

Worship Guide - Lake Mary
WORSHIP SERVICE -
10.24.2021

TRUMPET BLASTS

I. INTRODUCTION

MAIN POINT: God uses his judgments to strip away earthly security and dethrone idols so that people will turn to God in repentance.

Revelation 8:6-13

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.[b] 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.

13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "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!"

II. DIVINE TRUMPETS

Trumpets in the Bible

- Call God's people to **assemble for ceremonial purposes or important occasions.**
 - When the Lord met with Moses on Mount Sinai, his presence was accompanied by the deafening sound of trumpets. (Ex. 19:19)
 - Solemn assemblies, holy days, holy convocation (Lev. 23:24)
 - The prophet Joel declared the Day of the Lord being announced with a trumpet blowing in Zion (Joel 2:1)
 - Summon the tribes to gather for battle (Judges 3:27)
 - Jesus will send his angels and with a loud trumpet blast summon his elect from the whole earth to join him. (Matt. 24:30-31)
 - Paul refers to the day that the trumpet will sound and the dead in Christ will rise first. (1Cor. 15:52)
 - Trumpets also signify the Lord coming to wage warfare on behalf of his people, (i.e. Jericho.)
- John sees in v2 "the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them."
 - Who are these angels?
 - Seven angels of the seven churches. (Rev. 1:20)
 - Isaiah 63:9 — the angel of his presence / the seven archangels

- These angels have a specific task which is represented by the seven trumpets they are given.
- Since we already know what the scroll and the seals represent—judgment, we will immediately see that the trumpets also represent judgment on the world.

Parallel with seven seals

- Same progression is followed
- We are shown the same things from a different perspective.
- Seal judgments are given the emphasis of how God will preserve the church through the great tribulation and they will come out of the tribulation into glory.
- The trumpet judgments emphasize the judgment that will come upon the wicked, those who are not sealed by God.
- **Derek Thomas**, *“The seals view the unfolding of the redemptive purposes of God from the point of view of the Lord’s own people, those who are sealed; the trumpets view this same reality from the point of view of the unsealed, those who are not the people of God. The opening of the seals brings great consolation to the people of God. The sounding of the trumpets brings great woes upon those who are not the people of God.”*
- The first four seals reflect the trials that affect God’s people and test their faith.
- The first four trumpet blasts reflect the trials that affect unbelievers and those who persecute God’s people during the same time period in which God’s people are tested—the whole Church age.

Allusion to the Exodus Plagues

- John conveys the severity of judgment in the trumpets by modeling them after the Exodus plagues.
- In the Exodus plagues, God used various elements to strike the Egyptians in judgment.
- John uses some of those plagues as the background to the trumpet judgments.
- Trumpets 1-5 are patterned after 5 of the Exodus plagues.
- T 1 — (hail, fire mixed w/ blood) / 7th plague (hail, fire - Ex. 9:22-25)
- T 2,3 — (poisoning of the sea and waters) / 1st plague (Nile, water, turned to blood - Ex. 7:20-25)
- T 4 — (diminishing of the celestial bodies, darkness / 9th plague (darkness - Ex. 10:21-23)
- T 5 — (demonic forces like locusts) / 8th plague (locusts - Ex. 10:12-15)
- A key to understanding these trumpet judgments then is understanding the nature and purpose of the Exodus plagues. We’ll look at that shortly.
- **A few points on the first four:**
- The origin of the trumpets, they are being sounded before God’s throne.
- We are reminded of the source of these judgments — the One seated on the throne and the Lamb of God.
- The first four judgments are said to afflict a third of the created order.
- 1/3 means that the judgments are partial, not final. They are limited in scope.
- The four riders were given authority to harm a 1/4 of the earth.
- Now it is 1/3. That seems like an intensification of the judgments.
- Like the 3rd horse and rider of the 3rd seal (6:6), famine is in view.
- Resources needed for food production are affected. Food supplies are affected.
- Ezekiel’s prophecy of Israel being divided in thirds in Ezekiel 5 happens a result of fire that burned in the midst of the city:
- Ezekiel 5:12 A third part of you shall die of pestilence and be consumed with famine in your midst;
- This is judgment by famine that affects some but not all.
- Famine can also be a term used about suffering of all kinds, not just a lack of food resources. (Spiritual famine / moral famine / mental famine)
- **T2** - in Scripture, mountains used symbolically and metaphorically of kingdoms and nations.

