

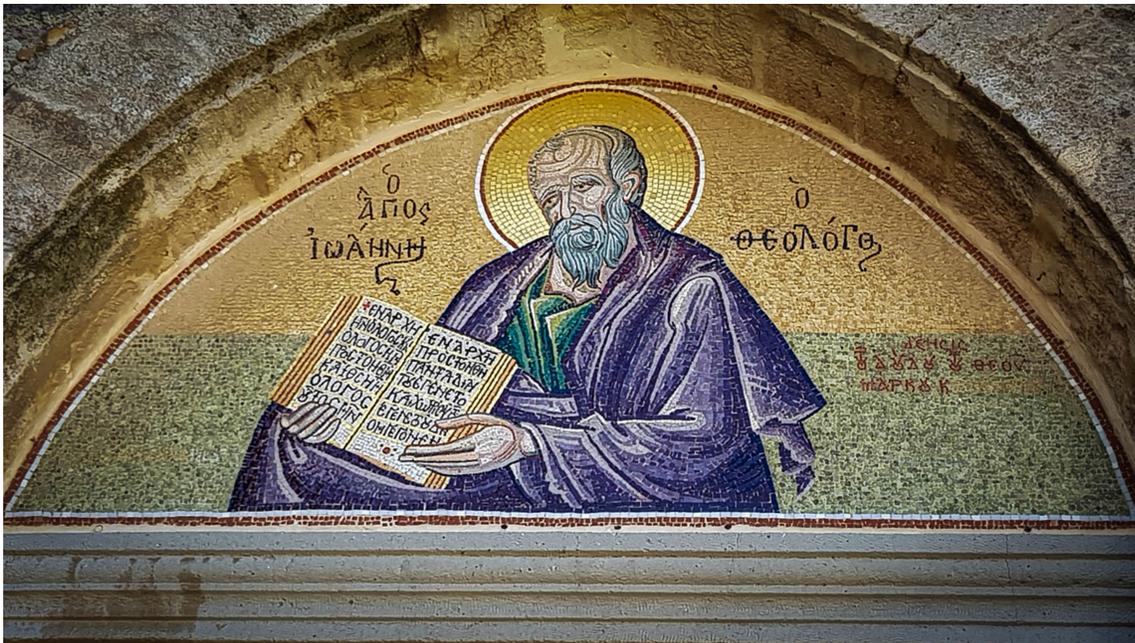
PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

17 NOVEMBER 2020

DO YOU HEAR THE TRUMPETS' SOUND?

REVELATION 8:6-9:21



Recap

Heaven (4:1–5:14)

Earth: *panoramic view of human history* (6:1–17)

Culminating in the Second Coming (6:12–17)

Heaven (7:1–8:4)

Recapitulation of the Second Coming (8:5)

Earth: *panoramic view of human history* (8:6–9:21)

Our Theme. The seven trumpets loudly announce that the judgements of God experienced during the course of human history (more intensely than the seals of ch. 6) are faint echoes of the infinite justice of God to come on the world.

1. The Retribution of God (8:6–9:19)

1.1. The first set of four trumpets (8:6–12)

1.1.1. Comprehensive judgments on creation:

1.1.1.1. Trumpet 1: God strikes the earth with hail and fire (8:7)

1.1.1.2. Trumpet 2: God strikes the sea and turns it into blood (8:8)

1.1.1.3. Trumpet 3: God strikes the rivers with bitterness (8:11)

1.1.1.4. Trumpet 4: God strikes the heavens and turns the sun and moon dark (8:12)

Question: What biblical allusions are these?

1.1.2. ...yet limited judgments (8:6–13)

1.1.2.1. Trumpet 1: *only* 1/3 of the earth's grass and trees are burned (8:7)

- 1.1.2.2. Trumpet 2: *only* 1/3 of the sea became blood, killing *only* 1/3 of sea life, and *only* 1/3 of the ships (8:8–9)
- 1.1.2.3. Trumpet 3: *only* 1/3 of the rivers became bitter (8:10)
- 1.1.2.4. Trumpet 4: *only* 1/3 of the sun, moon, and stars were darkened so that *only* 1/3 of the day was dark and *only* 1/3 of the night was dark [*this is another reason why these are highly symbolic descriptions]

Application: mercy in the midst of judgment. God's judgments on the earth today are meant to demonstrate his power over the unbelieving world but also to warn you of his eternal judgment...and being warned, to cause you to repent and believe in Jesus!

1.2. The warning (8:13)

Question: Why is more space spent on trumpets five & six than on the previous four combined?

1.3. The second set of three trumpets: comprehensive yet limited judgments on humanity (9:1–19)

1.3.1. Trumpet 5: the suffering of the unsealed (9:1–11)

- 1.3.1.1. Locusts: *only* harm those who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads (9:4)
- 1.3.1.2. Suffering: *only* for five months (9:5) & *only* a sting like a scorpions but not death (9:5)

Question: What *biblical* (not Hal Lindsey or *The Left Behind Series*!) allusions are these? See Exodus & Joel

1.3.2. The woe (9:12)

1.3.3. Trumpet 6: war on the world (9:13–19)

- 1.3.3.1. Yet limited to *only* 1/3 of the world (9:15, 18).

Question: What *biblical* allusion is the great river Euphrates? (9:14)

Question: What *historical* allusion is the great river Euphrates in the time of the Roman Empire? (9:16–17)

2. The (Non–) Repentance of Humanity (9:20–21)

2.1. How does the surviving world response to all this retribution of God? (9:20–21)

Illustration/Application: “if God is both all-powerful and all-good, how can there be evil in the world?” Child cancer, famine that affects children in Africa, terrorists who use children to blow themselves up in the name of God, and every other kind of disease, destruction, and death that cause suffering and pain are evil; and if they exist, God cannot. Why do all these things exist in the world?

The Word of God says God made the world upright. God gave the first man, Adam, the freedom to continue in fellowship with God and to enter a heightened fellowship with God or to rebel against his Creator. Adam rebelled. We call this sin. His sin was against a holy and infinite God and thus deserved an infinite judgment. And because Adam represented all humanity to come, everything he did affects us down to this day. And so injustice in the world only exists because there is perfect justice in God. Fallenness in disease and death only exists because there is uprightness in God.

Yet the world of militant atheism continues to find ways to mock God, to reject him, and to go their merry way. But in their reason, they show themselves unreasonable. In their rationality they show themselves irrational: “Claiming to be wise, they became fools” (Rom. 1:22).

How? In an atheist world, there is only matter. All logic, all morality, all talk of good versus evil is a fiction. Yet they steal from God’s worldview because theirs makes no sense. They do this to justify their sin and their rebellion against God. The fact that there

is evil in the world proves there is a God, because there can be nothing called “evil” unless you assume God, who determines what is good and what is evil.

The final judgment is coming. Everything you fear in this life is a drop of the entire outpouring of that judgment. Death, suffering, famine, a world that is at times upside down are all plagues sent by God to show us all that Jesus Christ is Lord. Can you hear the trumpets’ sound?