

Sunday, January 8 The First Four Trumpets, Revelation 8:6-13

Revelation 8:1 When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

Revelation 8:2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

The content of the scroll is now unveiled in the trumpets and bowls.

The trumpet judgments form the middle of the three septets but are more closely related in style and substance to the bowl judgments.

The seals are preliminary judgments that explore the depravity of humankind and demonstrate the necessity of judgment.

Revelation 8:3-4 Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense ascended from the angel's hand with the prayers of the saints before God.

Revelation 8:5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and hurled it to the earth; and there were peals of thunder and sounds, and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

Revelation 8:6 And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.

Pattern like the seals, 4 + 2 + 1, with an interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpets. The fifth and sixth trumpets include a call to repentance.

The First Trumpet Blast

Revelation 8:7 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.

Hailstorms are a common element in the judgment theme of the OT. (Sodom and Gomorrah, the Seventh Plague, the Amorite army in Josh 10:11)

Also fire mixed with blood, similar to the prophetic language of Joel 2:30-31

Joel 2:30-31 I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, blood, fire, and columns of smoke. The sun will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.

Revelation 8:7 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.

A third of the earth, including the trees and grass all burned up.

The Second Trumpet Blast

Revelation 8:8-9 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, and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Similar to the first plague of the Exodus, water turned to blood

The Third Trumpet Blast

Revelation 8:10-11 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. 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.

The Fourth Trumpet Blast

Revelation 8:12 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.

Revelation 8:13 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!"