

The Trumpets & The End Time Messenger Calling

I. Recapping The Storyline

- a. After Jesus opens the first 6 seals (*each loosing a true and righteous judgment*) from the scroll in His hand, Revelation 7 goes on to describe 144,000 Jewish believers and a “great multitude which no one could count” getting marked with the *seal of God*. The “*seal of God*” will make a distinction between the people of God and those who side with antichrist, in order that we would be preserved and protected in the midst of the trumpet judgments.

(Revelation 7:3 NASB) “Do not harm the earth, or the sea, or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.”

- b. After an angel seals the servants of God, the Lamb will then break the 7th seal which includes, silence in heaven for about a half an hour, 7 angels will be given trumpets, An angel will be given heavenly incense to strengthen the prayer movement on earth, fire will be cast to earth, dramatic weather patterns will occur in the sky, and an earthquake will shake the earth. This is the moment where the 7 angels with trumpets prepare to blow the 7 trumpets of judgment. The 7 trumpet judgments are more severe than the seals and occur in a more rapid succession (*Seals take place around 2 years; Trumpets take place around 12-18 months; Bowls take place in 30 days*).

(Revelation 8:6 NASB) “And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.”

- c. The trumpet and bowl judgments contain many intentional similarities to Israel’s exodus from Egypt and the 10 plagues poured out on Pharaoh. One of the most common exhortations in the bible is to “remember the exodus”. God wants the story of the exodus to be engrained on the hearts of His people. I’m convinced that the main purpose of the exodus was to foreshadow the end of the age drama. God wants us to learn *important lessons* about *how He deals out His righteous judgment* while also *providing an avenue for His people to thrive in the midst of it*. The exodus and end time judgments are similar in:

- i. Their purpose - To destroy the resources of the wicked ruler (*Pharaoh; Antichrist*)
- ii. The way they’re released - By God, through partnership with His people (*Moses & Aaron; The Praying Church*)
- iii. Their Quality - The 10 plagues in Egypt are small glimpses of what God will do in fullness at the end of the age.
- iv. The way God’s people are protected in the midst - God protected Israel in the land of Goshen; God will seal His bondservants at the end of the age.

II. The Purpose of Trumpets In Scripture

- a. Trumpets are not a “*new idea*” in scripture. There is much mention of trumpets throughout the Old Testament that give insight into the end-time trumpets.
- b. Trumpets in the Old Testament are commonly seen to summon a war cry (*Numbers 10; Judges 3:27, 6:34, 7:8-22; Jeremiah 4:5-21, 42:14; 51:27, Ezekiel 7:14; Hosea 8:1; Joel 2:1; Zephaniah 1:16*) and to celebrate victories after war (*Joshua 6:1-5; 2 Samuel 2:28*). Trumpets were also used to *gather His people, warn of danger, celebrate the feast of trumpets, to celebrate when David brought the Ark to Jerusalem, to announce the enthronement of the king, and to announce the defeat of a revolt*.
- c. The end-time trumpets are more than just a sound that we hear or a judgment that’s poured out. *These trumpets will assemble the people of God together for war, while announcing the enthronement of King*

Jesus, and the fall of the Antichrist Empire. The purpose of these judgments is to rally the righteous and warn the unrighteous of the coming King, and the severity of the bowl judgments that will follow.

III. Overview of the 7 Trumpets in Revelation

- a. The first four trumpet judgments will destroy the resources of the Antichrist's empire. The fifth and sixth trumpet judgments target the people who are apart of the Antichrist's empire.
- b. The seventh trumpet, also referred to in scripture as the "great trumpet" (*Matthew 24:31*), "trumpet of God" (*1 Thessalonians 4:16*), and "last trumpet" (*1 Corinthians 15:52*), includes 1) *the return of Jesus and beginning of His royal procession*, 2) *rapture of the saints*, 3) *the revealing of the ark of the covenant in the heavenly temple*, 4) *lightning's, thundering's, noises, and earthquake and great hail (Revelation 11:15-19)*.
- c. The final three trumpets are also referred to as the "*three woes*" due to their severity.

