

Lesson 15: Chapter 8

“Who can stand?” This was the question that was posed from those in the 6th seal who are under the wrath of God. This 6th seal paints for the reader a picture of what *“the day of the Lord”* will be like. This will be a day unlike any other as we clearly read about in **Revelation 6**. Rich or poor, powerful or weak there will no longer be any distinction between class among the people. The Day of the Lord is the culmination of all of history coming to the end of this age and a day in which the wrath of God will be poured out with justice and equity. Praise God that we know the answer to who can stand. **Revelation 7** gives us a beautiful picture of who can stand. It is those who *“have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”*. Only by the free gift of salvation by grace through faith are we able to stand before the Lord through His holy and righteous judgement. Not only are we able to stand, but we will be leaping and bowing to God Almighty as we walk with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We will no longer hunger, thirst, or experience sorrow. Oh what a day that will be! Lord Jesus, come quickly we pray!



[1] When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. [2] Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. [3] And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, [4] and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. [5] Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake. [6] Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them. [7] The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. [8] The second angel blew his trumpet, and

something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. [9] A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. [10] The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell 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 became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter. [12] The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night. [13] Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!”

(Revelation 8, ESV)

Silence in Heaven (v. 1)

As the lamb opens the 7th seal the scene falls to a complete hush. Silence. This total silence is not waiting for something else to take place, but rather is truly what is due before God Almighty.

But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.” (Habakkuk 2:20, ESV)

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near (Zephaniah 1:7, ESV)

There is only one appropriate response as all creation is in worshipful awestruck reverence before the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, for who He is and what He has done for us.

Imagine that glorious day!

Setting the Scene for Judgement (vv. 2-6)

Following the heels of this reverent and worshipful silence in heaven, John sets the stage for the dramatic unfolding of the trumpet judgments. **Revelation 8:2-6** highlight several key themes to these trumpet blasts.

2 Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

Divine Preparation

The 7 angels standing before God, each receiving a trumpet, signals that a significant moment of divine intervention is about to begin. Trumpets in biblical tradition often announce judgment, war, or a call to repentance.

3 And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, 4 and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.

Intercession and Judgment

The angel at the altar, offering incense with the prayers of the saints, clearly demonstrates that the prayers of believers play a role in God's unfolding plan. The prayers of the believers here in **Revelation 8** ties back to the scene in **Revelation 6**. The rising smoke symbolizes these prayers reaching God, reinforcing the idea that divine justice is not arbitrary but responds to human cries for righteousness. (*Thoughts from Acts 10*)

5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

Fiery Consequences

The angel then takes fire from the altar and casts it upon the earth, triggering thunder, rumblings, lightning, and an earthquake. This imagery echoes Old Testament moments where God's presence is accompanied by cosmic disturbances **Exodus 19:16-19**:

16 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. 17 Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. 19 And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder.

These fiery consequences of that judgment are not merely symbolic but have tangible, earth-shaking effects.

Echoes of Old Testament Prophecy

The combination of fire, thunder, and earthquakes aligns with prophetic warnings such as in **Ezekiel 10:2**, **Joel 2:30**, and **Psalms 18:7-15**, where God's power is displayed through natural upheavals.

30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. 32 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

This passage in **Revelation 8** is a recapitulation between the 7 seals from **Revelation 6** and the trumpet judgments in **Revelation 8-9**, emphasizing that divine justice is both measured and responsive to the prayers of the faithful. It also reinforces the idea that God's actions are deliberate, not chaotic. He is in control of all and is doing all for His Glory!

Judgment of Creation (vv. 7-12)

Revelation 8 marks a turning point in the apocalyptic narrative. Just as the 7th seal opens, a profound silence falls over heaven—a moment that heightens the sense of impending judgment. Almost immediately, a series of trumpet blasts begin, each unleashing a specific catastrophe on the earth. These trumpets serve as divine signals indicating that almost nothing in creation is immune to God's sober oversight, and that judgment is both methodical and purposeful. The trumpets in **Revelation 8** have deep symbolic meaning, and different interpretations often draw from other parts of Scripture to support their views. Here are some key verses that might help defend interpretations:

- **Numbers 10:9** – Trumpets were used in the Old Testament to call upon God for deliverance from enemies.
- **Jeremiah 4:5–6, 19–21** – Trumpets were sounded as warnings and preparations for war.
- **Joel 2:1** – Trumpets serve as a call to repentance and an alert for impending judgment.
- **Joshua 6:13–27** – The story of Jericho's fall after the sounding of trumpets can be seen as a parallel to the judgments in Revelation.
- **Revelation 9:20–21** – The sixth trumpet highlights why God is punishing the world, emphasizing the need for repentance.
- **2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 33:11** – These verses reinforce the idea that God's judgments are meant to lead people to repentance! God desires that none should perish and is longsuffering, but He has created those whom He has chosen to save in His great mercy and those whom He has chosen for destruction.
- **Zechariah 2:13; Habakkuk 2:20** – Silence before judgment, which aligns with the opening of the seventh seal in **Revelation 8**.

These passages can help frame the meaning of the trumpets as warnings, calls to repentance, and divine judgments.

