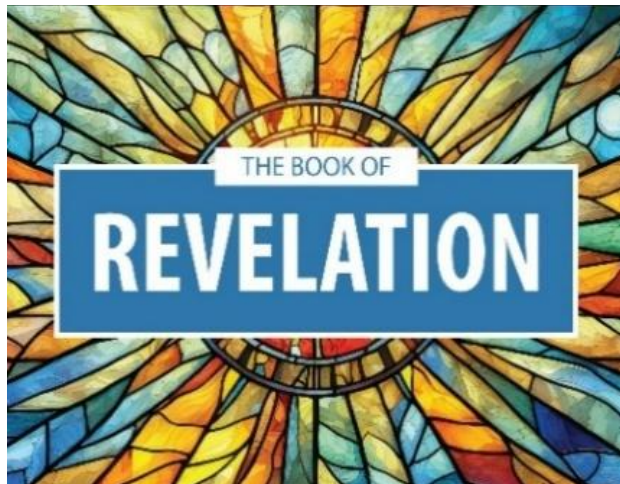




The Seven Trumpets

PART 20

Introductions

Let's get started by sharing our names and answering this question: *[Provide introductions as necessary and choose your own question].*

Songs of Praise

Let's begin our time singing to the Lord. *[Sing additional songs if you prefer. Contact the church office for copies of our church songbooks.]*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him,
for he is your health and salvation!
Come, all who hear;
now to his temple draw near,
join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, above all things so
wondrously reigning;
sheltering you under his wings,
and so gently sustaining!
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord,
who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily
attend you.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
if with his love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord!

O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with
praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him.

Joachim Neander, 1680

Church News

- Churchwide Prayer Night, Nov 2, 6-7PM
- Parent & Youth Equipping Conference, January 16-17, Sign-up online
- Women's Retreat, February 26-28, Sign-up online.
- Encourage opportunities to attend Mens and Womens Bible Studies, info online

Study

[This guide utilizes the Sunday sermon notes, please [click this link](#) to access them.]

Q: Would someone read aloud Revelation 8:6-13?

The book of Revelation is structured around a series of sevens, all with their intended purpose. John's writes to seven churches and sees in his vision seven lampstands (1:4, 12). There are seven stars and seven spirits (1:14, 3:1). The seven seals in chapter 6 and now the seven trumpets in chapter 8 rely heavily upon Old Testament imagery and events. In our current section, the first four trumpets are drawn in the likeness of the plagues in Egypt and the fall of Jericho. John's vision of the trumpets represents the catastrophes that are common in this world.

Q: What catastrophes does John see with the blowing of the four trumpets?¹

Q: What catastrophes are common today?

Q: Have you experienced a catastrophe that significantly impacted your life? Explain.

We learned Sunday that one of our greatest challenges when we read Revelation is not the symbolism but the demand to accept the intensity of God's judgment as just and righteous.

Q: How does a low view of sin undermine the weightiness of the judgment of God?

Q: Have you ever had a time when you recognized that your view of sin was not what it should be? What was that time like? What caused you to change your view?

The images of these catastrophes should awaken our minds to the ways we look for true security in this life. Humans can find false security in all kinds of places, and Christians can do the same when they give in to similar temptations.

Q: What are common "places" people, in our day and age, tend to seek for a sense of security?

Q: Are there "places" of security that are attractive to you, but in the end never deliver true security?

Q: Do you think technology and media can inhibit our humility, or injure our true security or proper discernment of God's judgment? If so, how?

As we close, it is important to remember what our sermon concluded with: It may well be that we need to repent of our complacency. It's good to ask ourselves if we have truly believed what the Scriptures tell us about God's present judgment and the judgment yet to come. Have we heeded the many warnings in God's word to be watchful and sober as we see the Day approaching? It is

Notes...

¹ v7 – The first trumpet corresponds with the seventh plague on Egypt but adds the element of blood. In the ancient world, hail and fire were symbolic of divine judgment. Water turned to blood was symbolic of a Divine curse.

vv8-9 – The second trumpet corresponds to the first plague on Egypt. A mountain "burning with fire" would have reminded John's readers of the eruption of Vesuvius just years prior to John's writing (79 AD). The Roman world surrounded and depended upon the Mediterranean Sea. The sort of damage described here would devastate economies, militaries and food supplies.

vv10-11 – The third trumpet may describe a meteor. Typically stars falling from the sky was meant to "correspond to events in the human realm." "Wormwood" is a bitter substance described elsewhere in Scripture (Prov. 5:4; Lam. 3:15, 19). The polluting of water was commonly understood as divine judgment.

v12 – The events surrounding the fourth trumpet correspond to the ninth plague upon Egypt. The partial damage done by the judgments (*one third*) indicates that John is not describing the last judgment but the ongoing experience of judgment in a fallen world.

important for us to be continually watchful of our faith through repentance and faith in Christ's gospel.

Q: Are there any other questions or comments before we break for prayer?

Prayer

[Take time to pray - men with men, and women with women.]