- In OT, these mountains that represent nations are often objects of God's judgment.
 - **Ez. 35** - Prophecy against Mt. Seir., which is associated with Edom.
 - Jeremiah's vision of the destruction of Babylon in Jer. 51 lies behind this trumpet blast.
 - **Jer. 51:25** "Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, declares the Lord, which destroys the whole earth; I will stretch out my hand against you, and roll you down from the crags, and make you a burnt mountain.
 - Babylon symbolizes every great city that has held power over the whole evil world system.
- T3 - Theme of famine continues.
 - A Great star fell from heaven. Stars in Revelation also symbolize angels.
 - Here it appears to be the judgment of an angel who is representative of sinful people.
 - This gives us a picture of Isaiah 14:12-15 where Babylon's angel is portrayed as a star fallen from heaven, cast down to the pit.
 - The Name of the star is Wormwood - wormwood is a bitter herb.
 - Wormwood is also a symbol of God's judgment on his disobedient people. (Jeremiah 8 and 23)
- T4 - a limited measure of darkness is the result.
 - In the 6th seal, that judgment came upon idolaters and those who had persecuted the people of God so this is something similar to that but in a partial sense.
 - This may be symbolizing a spiritual and mental darkness as well.
 - This kind of darkness plunges men into hopelessness, fear, and despair.
- As we continue looking at these trumpet blasts it becomes clearer that these four trumpet judgments are concerned with the sufferings that it brings upon the ungodly. (Rev. 9:4)
 - These partial judgments affect all unbelievers until the final judgment of the Last Day.
 - Whatever the symbolic allusion may be in how these judgments unfold, the point is that creation itself experiences devastating effects.
 - Something has gone radically wrong with the created order and the result is that mankind tastes the bitterness of suffering.
 - This is judgment from God on the idolatrous and those who persecute the people of God.

III. EFFECTS OF THE TRUMPET BLASTS

- **Exodus 12:12** For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; **and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments:** I am the LORD.
- God's plan in delivering Israel out of Egypt involved the decimation of every idol and god that the Egyptians trusted in.
- The plagues become a demonstration both to Egypt and Israel that there is only one, true, living God and that is YHWH.
- Yet we learn through it all that Pharaoh remained unrepentant. He hardened his heart and doubled-down on his refusal to liberate God's people.
- God also hardened Pharaoh's heart to further demonstrate his power to Pharaoh.
- **Ex. 9:16-17** But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth. 17 You are still exalting yourself against my people and will not let them go.
- There are two key effects of this Exodus/Trumpet parallel and judgments.

1. EARTHLY SECURITY IS SHAKEN

- The first four trumpet blasts deal a blow to everything that people place their trust in.
- The trumpet blasts show us that placing our security in earthly things is foolish.
- Idolatry is making anything other than God ultimate in your life.
- Whether the idolatry takes place in the form of worship of statues and religious trinkets or worship in the form of comfort,

control, approval, and power—it's all idolatry.

2. DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S PATIENCE

- We are seeing as we move through Revelation, that the judgments are intensifying and things are moving to the climax of history.
- And even though we see an intensification of judgment in our world today, we see that not everything is destroyed. Not everyone is afflicted. Not everyone experiences the same bitterness of suffering.
- Why is that?
- Because despite the misery of human suffering brought about by sin, God is patient and long-suffering desiring for people to come to repentance
- **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
- God is patient because his heart is for people to come to repentance.
- **Romans 2:4** Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?
- God is patient and forbearing not because he winks at sin but because his patience is meant to bring us to repentance.
- God repeatedly warns people of impending judgment in the proclamation of the gospel and God repeatedly warns people when judgment is unleashed in the world.
- Yet despite these warnings, many persist in their unbelief and unrepentance.
- Like Pharaoh, they harden their hearts, they double-down on their sin and rebellion.
- V13 John sees something else in the vision—an eagle crying out with a loud voice “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!”
- Those three woes underscore the importance of what’s coming—severe judgment on those who dwell on the earth—that’s all of the unbelievers.
- The sad reality is this is what Scripture says about them...
- **Revelation 9:20-21** The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, 21 nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.
- If you have not trusted Christ, heed the warning to repent before the final trumpet sounds—for then it will be too late.
- Do not trust in earthly things—they will fail you—but Christ will not fail you. He can be your eternal security.
- If you are in Christ—proclaim the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Judgment is imminent. People need to hear the good news!
- A final day of judgment has been set. The final trump will sound. Are you ready?
- Be watchful, wait for it, shake off all fleshly security, for we do not know the day or the hour in which our Lord will return.