(Revelation 8:13 NASB) "Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who live on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

- d. Though the trumpet judgments are concisely detailed in two and half chapters in scripture, there are many "*ripple effect*" details that require us to "*lean in*" to each verse and ponder the implications of each judgment while allowing the Holy Spirit to speak. The verses in these chapters give us the broad details of each judgment, but there are inevitable details surrounding each judgment not recorded in detail in these verses.

IV. The first 4 Trumpets

(Revelation 8:7-12 NASB) "The first sounded, and there was hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. 8 The second angel sounded, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was hurled into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood, 9 and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed. 10 The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. 11 The star is named Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the waters because they were made bitter. 12 The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way."

- a. ***First Trumpet (Burning 1/3 of the earths vegetation):*** Hail, fire, and blood will be hurled to the earth and will burn up 1/3 of the entire earth's trees and all the green grass. Fire will spread across the earth unlike we've ever seen before, with smoke filling the air. No only will the earth lose trees and grass, but these fires will impact the food and fuel supply and oxygen levels.
 - i. At face value, hail and fire don't seem to mix well (fire would melt hail). I would guess this is a reference to lightning.

(Exodus 9:23-24 NASB) "So Moses reached out with his staff toward the sky, and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth. And the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt. 24 So there was hail, and fire flashing intermittently in the midst of the hail, which was very heavy, such as had not occurred in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation."

- ii. Blood is uniquely mixed with the hail and fire. Could it be, that the blood is the blood of the martyrs?

- b. **Second Trumpet (Destroying 1/3 of the seas):** Something like a great mountain burning with fire will be thrown into the sea and turn 1/3 of the sea into blood killing 1/3 of the sea creatures and destroying 1/3 of the ships in the sea. When this great mountain hits the sea, it will displace the water unlike ever before causing massive tsunami's (of blood) across the earth. 1/3 of sea life dying will be a huge hit to the *food supply*. 1/3 of the ships being destroyed with massively impact *sea-trade as well*.
- i. A great mountain burning with fire – I don't believe this "great mountain burning with fire" is a man made bomb or anything like that. It seems to be something like a "heavenly meteorite" able to turn the sea to blood.
- c. **Third Trumpet (Poisoning 1/3 of the earth's fresh water supply):** A great burning "star" called "*wormwood*", will fall from heaven on a third of the rivers and springs of waters. Polluted water will damage the water supply leaving water shortages all over the earth causing national conflict. Many people will still drink the water (*possibly out of desperation*) and will die.
- i. A great burning star – It seems as though some sort of supernatural meteorite falls from heaven and is "broken up" upon entering earth's atmosphere and lands all across the earth harming the fresh water of the earth.
- ii. Wormwood – Wormwood can be seen in the Old Testament as a symbol for divine punishment (*Jeremiah 9:15,23; Lamentations 3:15,19*). It's an herb with a bitter taste that can poison water (*Deuteronomy 29:17-18; Proverbs 5:4; Lamentations 3:15, 19; Amos 5:7; 6:12; Hosea 10:4*). God said he'd give Israel "*wormwood*" because their leaders had "*poisoned*" Israel with idol worship (*Jeremiah 8:14; 9:13-15; 23:15*).
- d. **Fourth Trumpet (darkening 1/3 of the light):** 1/3 of the sun, moon, and stars will be "*struck/darkened*" resulting in the day not shining for 1/3 of it and night being even darker. Though this judgment is hard to understand exactly how it will happen, we know it will dramatically impact light and heat meaning that the tides of the bloody ocean will be altered with global cold fronts, and the loss of solar energy. Throughout scripture, the "*day of the Lord*" is often referred to as a day of "*darkness*" and "*gloom*". This is the context in which Jesus will return.

