

sea, and the rivers are under God's judgment. The supply of water is touched by God. Even the fountains of waters are affected. The name of the fallen created item is "wormwood." This is the name of a terribly bitter shrub. It has been used to make an acromatic cocktail. As a consequence, the third of the waters are bitter. Wholesome drink is gone, so many die. The connection of all of this to the O.T. is clear (Ex. 15:22-25; Jer. 9:13-15).

4. THE FOURTH TRUMPET

a. Sound

For the fourth time it is recorded by the Holy Spirit that the trumpet blasts a message of judgment for the world.

b. Content

Here the heavenly bodies fall under the judgment of God. The third part of the sun, moon, and stars get the impact of His purpose. This shows that the luminaries are not gods, but creations of God Himself. Men use these to determine seasons, days, and years, but God uses them as signs and instruments of His judgment.

e. Effect

The purpose of the judgment against these celestial creations is to bring darkness upon the earth. This was also one of the plagues (Ex. 10:21). Pertinently, it is a matter considered for the end times of Israel (Luke 21:25, 26). It is an illustration of the fact that light obeyed increases light, but light resisted brings night!

Conclusion It is true that the steps of God from mercy to judgment are always slow, reluctant and measured. Both eye and ear are brought into the picture (v. 13). A "flying angel" (some MSS read "eagle") is seen and heard. This is an intermission before the next move of God. A three-fold "woe" is enunciated, as if to the Jew, Gentile, and the world! It concerns the "earth-dwellers," a peculiar group of people (3:10; 6:10). The three trumpets to come are so terrible, they are referred to as "woes." Beloved, now is the time to receive Christ and be saved. Rejection of Christ brings judgment for sin. Believe!

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

"The Four Trumpet Judgments"

Revelation 8:6-13

Introduction

1. The seventh seal has been opened (v. 1). The roll is now unfurled so that the entire series of judgments related to the seals is unleashed. We are carried right to the end of the Tribulation Period!

2. Prior to the next series of judgments being revealed, God holds a moratorium on His progress. There is silence in heaven for a half an hour (v. 1). Associated with this silence is the presentation of the seven presence angels (v. 2) and the "other" angel who is probably Christ the Lord. He alone mediates the prayers of the saints (vv. 3, 4).

3. After the wonderful assistance to the prayers of the saints of the Tribulation Period, the Lord takes His censer and fills it with fire from the brazen altar. He casts this upon the earth (v. 5). Hence, the sacrificial death of our Lord being rejected, the place of sacrifice now becomes a place of judgment. The scene is one of horrible terror and judgment.

4. This preparatory work having been accomplished, the presence angels are ready to blow their trumpets. The verb "prepared" suggests that there have been some predetermined arrangements in heaven. Listen to the sound of the trumpets and what they occasion:

1. THE FIRST TRUMPET

a. Sound

The verb used here points to a definitive sound from heaven with the blowing of the trumpet. Like the "voices" (v. 5), this is a distinguishable sound.

b. Content

This trumpet judgment is fearful. Included are hail, fire, and blood. All of these are destructive forces. The hail comes with suddenness and sharpness. The fire is an expression of God's wrath. While many try to make these symbols of some fearful judgment of God, it is quite obvious that these are literal items. To symbolize them is to involve oneself in all kinds of guesswork

as to the meaning. The hail and fire are mixed with blood. The perfect passive form of the verb "mix" shows that here is something superhuman and divine. There is a peculiar aspect to God's divine judgment here.

c. Effect

Three areas are affected: earth, trees, and grass. It is quite obvious that this first trumpet is designed to take a fearful toll on the earth. This is the focal point of the judgment: earth! To limit this to some small corner of the globe is ridiculous. The Tribulation will be world-wide. The verb "cast" is passive voice, indicating that the hail, fire, and blood mixture is divinely brought to the earth. It did not just happen to come upon the earth. Some MSS point out that a third of the earth is affected. This is a large portion and may well refer to some of the nations involved in war at this time (Dan. 11:36-45). The third part of the trees is affected. Vegetation useful for man's commerce is thus touched by this judgment. How the one third computation will be made is easily understood in the light of modern technology. The idea of one third is found 12 times in connection with the trumpet judgments. That "all grass" is burned up like the trees shows a complete destruction of this necessary vegetation. The verb is an emphatic form of the verb and used three times in this one verse!

NOTE: The plagues in Egypt were similar to this first trumpet (Ex. 9:18-26). Prophetic Scriptures indicate this sort of thing will take place in the end times (Joel 2: 30, 31). The facts fit and the picture of the pretribulation premillennial truth takes on forceful support.

2. THE SECOND TRUMPET

a. Sound

It is specifically stated here again that the angel sounded. A distinct sound is heard in all the earth.

b. Content

The first trumpet has genuine items of hail, fire, and blood. Here, however, it is stated that something is seen "as" a great mountain. Hence, this does not mean a true mountain is in view. What does appear is like one! It is huge. This is probably a meteoric mass coming down from above. This is not a volcano. The size of this

meteor is beyond comprehension. The fire burning is constant for the present tense of the verb is used. This mass was cast down. The passive voice again marks that here is a fantastic movement of God in judgment. This time, however, the judgment moves to the sea. The use of the definite article with "sea" suggests "sea" as opposed to "earth."

c. Effect

Three times the third part is mentioned in this trumpet judgment. The first has to do with the sea turning to blood. This shows that there has been a change of water to blood (cf. Ex. 7:19-21). God moves here at one of the very vitals of life. By this means the living beings in the water are affected and die. The stench and problem of having one third of the living creatures in the water dead is unbelievable. If this is extended world-wide, the thought is incomprehensibly terrible. The use of the phrase about the creatures having life is essential to the dramatic picture. The present participle used in this phrase points to their persistent life which is now removed from them! Ships also suffer. The verb is a compound one meaning to consume or destroy. The perfective use of the preposition prefixed to the verb stem makes this a very strong verb.

NOTE: That the items written here have eschatological significance is obvious (Hos. 4:1-3; Zeph. 1:3; Isa. 26:9).

3. THE THIRD TRUMPET

a. Sound

For the third time a distinct sound is suggested by the verb. Trumpets are expected to be heard!

b. Content

It is very likely that the "great star" here is also a meteor. Some celestial creation of God "falls" to the earth here. The previous two trumpet sounds involved something being "cast" to the earth. The use of the definite article with "heaven" may suggest the specificness of God's authority in heaven. This meteor burned like a torch.

c. Effect

Here the rivers are affected. Now, the earth, the