

sermon study summary

Revelation Part 13 – A Wake Up Call

Dr. Ashwin Ramani

March 9 / 10, 2024

As you may recall, in our studies of the Book of Revelation, there are three primary views on how we understand these series of judgments in Revelation.

(1) **The Recapitulation view** – the three sets of judgements (seals, trumpets, bowls) are cyclical, and they are three, repetitive ways, of viewing the same judgements.

(2) **The Consecutive view** – these judgements follow in the order described in the Book of Revelation – and are 21 separate events (3 sets of 7) that flow in linear fashion – one after another.

(3) **The Progressive Intensification view** – the key to this view is to see the destructive effects of these judgements that increase in nature. The seals destroy 1/4th of the earth, the trumpets 1/3rd, and the bowls affect everything.

Each sets of judgments end in the same place – the end of history!

As we continue studying the Book of Revelation – irrespective of which of the three views we choose to follow – when the kingdom of God arrives in all its fullness, bringing history to an end – we **should expect judgment!** The ‘trumpet judgements’ portrayed in Revelation, are a ‘wake-up call’, which serve as warnings for us to repent and return to a right relationship with God. When the 7th seal is opened, there is silence in heaven for half-an-hour. While the idea of ‘judgment’ brings negative connotations to mind, our God is **just**. When we tire of the evil in our world and pray for God’s intervention, God hears us and executes judgment in order to restore His creation back to His original purposes; **prayer is vital**.

As we review the outcomes of the first six ‘trumpet judgments’, we realize that our God is infinitely merciful and – continuously gives us time to repent. On re-reading the disasters caused by the trumpet warnings, we realize that the people of God are protected from the resulting suffering caused to all unbelievers. While **the enemy** is permitted to cause evil here on earth, God always turns that evil to His ‘good’. He wants everyone to come to Him. Unfortunately, as Revelation tells us, not everyone repents and comes to God, which confirms the stubborn hardness of the human heart because some people choose to continue sinning.

God, repeatedly, strives to wake us up via ‘spiritual warnings’. The varied forms of brokenness we are currently witnessing in our world, clearly indicate that ‘things are in a mess’. Nothing in life makes sense **without God**. As we recollect God’s wake-up call to Adoniram Judson, (who in his youth turned away from God, but repented and returned to Him) let’s make an attempt not to be obsessed by the severity of God’s judgement; rather, we should repent and thank God for His ineffable love and mercy in giving us multiple opportunities to return to Him wholeheartedly.

God has every right to express His righteous indignation against us. However, because of His unconditional love for us, He is patient, kind and compassionate, and inspires us to encourage and motivate others to also accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. He sent His only begotten Son, to die on the cross for the remediation of **all** our sins, and when we accept Christ as our Lord and Saviour, God sees us **through** His Son and we are spared His judgment. Therefore, let us surrender ourselves, and also bring others, to our loving and Holy God, and through repentance and acceptance of Jesus, we will have eternal life with Almighty God!

sermon study guide

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Have you ever slept through your alarm causing you to be late? What happened?
2. In a court case you are familiar with, when the judge gave the verdict, what was the result? When God passes His final verdict what will it be like?

UP – PURSUE GOD

Read Revelation 8 and 9.

3. What was God's purpose in bringing the seven trumpet judgments? Why do you think people continued to rebel even in the face of such suffering?
4. Identify the parallels between these judgments in Revelation and the plagues of Exodus. What might be God's purpose(s) in making such parallels?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. The fifth trumpet blast brings forth the locusts that affect those out of the fold of faith. They are in agony and torment. What would have prevented this from happening to them? How can we help those outside the fold?
6. Discuss with the group God's purpose(s) in allowing pain. What benefit, if any, has come out of your pain?

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

According to Revelation 8 and 9, God will go to any length and use any means to bring about the repentance of every last person on earth. Yet, most will still deny Him. Are you denying Him? Is God going to the extreme in your life to show you your spiritual lethargy? Are you living for the kingdom of self instead of the Kingdom of God? If so, repent and turn to the Lord with all your heart.

THE WORD (NIV)

Revelation 8:7-13

⁷ The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

⁸ The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, ⁹ a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

¹⁰ The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky 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 turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.

¹² The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.

¹³ As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"

Revelation 9:1, 13-15, 20-21

⁹ The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.

¹³ The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar that is before God. ¹⁴ It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." ¹⁵ And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.

²⁰ The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. ²¹ Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

This week's writers: Asha Phillips, David McMillin, Sandi Somers, Elsa Henderson, Mark Eckstein, and Jorel Quemuel