

# The Seven Trumpets

Revelation 8 – 9

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stained glass, France,  
20<sup>th</sup> Century



# The Seven Trumpets Introduction



# The Seven Trumpets    Introduction

- When Jesus came the first time, He was not the Messiah His nation and His followers expected.
- They were expecting a conquering king.
- They got a suffering servant.
- After His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven and promised that He would one day return.

# The Seven Trumpets    Introduction

- The book of Revelation gives us much prophetic detail leading up to Christ's Second Coming.
- At that time Jesus will return as the conquering King of Kings.
- This book was given to John the Apostle as a series of visions he received while imprisoned on the island of Patmos.

# The Seven Trumpets    Introduction

- In **Chapter 1**, the glorified Christ appears to His servant John.
- In **Chapters 2 & 3**, John recorded Jesus's messages to seven different churches.
- In **Chapters 4 & 5**, John gets a glimpse of the throne room of heaven.
- In **Chapter 6**, Jesus begins to open the scroll He received from God the Father.

# The Seven Trumpets    Introduction

- With the opening of each of seven seals on the scroll, various judgments are unleashed upon the earth.
- In **Chapter 7**, we see that despite the horrible judgments on a rebellious world, God has a people reserved for Himself.
- Here in **Chapters 8 & 9**, further judgments will be released, more serious than those previously seen. Judgment intensifies.

# The Seven Trumpets    Introduction

1. Prelude to the Seven Trumpets    8:1-6
2. The Trumpets Begin to Sound    8:7 – 9:19
3. The Response to the Trumpets    9:20-21

# 1. Prelude to the Trumpets 8:1-6



# 1. Prelude to the Trumpets 8:1-6

- 8:1 The sixth seal was opened at the end of Chapter 6.
- The seventh seal is opened now.

# 1. Prelude to the Trumpets 8:1-6

- 8:1 This silence is like the calm before the storm.
- The judgments upon the earth are about to intensify.

# 1. Prelude to the Trumpets 8:1-6

- Habakkuk 2:20 (ESV)

But the LORD is in his holy temple;  
let all the earth keep silence before him.

- Zechariah 2:13 (ESV)

Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for he has roused himself  
from his holy dwelling.

# 1. Prelude to the Trumpets 8:1-6

- Zephaniah 1:7

Be silent before the Lord God!

For the day of the Lord is near;  
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice  
and consecrated his guests.

# 1. Prelude to the Trumpets 8:1-6



*The opening of the seventh seal causes silence in heaven (8:1). The seemingly inevitable process is interrupted, and the pause enables reflection on what is happening, even in heaven. Sometimes silence and reflection are an appropriate response ...*

*– Onesimus Ngundu,  
University of Cambridge*

# 1. Prelude to the Trumpets 8:1-6



*Sometimes, it is tempting to try to explain and justify everything we read in Revelation, when in reality the right response should be silence, awe, fear and dread.*

*– Onesimus Ngundu,  
University of Cambridge*

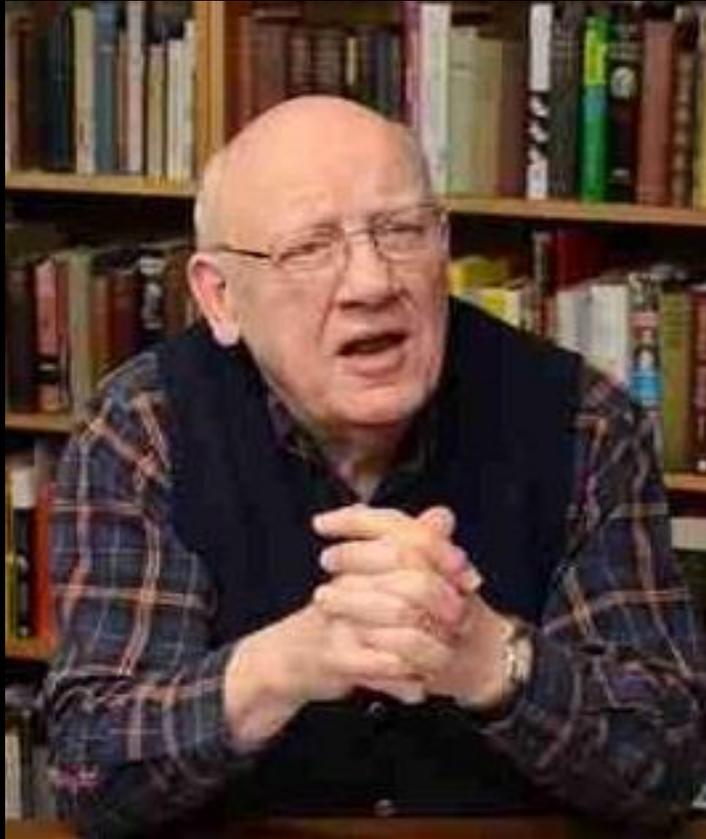
# 1. Prelude to the Trumpets 8:1-6

- 8:2-6 To help us understand the context of the incense, we can look back at:
  - Revelation 5:6-8
  - Revelation 6:9-11

# 1. Prelude to the Trumpets 8:1-6

- 8:4 The smoke of the incense rises before God as sweet-smelling prayer.
- 8:5 The angel throws fire to the earth, which immediately feels the effects.

