himself in his heart, saying, *'I shall be safe, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart.'* This will lead to the sweeping away of moist and dry alike. The LORD will not be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the LORD and his jealousy will smoke against that man, and the curses written in this book will settle upon him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven.

**Jer 9:13-16** – and the LORD saith, Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein; But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them: Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, *even* this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink. I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them.

“Wormwood”: Greek: *absinthe*. Undrinkable without harm.

**Amos 5:7** – Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth,

National Geographic Society lists about 100 principal rivers in the world.  
U.S. Geological Survey: 30 large rivers in U.S.

Amazon: 4,000 miles long

Mississippi: 3,710 miles long

Great Lakes watershed = 21% of the world's surface fresh water = 5,400 cubic miles of water  
95,000 square land area miles

That's 84 % of North America's fresh water supply

12] And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

Ninth plague on Egypt: Ex 10:21-23 (3 days); 21:25-28.

Luke 21:25,26: “Powers of the heavens be shaken” = *ouranos* (“uranium”), *dunamis*, (“dynamite”), *saleo* (“to be set off balance”); cf. Heb 12:26-28; Isa 30:26; Joel 2:1-2, “Darkness.”



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(1st four are “natural”; the next two are “demonic”...)

- 1st Trumpet: Aimed at the earth; 1/3 trees, grass dies.
- 2nd Trumpet: Aimed at the Sea; 1/3 of fish, ships destroyed.
- 3rd Trumpet: Aimed at the waters; 1/3 part dies. Star called “Wormwood.”
- 4th Trumpet: Aimed at the Sun, moon, stars: 1/3 sky darkened.

The final 3 Trumpets are also called “3 Woes.”

13] And I beheld, and heard an angel *aetos*: eagle [cherubim] flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

*aetos* = eagle (Rev 12:14; Mt 24:28; Lk 17:37).

'Earth-dwellers': (used 12X): Rev 3:10; 6:10; 8:13; 11:10; 12:12; 13:8,12,14; 14:6; 17:2,8.  
[Contrasted with citizens of heaven: Phil 3:18-21.]

Earth-dwellers are not born again: Rev 13:8.

### “Judgment of the Thirds”

1<sup>st</sup> 1/3 Trees, Grass Burned

2<sup>nd</sup> Mtn of Fire 1/3 Sea

3<sup>rd</sup> Wormwood 1/3 Waters bitter