



A VISION OF JUDGEMENT

Sermon Notes

Text: Revelation 8-10

Intro:

The genre of Revelation is "Apocalyptic Literature"

Luke 12:49 - Jesus' first coming was a coming of blessing. His second coming will be a coming of judgement.

Rev. 6:10

In the Bible, trumpets were regularly used as a warning system (Joel 2:1; Ezekiel 33:2-5)

The judgement of Revelation 8-10 is a limited judgement

The trumpets are blown to warn the world of pending total judgement

Trumpets 1-4 (Natural forces going wild)

- Reminiscent of the plagues of Egypt

When God allows nature to go berserk like this it reveals the weaknesses of human power structures.

God's judgement is being acted out on the stage of history

Trumpets 5, 6 (The release of demonic forces)

- Revelation 9:1; Isaiah 14:12 (Satan is the falling star)
- Revelation 9:7-10 - demonic forces let loose to terrorize humankind (but not those who are sealed - v. 5)

If we get too upset over God's acts of judgement, then we haven't fully considered the seriousness of sin.

How do we respond to these scenes of judgement?

1. We are free to not be the judges of the universe

"It's the Holy Spirit's job to convict, God's job to judge and my job to love" ~Billy Graham

2. We must keep proclaiming the word of God

Revelation 9:20-21; 10:11

3. We must continue to repent of our sin

"Repentance is more than just expressing regret...It is a radical, heartfelt, gut wrenching turning away from the idols which promise delight but provide death." ~N.T. Wright

4. We must keep praying, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Conclusion:

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Do you watch any shows like *American Idol*, *X-Factor* or *The Voice*? These shows are about people performing in front of judges who comment about their talent (or lack). Why do people like these sorts of shows? Why do we enjoy judging each other so much? How do you feel when you are judged?
2. What stood out to you about Sunday's sermon? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Revelation 8:6-13 and 9:1-6 - Sometimes we have a hard time picturing God allowing the kind of death and destruction these scenes describe. Do these scenes of God's judgement bother you in any way? Do you think they would bother your non-Christian friends if they read them? Why do people cringe at the idea of divine judgement?
2. Trumpets 1-4 (8:7-12) looks a lot like vividly imagined natural disasters. Do you think natural disasters are a part of God's judgement? What about when "innocent" people (or even Christians) are killed in them?
3. What is repentance (read 2 Chronicles 7:14 for a good biblical description)? What role does it continue to play in the life of the Christian?

Application:

1. Remembering that God is the judge of the universe (and not you!) frees us to stop judging and focus on loving people. How will you work on becoming less judgmental and more loving this week?

Prayer:

- Pray for forgiveness, and thank Jesus for taking your judgement upon himself.

Other Requests

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