What do the 7 Trumpets Mean? February 27, 2022

*Rev. 8, 9, 11:15-19 Series: Understanding the Book of Revelation*

I am not given to wild, unsupported statements. And I tell you that we must evacuate this planet immediately. – Jor El in Superman

Intro: What’s with all of the apocalyptic stories?

1. Four trumpets warn of catastrophes like the plagues of Egypt
2. Trumpets point to Jericho and plagues to Egypt

Joshua 6:4 *On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.*

1. The first trumpet burns 1/3 of the earth: Revelation 8:7

Exodus 9:24 *There was hail and fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail, very heavy hail, such as had never been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.*

1. The second trumpet burns 1/3 of the sea: Revelation 8:8-9

Exodus 7:20 *In the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile turned into blood.*

1. The third trumpet burns 1/3 of the rivers: Revelation 8:10-11

Psalm 78:44 *He turned their rivers to blood, so that they could not drink of their streams.*

1. The fourth trumpet darkens 1/3 of the light: Revelation 8:12

Exodus 10:21 *Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness to be felt.”*

Exodus 7:5 *The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt …*

* If you were to understand the catastrophes of the last days as Exodus-like plagues, how would it affect your view of them?
* If you were to understand the catastrophes of the last days as Jericho-like trumpets, how does it change how you see them?
* What good came amidst the devastation in Egypt and Jericho?

1. Two trumpets warn of torment and death for those hardened to God
2. The fifth trumpet unleashes demons who torment those who reject God: Revelation 9:1-11

Exodus 10:12 *Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, so that they may come upon the land of Egypt and eat every plant …”*

Luke 8:31 *And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.*

9:6 *And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.*

1. The sixth trumpet releases demons to kill 1/3 of those who reject God: Revelation 9:13-21

Exodus 11:4-5 *So Moses said, “Thus says the LORD: ‘About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt, and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die …*

9:20 *The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands …*

* Believers face hardship in the last days as well (4 horsemen), but what are they spared from?
* While there were some in Jericho (Hebrews 11:31) and Egypt (Exodus 12:38) who did put their faith in God many hardened their hearts. How does it help believers to know that this will continue to be the case in the last days (Revelation 9:20)?
* What can believers do while these trumpets are sounding?

1. The seventh trumpet announces God’s rule and wrath
2. The seventh trumpet begins God’s ultimate rule

10:7 *in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets*

11:15 *The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever …*

Matthew 6:10 *Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

11:17 *Lord God Almighty, who is and who was*

4:8 *Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!*

1. The seventh trumpet begins God’s final judgment

11:18 *The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.*

* The seals ended with people crying out to be delivered from the wrath of the Lamb (6:16-17) and then silent before Him (8:1). What does the description of the seventh trumpet in Revelation 11:15-19 add to our understanding of God’s judgment?
* If salvation is a gift (Ephesians 2:8) why does God reward His people (Revelation 22:12; Mark 9:41; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15)?
* How would the vision of the 7 trumpets have affected a group of persecuted Christians who were being tempted to compromise by those who had already left the faith?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Revelation 10:1-11

Notes