# 1. Prelude to the Trumpets 8:1-6



*Like it or not, the prayers of God's people are involved in the judgments that He sends. The throne and the altar are related. The purpose of prayer, it has often been said, is not to get man's will done in heaven, but to get God's will done on earth—even if that will involves judgment.*

*– Warren Wiersbe*

## The Seven Trumpet Judgments

<b>The 1st Trumpet</b>	Rev 8:7	<b>The Trees and Green Grass Are Struck</b> Hail and fire mingled with blood are thrown to the earth. The result is that one third of the trees are burned up as well as all of the green grass.
<b>The 2nd Trumpet</b>	Rev 8:8-9	<b>The Sea is Struck</b> A great mountain burning with fire strikes one third of the sea. One third of the sea becomes blood. One third of the living creatures in the sea and one third of the ships are destroyed.
<b>The 3rd Trumpet</b>	Rev 8:10-11	<b>The Rivers and Springs of Water Are Struck</b> A star named Wormwood falls to the earth and turns one third of the rivers and springs of water to blood. While the Second Trumpet struck the salt water, this one strikes the fresh.
<b>The 4th Trumpet</b>	Rev 8:12	<b>The Sun Moon and Stars Are Struck</b> One third of the natural light in both the day and the night will be darkened by this plague.

## The Seven Trumpet Judgments

<b>The 5th Trumpet</b>	Rev 9:1-12	T H E	<b>Demonic Locusts</b> These locust-like demonic creatures will come out of the abyss. They do nothing but torment people with scorpion-style stings. No one will be allowed to die and the suffering will last for five months.
<b>The 6th Trumpet</b>	Rev 9:13-21	T H R E E	<b>Demonic Horsemen</b> Four angels, which have been bound up to this moment will be released and given authority to kill one third of mankind. They will do so by means of 200,000,000 horsemen who inflict harm through fire, smoke and brimstone.
<b>The 7th Trumpet</b>	Rev 11:15, 15:1, 16:1-21	W O E S	<b>The Seven Bowls</b> These judgments are all part of the Seventh Trumpet. They will come later, in the Great Tribulation, and will complete the wrath of God, which will be poured out upon the earth at that time. During this period Satan Himself will be cast down to earth until Christ finally defeats him at His coming.

# Response to the Trumpets 9:20-21



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- History reveals that people do not always turn to God in thanks in response to his mercy.
- When God continuously shows His mercy, people often go on in their evil ways.
- They then assume that God approves.

# Response to the Trumpets 9:20-21

- Psalm 50:16-23 (ESV)

<sup>16</sup> But to the wicked God says:

“What right have you to recite my statutes  
or take my covenant on your lips?

<sup>17</sup> For you hate discipline,  
and you cast my words behind you.

<sup>18</sup> If you see a thief, you are pleased with him,  
and you keep company with adulterers.

# Response to the Trumpets 9:20-21

- Psalm 50:16-23 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup> “You give your mouth free rein for evil,  
and your tongue frames deceit.

<sup>20</sup> You sit and speak against your brother;  
you slander your own mother's son.

<sup>21</sup> These things you have done, and I have been silent;  
you thought that I was one like yourself.

But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.

# Response to the Trumpets 9:20-21

- Psalm 50:16-23 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> “Mark this, then, you who forget God,  
lest I tear you apart, and there be none to deliver!

<sup>23</sup> The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me;  
to one who orders his way rightly  
I will show the salvation of God!”

# Response to the Trumpets 9:20-21

- In allowing us true freedom, God has allowed the human race the freedom to rebel against Him.
- For thousands of years we have been in rebellion against the infinitely good, wise, holy and loving God who created us.
- For thousands of years, the world has had the opportunity to plead for His mercy.

# Response to the Trumpets 9:20-21

- Since Christ's death and resurrection, the love of God toward us has been clearer than ever before.
- At the end of the present age, God will systematically judge this rebellious world before a new age begins.
- The response He desires is repentance and faith – a turning toward Christ.

# Response to the Trumpets 9:20-21



*In spite of the dramatic judgment inflicted ... those who survive are declared to be unrepentant. Such is the hardness of the human heart even though faced by worldwide destruction and divine judgment from God and a clear testimony of God's power to deal summarily with every human soul.*

*– John Walvoord (1910 – 2002),  
Dallas Theological Seminary*

# Response to the Trumpets 9:20-21

*The survivors shunned repentance. ... They absolutely failed to change their conduct, their creed, or their attitudes toward God, which would have appeared to be the least they could do in light of what the world had just experienced.*

*– Robert L. Thomas  
The Master's Seminary*



# Response to the Trumpets 9:20-21



*Plague and similar disasters, which bring out the best qualities in some people bring out the worst in many others. ...*

*God has pledged His ready pardon wherever a glimmer of repentance is shown, but what if men persist in impenitence?*

*— F. F. Bruce  
University of Manchester*

The Seven Trumpets

Conclusions



# The Seven Trumpets      Conclusions

1. God wants to hear your prayers, which are like a pleasant aroma to Him.
2. God's love and His justice must both be considered in order to clearly see Him.
3. God's love and His justice were equally made clear at the cross of Christ.
4. The appropriate response for people like us – who have rebelled against God – is repentance and faith in Jesus.