(Matthew 24:29-30 NASB) "But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory."

V. The 5th Trumpet – Torment By Demonic Locusts

(Revelation 9:1-12 NASB) "Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key to the shaft of the abyss was given to him. 2 He opened the shaft of the abyss, and smoke ascended out of the shaft like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened from the smoke of the shaft. 3 Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a person. 6 And in those days people will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death will flee from them! 7 The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like human faces. 8 They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like the teeth of lions. 9 They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle. 10 They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt people for five months. 11 They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon."

- a. A star from heaven which had fallen to the earth – Referring to an angel.
- b. Locusts – These are not natural locusts, but demonic locusts that come out of the shaft of the abyss. These are also not helicopters (*helicopters don't come out of the abyss or have a demonic king over them*). They have a demonic king over them named Abaddon (*ruin, destruction*) and Apollyon (*The destroyer*).
- c. These locusts will come out of the smoke that comes from the abyss. This smoke will pollute the air and will darken the sun.
- d. The locusts will be given limited power similar to that of a scorpion to sting/harm only the people that do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They cannot kill be people but will torment them for 5 months. The torment will be so bad, people will try to find death but death will flee from them.
- e. Based on their description, I'd imagine that these locusts are quite a bit larger than your average locust (*possibly 6-12 inches?*). Their appearance:
 - i. Like horses prepared for battle – Bold and strong prepared for this moment. They appear organized.
 - ii. On their heads appeared to be crowns like gold – Crowns represent authority. Perhaps they are demonically ranked some with more authority than others
 - iii. Faces like human faces – Angels often are described with human faces, these demons are similar beings, but likely burned and distorted since their fall.
 - iv. Hair like the hair of women – This could be a reference to their antenna or actual hair. Either way it seems that the hair/antenna is long and looks like women's hair.
 - v. Teeth like the teeth of lions – They have devouring teeth that probably look hideously mean. They're not permitted to devour, so they're also probably angry and often showing their teeth.
 - vi. Breastplates like breastplates of iron – They are "*well-armed*" and likely hard or impossible to kill.
 - vii. The sound of their wings – They have a mighty sound like chariots and horses rushing into battle. They're ominously loud.
 - viii. They have tails like scorpions – Normal locusts don't have stingers, but these ones do and they will sting people with them for five months.

VI. The 6th Trumpet – Death By Demonic Horsemen

(Revelation 9:13-21 NASB) "Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." 15 And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind. 16 The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. 17 And this is how I saw in my vision the horses and those who sat on them: the riders had breastplates the color of fire, of hyacinth, and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire and smoke and brimstone. 18 A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire, the smoke, and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. 19 For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm. 20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands so as not to worship demons and the idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk;

21 and they did not repent of their murders, nor of their witchcraft, nor of their sexual immorality, nor of their thefts.”

- a. Four angels will be released to kill 1/3 of mankind. These angels have been kept ready for a long time for this specific purpose. They are currently bound at the river Euphrates (*likely in Babylon*). *They will release 200 million demonic horsemen to kill people throughout the earth.* This is not a symbolic allegory, this will really happen.
- b. Their description:
 - i. Breastplates the color of fire, of hyacinth, and of brimstone – Fiery red, dark blue, and sulfur yellow. It seems that there is a division among the horsemen with each wearing one of these different colors on their breastplate.
 - ii. Heads of the horses like heads of lions – These are supernatural horses with heads like lions demonstrating their ferocity.
 - iii. Out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone – Different types of “hellish” plagues come out of the horses mouths and kill people.
 - iv. Tails like serpents and have heads – They have also have power in their serpent-like tails to do damage to people.
- c. If we combine the deaths from the fourth seal and now the sixth trumpet we can see that 1/2 of the earths population will perish in just these two judgments alone.
- d. Despite the severity of this judgment, those who are not killed will still not repent. They’ve been so deeply deceived to hate God that they will willfully remain in wickedness.

