



Resources

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Revelation 8:1-12

1 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. 3 And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, 4 and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. 5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

6 Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.

7 The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

8 The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. 9 A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

10 The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. 11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.

12 The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.

Sermon Outline:

1. I. The Seventh Seal and the Silence of Heaven (1)
2. II. The Seven Angels and the Seven Trumpets (2)
3. III. The Prayers of the Saints in the Silence of Heaven (3-4)
4. IV. The Wrath of God in Answer to the Prayers (5-6)
5. V. The First Four Trumpets Unleashed on Creation (7-12)

Life Group Leader Notes:





• Spend some time reading Romans 1:18-25 as a group. Have you ever contemplated the magnitude and weight of this passage? What does this passage reveal about mankind? About creation? How does this passage reveal both God's just wrath and his loving mercy?

• The events in Revelation chapter 8 begin with half an hour of silence: a harsh end to the constant symphony of worship, loud voices, and peels of thunder in previous chapters. Pastor Scott suggested one reason for this silence is that God is giving all attention to the prayers of His people. When we pray, He listens. Is prayer, then, a benefit to us as His people or a benefit to God? Why?

When God answers our prayers with 'no' how do we respond? How should we respond? Has this been the case with your prayers recently?

• The New Testament tells us that the trumpet will sound when Christ returns in glory. His resurrection and future return allow believers to respond to death and loss with a confidence-laden grief. For believers, death is merely a doorway from life to better life. When death and loss become part of life, how can we show our families, friends, neighbors, coworkers that we are not fearful but confident?

• The first four judgments revealed in verses 7-12 remind us of the plagues sent to judge Egypt in Exodus. The plagues of Egypt demonstrated God's supremacy over the Egyptian deities represented by creation. In Revelation, these judgements are magnified and intensified: people have always tried to find meaning in creation rather than the Creator. What present-day ideologies or practices encourage worship of created things? Is this something that cultural Christianity struggles with? How?

• When Christ comes back He will come in the fullness of His majesty and Lordship with trumpets blaring. Everyone on earth will bow their knees and confess that He is Lord. Read 2 Peter 3: 8-10 as a group. Why hasn't he returned yet? What does this reveal to us about His character? What does God require of His people?

• It is peak season here in the Appalachian mountains. As God's creation testifies of His glory - not its own beauty - we watch the leaves burn brightly before their inevitable death according to God's purpose. How can we burn beautifully before we meet death or Christ's return?

