

Lessons From Revelation

The Seven Trumpets

(Rv 9:20-21)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From Revelation.”
 - a. Last week we examined “The Seven Seals.”
 - i. God knows the children of God are under great persecution.
 - ii. He will exact judgment on those that cause such persecution but only when their iniquity is full.
 - iii. Until then God is there for His children to bring them through these trials to the other side for both those that live and those that die.”
 - b. This week we are going to examine “The Seven Trumpets.”
 - i. **Rv 8:1-2** “When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.”¹
 1. **Rv 8:6-11:19**
3. As always we must keep in mind a few things.
 - a. This revelation was written to the seven churches of Asia.
 - i. **Rv 1:4**
 - b. This revelation’s immediate impact was to the seven churches of Asia.
 - i. **Rv 1:1; 22:6-7, 12, 20**
 - c. This revelation was meant to be a message of comfort to those dealing with such great persecution.
 - i. **Rv 6:10, 12-17**
4. With the seven angels standing before God we find them given permission to “blow the trumpets.”
 - a. With that in mind let us examine what the message of the seven trumpets was to the seven churches of Asia.

I. The Scene

- A. John looks at the seven angels before God and sees the first blow his trumpet
 1. After the blowing of the trumpet hail and fire mixed with blood came and was thrown down to the earth and a third of the earth, trees, and grass were burned up.
- B. John then looks to see a second angel before God blow its trumpet
 1. A great mountain on fire came and was cast down to earth into the sea where a third of the sea creatures & ships were destroyed.
- C. John then looks to see a third angel blow his trumpet
 1. A great star, named Wormwood, is seen falling from heaven on fire and it fell on a third of the rivers and springs on earth and contaminated the rivers & springs killing people.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- D. John looks back to see a fourth angel blowing his trumpet.
 - 1. He sees a third of the sun, moon, and stars darkened so that only a third of the day and night are lit by light.
- E. John then looks upward to see an eagle flying
 - 1. He hears the eagle crying loudly “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow.”
- F. John looks back to see a fifth angel before God blow his trumpet
 - 1. He sees a star fall from heaven to earth.
 - 2. This star is given a key to the bottomless pit.
 - a. The star opens the pit up.
 - 3. From the pit comes smoke.
 - a. This smoke darkens the other two-thirds of the light.
 - 4. From the smoke in the air locust come forth and are sent to the earth.
 - a. These locust looked like horses prepared for battle.
 - i. They had what looked like crowns of gold on their heads, their breastplates were like iron, and their wings loud enough to sound like rushing chariots.
 - ii. They had a face of a human, long hair like a woman, and teeth like a lion.
 - b. They are told two specific things.
 - i. They are told first to not harm the other two-thirds of the grass, plant, and trees.
 - ii. They are told second to only torment but not kill those that do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.
 - c. They have one king over them the messenger of the bottomless pit.
 - i. His name is Abaddon in Hebrew.
 - ii. His name is Apollyon in Greek.
- G. John then looks back to see a sixth angel before God blow his trumpet
 - 1. He hears a voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar.
 - a. The voice said to “release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”
 - 2. These four angels had been prepared for this day.
 - a. They were to kill a third of mankind and they used a multitude of riders on horses to do so.
 - i. The number of riders and horses was 200,000,000.
 - ii. These had breastplates the color of fire, sapphire, and sulfur.
 - iii. The horses had tails like serpents and their heads were like lions heads which had fire, smoke, and sulfur came out of their mouths.
 - b. Those of mankind that were not killed were unrepentant.
 - i. They worship demons and idols
 - ii. They murdered, fornicated, stole, and practiced sorceries.

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3. Then a “mighty” angel comes down from heaven.
 - a. His appearance
 - i. He is wrapped in a cloud, has a rainbow over his head, has a face like the sun, and legs like pillars of fire.
 - ii. He has in his right hand a little scroll that is open.
 - b. His position
 - i. He stood with his right foot on the sea and his left on the land.
 - c. His message
 - i. He called with a loud voice like a lion roaring the seven thunders.
 - ii. The seven thunders sounded their message to John.
 1. John is told not to write what the thunders said.
 - iii. He swore an oath saying that “there would be no more delay.”
 1. When the seventh trumpet sounded the mystery of God would be fulfilled just as had been foretold.
4. The voice from the four horns then tells John to do some things.
 - a. First he was to take the open scroll and eat it.
 - i. The scroll tasted like honey but it made John’s stomach bitter.
 - b. Second he was told to...
 - i. “prophecy about the many peoples and nations and languages and kings.”
 - c. Third he was told to measure three things and ignore measuring a fourth.
 - i. The temple of God.
 - ii. The altar.
 - iii. The ones whom worship at the temple.
 - iv. He was not to measure the outer court.
5. The voice then explains His two witnesses.
 - a. They will prophecy 1,260 days and will be clothed in sackcloth.
 - b. They are the two olive trees and lampstands that stand before the Lord of earth.
 - c. They have great strength and power.
 - i. If ones try and harm them fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes.
 - ii. They can keep it from raining, they can turn the waters into blood, and they can strike the earth with every kind of plague as they desire.
 - d. They will be killed.
 - i. The beast from the bottomless pit will make war, conquer, and kill the two witnesses.
 - ii. The witnesses bodies will be on display in the city called Sodom & Egypt.
 1. Everyone will gaze at the dead witnesses and refuse to bury them.
 2. Everyone on earth will even rejoice that they are dead.