VII. John’s Messenger Calling Reinforced

- a. **Revelation 10-11:14** put the chronological storyline on pause to describe what is happening to the church in the midst of the Great Tribulation.

(Revelation 10:1-11 NASB) “I saw another strong angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was on his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire; 2 and he had in his hand a little scroll, which was open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land; 3 and he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars; and when he had cried out, the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices. 4 When the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken, and do not write them.” 5 Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven, 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things in it, and the earth and the things in it, and the sea and the things in it, that there will no longer be a delay, 7 but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He announced to His servants the prophets. 8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven, I heard again speaking with me, and saying, “Go, take the scroll which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land.” 9 And I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, “Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.” 10 I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. 11 And they said to me, “You must prophesy again concerning many peoples, nations, languages, and kings.”

- b. The Strong Angel – Based on the descriptions of this angel, it could be understood as “*The Angel of the Lord*”, meaning Jesus. The word “angel” simply means “*messenger*” which emphasizes the entire purpose of this chapter in Revelation; The messenger calling.

- c. The Little Scroll – Is this the scroll from **Revelation 5**? I’m not convinced it is because **Revelation 5** tells us that “*only Jesus is worthy to ‘take the scroll’*” from the hand of the father, yet John is commanded to “*take the scroll*” from the hand of the angel. Either way, we know for sure the scroll represents specifically the end time forerunner message. It’s also important to note that the scroll is “open”, meaning its message can be read, understood, and communicated.
- d. The seven peals of thunder – These are unique to the book of Revelation. We know for sure they are 7 messages that will be incredibly relevant during the Great Tribulation. They are sealed (*held back*) until that particular moment in history. I have three personal possible thoughts about the 7 thunders:
 - i. The first thought: These 7 thunders include 7 more judgments released by Jesus in partnership with forerunner messengers as a final attempt for Jesus to bring in the most amount of people to salvation before the final trumpet.
 - ii. The second thought: The seven thunders are made known after the 7th seal and before the trumpet judgments begin in a “*rapid succession*” in order to strengthen the church in the hour before the sounding of the 7 trumpets
 - iii. The Third Thought: Could the 7 thunders be related to the information that Daniel was told to “*seal*” 500 years before in **Daniel 12:4**.
- e. Eat the scroll – John is instructed to eat the scroll from the angel’s hand, similar to Ezekiel (**Ezekiel 2:8-3:3**) and Jeremiah (**Jeremiah 15:16**). At first it would taste sweet (*victory, salvation, justice*), but would turn bitter (*global judgment, persecution*) in his stomach as it digests.
- f. You must prophesy again – I believe that John was called to prophesy about the end times in chapter one, but after he experiences the bitterness of the global judgment and persecution, he needed encouragement to once again prophesy to many nations. *John is a prototype for the end time forerunner messengers God is raising up*. Being a forerunner means that you consume the end time message and prepare to alert others of the coming storm (*like Noah*).
- g. The forerunner ministry is forged for decades in individuals. It is made up of those like John the Baptist who will “*prepare a way for the lord in the desert*”. It is the most important ministry (*to people*) that one can operate in. Though the multitudes (*even within the church*) may find forerunners crazy or irrelevant (*like they thought of Noah*), when the storm begins, the forerunner message will be the most sound, sane, and relevant “*sermon on a Sunday morning*”. *The forerunner message will prepare the church for the most dynamic time in history, pave a highway for the return of Jesus, and transform the lifestyles of those who “eat the scroll”*. God is raising up forerunner messengers and calling them to “*eat the scroll*” to prepare their sphere of influence for the coming storm.

Questions For Discussion

1. What was one thing that was highlighted to you or stuck out in tonight’s teaching?
2. Did this teaching bring clarity to a thought or question you had related to the end times?
3. How does this teaching mobilize you to pray? (**1 Peter 4:7 NASB**) “*The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer*”