

REVELATION: HELP FOR LIVING, HOPE FOR LEAVING

Sermon no. 13

THE SIX TRUMPETS: A PREVIEW OF HELL

Revelation chapters 8 and 9

"...there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now – and never to be equaled again" (Matthew 24:21). This is how the Lord Jesus described the time on earth called the Tribulation, something described for us in great detail in Revelation chapters 6 to 19.

Having looked at the Six Seals, we learned this strange truth: there will be no atheists in the Tribulation, especially the last 3 ½ years. Revelation 6:16-17 shows people saying to the mountains "hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?" There was no repentance with the Seals. There is still none with the Trumpet judgments.

When the 7th Seal of the scroll is broken, that means the scroll is completely open. It then begins the series of Trumpet judgments. These six trumpets, with all the fire, darkness and demons, is nothing but a preview of eternal hell:

1. FOUR JUDGMENTS ON MANKIND AFFECTING NATURE (Chapter 8)

Background: The opening of the 7th Seal and the prayers of believers.

Do you sometimes feel your prayers are wasted, and ask if God ever heard? He does, He always does. While His answers are not always what we demanded (thankfully), they are always what we needed. Pray on!

- a) **The First Trumpet:** Hail and fire mixed with blood causes a third of the earth and the trees, and all the green grass to be burned. (v. 7)
- b) **The Second Trumpet:** Blazing mountain-like object turns a third of the sea into blood, kills a third of all sea creatures and destroys a third of the ships. (vv.8-9)
- c) **The Third Trumpet:** Blazing object from the sky called Wormwood poisons a third of the waters and kills many (vv. 10-11)
- d) **The Fourth Trumpet:** Sun, moon and stars are darkened, causing a 33% reduction in illumination both day and night (v. 12)

• These judgments are partly a statement from God on how we have dishonored our mandate to take care of nature (Genesis 1:28-30). We are clearly responsible, and sadly we have been clearly irresponsible. God just completes what we started. Of all people, Christians are to be the most conscious of preserving and protecting God's Creation.

2. TWO JUDGMENTS ON MANKIND INVOLVING DEMONS (Chapter 9)

- a) **The Fifth Trumpet:** Locust-like creatures who are probably demonic beings (vv. 1-12)
- Appearance: Like horses, with crowns of gold and human faces with women's hair and lions' teeth. With breastplates of iron and tails and stings like scorpions, and sounding like many chariots rushing to battle.
 - Abilities: To torture without killing, people without the seal of God on their foreheads, for five months. The pain is like the sting of a scorpion, and men want to die but don't. But they were not to harm plants or trees.
- b) **The Sixth Trumpet:** An army of 200 million demons led by four fallen angels. (vv. 13-19)
- Appearance: breastplates of red, yellow and blue. The heads were like lions, from their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. Their power was in their mouths and tails.
 - Ability: A third of mankind was killed by the fire, smoke and sulfur from their mouths. Their tails were like snakes which inflict injury.

Why would God unleash all these demons on mankind? Again God simply gives man what he wants. By this point in time men have been so hardened they either did not realize they were worshipping demons or deliberately did so, thinking demonic power was better than God's. And God gives mankind what he has been worshipping all this time.

3. THE HEART BREAKING RESPONSE OF MANKIND (9:20-21):

- By this time, half of the earth's population has been decimated. But what is the response? *"The rest of mankind that were not killed . . . still did not repent . . . they did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood – idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts."*

Final Thoughts:

It looks bad, but the worst is yet to come. The Seventh Trumpet merely releases the Seven Bowls of Judgment, which are much worse.

Here's the most important question: Are you certain about your eternal destiny, right now? Now is the time to make sure. If you already are, are there people in your life who are not? Since you don't know how much time they have or you have, why can't you be more urgent about your role in leading them to Christ?