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- e. They will be raised after three and a half days.
 - i. God raised them and they are seen rising to their feet.
 - ii. They are summoned by God and taken up to heaven in a cloud as their enemies watched.
 - f. With the two witnesses gone there is disaster for the people on earth.
 - i. The earth quaked and a tenth of the city fell to it.
 - 1. Seven thousand were killed and the rest glorified God.
- H. John then looks back to see a seventh angel before God blow his trumpet
- 1. John hears loud voices in heaven saying “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ and he shall reign forever and ever.”
 - 2. He sees the 24 elders fall down and worship God again.
 - i. They thank, praise, and acknowledge God’s greatness over man.
 - 3. John then sees God’s temple in heaven open and visible is the ark of the covenant.
 - 4. After this there are flashes of lightning, sounds, thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

II. The Message

- A. The first four trumpets
- 1. 1st trumpet = fire, hail, blood destroying 1/3rd of the land.
 - i. This is symbolic of economic hardship from the land such as crops and the like.
 - a. Rome relied on crops for food.
 - 2. 2nd trumpet = fiery mountain destroying 1/3rd of the sea life & ships.
 - i. This is symbolic of economic hardship from the sea.
 - a. Rome relied on the sea for food and travel.
 - 3. 3rd trumpet = a falling star into the drinking water making 1/3rd bitter and poisonous.
 - i. This is symbolic of economic hardship from fresh water.
 - a. Rome relied on fresh water to drink.
 - 4. 4th trumpet = Sun, moon, and stars only light up 1/3rd of the time.
 - i. This is symbolic of time running out.
 - 5. Thus...
 - i. We find God disciplining Rome to repent using economics as His avenue.
 - ii. Also of note these four calamities are all indirect but the next three will be direct.

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- B. The last three trumpets
1. 5th trumpet = A star falls from heaven and is given a key to the bottomless pit.
 - i. This is symbolic of Satan's evil role in this world and God's judgment of it.
 - a. It is Satan that lets the smoke out "false teachings" & "immoral behavior" darkening the light of righteousness.
 - b. It is God that brings forth the locus from the smoke to punish those whom love the darkness rather than the light.
 - ii. This was the end of the first woe and two still remain.
 2. 6th trumpet = Prepared angels ready to kill 1/3rd of mankind.
 - i. This is symbolic of God's last resort. If people will not listen to their own kind dying then they will listen to nothing.
 - a. This is not an uncommon thing for God to do.
 1. He killed the first born to get His message across to Egypt.
 2. He killed may by serpent to get the message across to the Jews.
 3. He killed Ananias & Sapphira to get the message across to the Christians.
 3. 6th trumpet = The mighty angel and the little open scroll.
 - i. This is symbolic of the righteous patience of God.
 - a. This section deals with God giving Rome yet another chance to listen to His message of repentance.
 4. 6th trumpet = The two witnesses.
 - i. This is symbolic of the church receiving Rome's answer to the message of repentance.
 - a. The olive branch and lampstand symbolism prove this out.
 1. **Zc 4 & Rv 1**
 - ii. Rome rejected the churches message and sought to destroy the church instead of adhering to it.
 - a. However though Rome tried they could only defeat the church but they could never destroy it.
 1. There are plenty of times in history where we see the church defeated (not very strong) but we never find it destroyed (**Da 2:44**).
 5. 7th trumpet = The kingdom of the world was now the kingdom of God.
 - i. This is symbolic of Christ's victory over Rome.
 - a. We are given the outcome before we actually read of the fall.
 - ii. In **Rv 12-19** we read of the "war" between Satan & Christ.
 - a. It is here we read of the fight and fall of Rome.
- C. Thus...
1. The message is loud and clear, though Rome had been disciplined by God they were unwilling to repent and turn to God and thus their time was up.

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III. The Implication

- A. God disciplines those He loves
1. **He 12:7-12** “It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. 12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees”
 2. **Dt 8:5** “Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you.”
 3. **Pr 13:24** “Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.”

CONCLUSION

1. As John gazed upon the vision bestowed before him he was given, by God, important information that would benefit our brethren then and now.
 - a. Our God is a loving God who care for our soul above all other and will do anything within His will to help us be with Him for eternity.
2. Question: Are you like Rome unwilling to do what it takes to obey God’s Will or are you like the many faithful who were unwavering under great distress?
 - a. My hope is that you are like the faithful strong and true willing to obey God over all everything else.
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**