

## Things to Come

### #13 The First Four Trumpets (Rev. 8:6-13)

#### I. Introduction

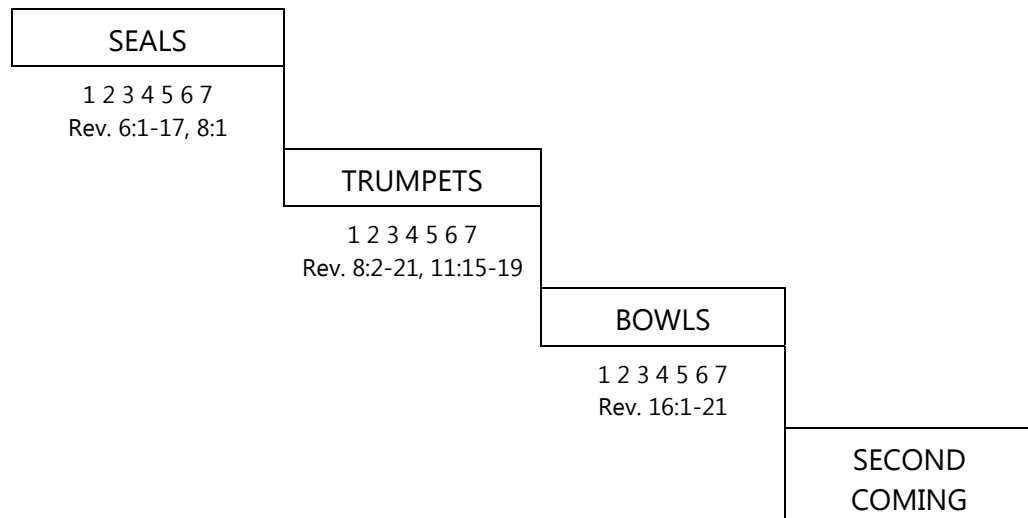
##### A. A word about major divine judgments

MAJOR DIVINE JUDGMENTS	
1.	Judgment on Christ at the cross (John 1:29; Acts 20:28; Rom. 3:23-26, 5:9; 1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:15, 21; Gal. 1:4; Titus 2:14).
2.	Contemporary judgment of believer's sins (1 Cor. 11:29-32; Heb. 12:5-6, 1 Pet. 4:14-15, 1 John 1:9).
3.	The Judgment Seat of Christ (Rom. 14:10-12, 1 Cor. 3:11-15; 9:24-27; 2 Cor. 5:10; Eph. 6:8).
4.	The judgment of Israel (Ezek. 20:33-38; Matt. 24:42-51; 25:1-30).
5.	The judgment of the nations (Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 18:1-24; 19:17-19, 21; 20:7-9).
6.	The judgment of Satan and fallen angels (Matt. 25:41, John 16:11; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Rev. 12:7-9; 20:1-3, 7-10).
7.	The judgment of the Great White Throne (Rev. 20:11-15).

(Every Prophecy of the Bible, p. 468)

##### B. The Divine Destruction of the Earth's Ecology

1. The Trumpets follow the "Seals." They are not simultaneous. (They "cascade")



- a. There is an increase in intensity of the judgments.
- b. There is a difference in the content of the events.
- c. Notice the implication in Rev. 8:1-2
- 2. These are literal events, not symbolic.
- 3. They are "generally reminiscent of the plagues in Exodus."
- 4. They are triggered by the blowing of the Shofar trumpets (a ram's horn). They are eschatological signals. (See Isa. 27:13, Joel 2:1, Zeph. 1:16)
- 5. We are called to be good stewards of the earth: See Gen. 2:15
- 6. But be careful to not worship the "creatures": See Rom. 1:25
- 7. And remember that God's judgments will devastate the earth: See 2 Peter 3:10. Rev. 21:1

## **II. The First Trumpet: Hail and Fire (8:7)**

- A. The form of the judgment: Hail and fire are thrown to the earth
  - 1. Note: hail is associated with judgment (Job 38:22-23, Ps. 105:32) and so is fire (Gen. 19:24, Ps. 11:6 and Ezek. 38:22)
  - 2. This trumpet is suggestive of the 4th Egyptian plague. See Ex. 9:23-26
- B. The Cause: Unknown
 

It could be world-wide volcano eruptions.
- C. The Result: One third of the earth and its trees are burned up. All of the green grass is destroyed. (The grass mentioned in the 5th trumpet may be that which is regrown after the burning.)
- D. The Affect: The world will be scorched and ravaged. There will be destruction of crops and watersheds, death of animals, and food sources will be deeply impacted.

## **III. The Second Trumpet (vs. 8-9)**

- A. The form of the judgment: a mountain burning with fire is thrown into the sea.
 

This is suggestive of the first Egyptian plague. See Ex. 7:20-21
- B. The Cause: This may very well be a giant meteorite or a huge asteroid.
- C. The Result: One third of the sea becomes blood, which results in one third of the sea creatures dying. One third of the ocean going ships will be destroyed.
- D. The Affect: Food sources will be deeply impacted, as will commerce and transportation. It will produce economic chaos.

## **IV. The Third Trumpet (vs. 10-11)**

- A. The form of the judgment: A huge star will fall on the earth and will burn up one third of the fresh waters sources of rivers and springs.
  - 1. Note: The star is called "Wormwood"
 

Wormwood is a plant and its leaves are used to make "absinthe," a toxic liqueur. It is mentioned in the OT (Deut. 29:18, Prov. 5:4, Jer. 9:15) and is associated with bitterness, poison and death.
  - 2. It is reminiscent of the polluting of the Egyptians water (See Ex. 7:21, 24)
- B. The Cause: This is likely a massive meteor or comet.
- C. The Result: A large portion of the world's fresh water will be contaminated.
- D. The Affect: without fresh water, huge numbers of people all around the world will die. Note: this is the first direct reference to the loss of human life.

## **V. The Fourth Trumpet (vs. 12-13)**

- A. The form of judgment: disaster in the sky - the sun, moon and stars are darkened for one third of the time.
  - 1. The OT prophets referred to these signs as part of God's coming judgment. See Isa. 13:9-10, Ezek. 32:7-8 and Joel 2:10, 31.
  - 2. This is similar to the 9th Egyptian plague.
- B. The Cause: Unknown
- C. The Result: The loss of heat will impact weather patterns, tides and storms
- D. The Affect: Significant destruction of crops and loss of life.

## **VI. The Startling Announcement before the Trumpets continue**

- A. "Woe, Woe, Woe": spoken by a bird of prey (See Deut. 28:49, Hosea 8:1 and Hab. 1:8). The next three trumpets are even more severe in nature.
- B. "Woe": is an expression of condemnation, judgment and wrath to come. The first two "woes" are associated with the 5th and 6th trumpets and the third "woe" is associated with the 7 bowl judgments.
- C. The recipient: "those who dwell on the earth"
 

This is a Biblical term that refers to those who reject the gospel (see 6:10, 11:10, 13:8 and so on)

## **VII. So What?**

John's revelation is clear...if we do not heed the warning God addresses to all sinners, judgment is coming. See Hebrews 3:7-11