

12/28/14

7 Trumpets Announce God's Judgment Revelation 8-9

I. Silence in Heaven – 8:1

1. As 7th seal is opened there is silence
The Day of God's wrath has come – 6:17
It is a solemn time and there is a "holy hush"
The silence lasts about a half hour
2. God is holy and just and must judge evil
3. God is also loving & gracious
He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked
Ezekiel 33:11
He is longsuffering giving wicked time to repent
4. But time will come when judgment must fall
That will be a solemn, awesome time

II. Heaven's Perspective – 8:2-6

1. As 7th seal is opened 7 angels step up – 2
Each angel has a trumpet to announce judgment
But before they sound their trumpets John sees:
2. Another angel before the incense altar – 3, 4
He has a golden censer in his hand
Much incense was given him to offer before God
Incense offered with prayers of saints – cp. 5:8
Smoke of incense with prayers ascended to God
3. Censer is filled with hot coals from altar – 5
Same censer used in prayer now filled with fire
4. Fire from the altar is cast on the earth – 5
There are voices, thunder, lightning, earthquake
God is about to speak in judgment
5. 7 angels with trumpets, ready to sound – 6
These trumpets will announce God's judgment
6. Don't miss significance of this passage
God's judgment comes in response to prayer
God has heard cries of His people as in Egypt
Exodus 3:7-9 God tells Moses He heard their cry
God has promised to right all wrongs
"Vengeance is mine; I will repay" – Rom. 12:19
Silence is broken, time of God's wrath has come

III. Sounding the Trumpets – 8:7-13

1. First 4 trumpets touch humans indirectly
They are plagues upon the environment
Later plagues that will touch man's person
2. First 4 trumpets are also limited in scope
Affect 1/3 of vegetation, 1/3 of oceans, 1/3 of
fresh water, 1/3 of heavenly lights
Plagues will become more intense but God gives
opportunity for repentance
3. First Trumpet sounds – 7
Storm of hail & fire (probably lightning) with blood
Vegetation burned up affecting food supply
4. Second Trumpet sounds – 8, 9

Fireball falls in ocean polluting 1/3 of seas
1/3 of the seas became blood
1/3 of fish & other sea creatures died
1/3 of ships at sea were destroyed

5. Third Trumpet sounds – 10,11
Star-like mass falls from heaven to fresh waters
Rivers, springs & drinking water polluted, bitter
Many died when they drank the polluted water
6. Fourth Trumpet sounds – 12
1/3 of sun, moon and stars are affected
This will cause a loss of light, heat and energy
7. Summary of these 4 trumpet judgments
God graciously provides for unrighteous as He
does for the righteous – Matt. 5:45
Since man rejects God's grace, God will withdraw
His gracious blessings from humans
Food, water, light, heat & energy are all affected
Man must know how dependent he is on God
In spite of all this he still does not repent
8. An angel announces woes yet to come – 13
Judgment will become more intense as men
rebel
Next 3 trumpets will be worse than first four
Woe is announced to give opportunity to repent
Woes allow men to experience consequences of
sin

IV. Demonic Invasion from Hell

1. Fifth Trumpet sounds – 9:1-12
As in Egypt, a plague of locusts – Ex. 10:12-15
But these locusts are not natural locusts
(1) They come out of the pit – the abyss
Where fallen angels are held in chains –
2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6
Where Satan will be bound – Rev. 20:1
(2) They have power to torment – 9:3, 5
Like the bite of a scorpion – but do not kill
(3) They attack only humans – 9:4
Do not attack green vegetation like natural
locusts
They do not attack those sealed by God
(4) Description unlike any natural locust – 9:7-10
Like horses prepared for battle
Crowns like gold on their heads – cp. Eph. 6:12
Faces as faces of men, Hair as hair of women
Teeth as teeth of lions, Breastplates as of iron
Sound of their wings as many chariots going to
battle
Tails like scorpions with stings in their tails
(5) Their leader is the angel of the abyss – 9:11
Abaddon and Apollyon mean "the destroyer"
(6) They torment humans for 5 months – 9:5, 10
Men would like to die but death escapes them –
9:6
2. This demonic attack will let men taste hell

Humans choose to follow Satan & seek contact with the spirit world – This is the consequence

V. Death Angels Kill Humans

1. Sixth Trumpet sounds – 9:13-19
Golden altar again connects this to prayer - 13
As God avenges His own judgment intensifies
Locust-like demons tormented but could not kill
2. Invasion brings death to 1/3 of humans – 14-19
4 Angels bound in Euphrates, Babylonian river 14
Babylon is the source of idolatry and Satan's kingdom
Kept in bondage for this time of judgment – 15
Their mission is to kill 1/3 of humans
There is a massive army involved – 16
Army numbered two hundred million
There is fire, smoke & brimstone in attack – 17
They issue out of mouths of these horses
They bring death to 1/3 of humans – 18
People are killed by fire, smoke and brimstone
Power to hurt & kill are in their mouths & tails - 19
Something superhuman about this attack

V. Determination of Incurribles – 20,21

1. Here is the reason for awful judgment
They do not respond when God's grace is withheld
Neither do they respond when they experience hell
Torment of hell (Rev. 8) Eternal death (Rev. 9)
2. Their lack of repentance
Their worship is false – 20
Refuse to acknowledge or worship God
Continue to worship idols and demons
Their works are evil – 21
Murder – Sanctity of human life is violated
Sorcery – word is "pharmakia" – use of drugs and spells
Fornication – all forms of illicit sexual activity
Thefts – Violation of personal property rights
God must judge when men persist in sin
When grace is rejected condemnation is just