The First Trumpet

7 The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

Hail and fire mixed with blood are cast down upon the earth. The result is the burning of 1/3 of the earth's trees and vegetation. This imagery calls to mind potent forces of nature turned wild and uncontrollable, symbolizing not just ecological destruction, but perhaps also the loss of spiritual vitality. The blending of elements—hail (a sign of sudden, frigid shock), fire (representing purification yet also devastation), and blood (often a symbol of life and sacrifice) shows that even the natural world is imbued with divine intent and judgment.

To support the meaning of the 1st trumpet in **Revelation 8:7**, here are some relevant scriptures that align with the imagery and themes:

- **Exodus 9:23–25** – The plague of hail and fire in Egypt serves as a precedent for divine judgment through natural elements.
- **Joel 2:30–31** – Signs in the heavens, including fire and blood, are linked to the Day of the Lord.
- **Isaiah 28:2** – Hail is described as an instrument of God's wrath.
- **Psalms 97:3–5** – Fire goes before the Lord, consuming His enemies.
- **Ezekiel 38:22** – God uses hailstones, fire, and brimstone in judgment.
- **Malachi 4:1** – The burning of the wicked is foretold, reinforcing the theme of purification through fire.

These passages help frame the trumpet as a warning and judgment, emphasizing destruction, divine purpose, and a call for repentance. God's judgements to the Egyptians, Israelites, and all nations has always been for the purpose of repentance! Just as a father disciplines his own son with the intent to have him obey so God brings judgement and discipline with the hope of repentance. God has granted a means of salvation from judgement through His son!!

The Second Trumpet

8 The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. 9 A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

A great burning mountain is thrown into the sea, resulting in 1/3 of the sea turning to blood. This causes the death of 1/3 of marine life and the destruction of countless ships. Mountains in biblical literature are symbols of stability and strength; their transformation into a burning, destructive force emphasizes that even the foundational elements of creation are vulnerable.

In defense of the meaning of the 2nd trumpet in **Revelation 8:8–9**, here are some relevant scriptures that align with its imagery and themes:

- **Jeremiah 51:24–25** – Babylon is described as a “destroying mountain” that will be made a “burnt mountain,” reinforcing the idea of a great power being cast down.
- **Exodus 7:20–21** – The first plague in Egypt turned the waters to blood, mirroring the sea’s transformation in Revelation.
- **Psalms 46:2–3** – Mountains being cast into the sea symbolize upheaval and divine intervention.
- **Nahum 1:4–6** – God’s wrath affects the seas and the land, showing His power over creation.
- **Daniel 2:34–35** – A stone strikes a great statue, causing it to crumble like a mountain, symbolizing divine judgment on earthly kingdoms.

This trumpet highlights the theme that even the most seemingly enduring aspects of our world will be unsettled by GOD’S authority. There is no amount of money, power, person, government, false religion, science that is above God Almighty! He is Lord of all!

The Third Trumpet

10 The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. 12 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.

A mighty star, given the name Wormwood, falls from heaven, poisoning 1/3 of the waters—rivers and springs alike—making them bitter and causing many to die. The name “Wormwood” is laden with symbolism. In biblical context, bitterness often relates to judgment or calamity. This passage can be read as a warning about both physical harms (to water, a vital element for life) and spiritual corruption—suggesting that divine judgment permeates all aspects of existence, corrupting what is ordinarily life-sustaining.

In support of this meaning of the 3rd trumpet in **Revelation 8:10–11**, here are some relevant scriptures that align with its imagery and themes:

- **Jeremiah 9:15** – God declares He will feed His people with wormwood and give them poisoned water to drink, reinforcing the theme of judgment.
- **Jeremiah 23:15** – False prophets lead people astray, and God responds by making them drink wormwood, symbolizing corruption and divine retribution.
- **Deuteronomy 29:18** – Wormwood is associated with turning away from God and embracing idolatry, leading to bitter consequences.
- **Amos 5:7** – Justice is turned into bitterness, showing how corruption can poison what should be righteous.
- **Lamentations 3:15, 19** – Wormwood is linked to suffering and affliction, emphasizing the consequences of disobedience.

These passages help frame the trumpet as a warning against spiritual corruption, emphasizing both physical and moral consequences. What a vivid picture here of God’s judgment to those who refuse to drink from the springs of truth and indulge in the living water from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Those who do not bow the knee to the Son and commit acts of sinful idolatry and serve

their wicked desires with worldly pleasures will not drink from the fountains of life, but rather will be drowned in bitter waters of judgment.

The Fourth Trumpet

12 The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.

1/3 of the celestial bodies—namely, the sun, moon, and stars—are darkened. The resulting cosmic disturbance produces an atmosphere of terror and uncertainty. Darkness often serves as a metaphor for divine mystery or the eclipsing of truth by judgment. The partial darkening (again, 1/3 of these celestial bodies) conveys a message that while judgment is severe, it is also measured, implying that God's actions are deliberate rather than entirely capricious or indiscriminate. In argument for the meaning of the 4th trumpet in **Revelation 8:12**, here are some relevant scriptures that align with its imagery and themes:

- **Exodus 10:21–23** – The plague of darkness in Egypt serves as a precedent for divine judgment through the absence of light.
- **Isaiah 13:10** – The sun, moon, and stars are darkened as a sign of God's impending judgment.
- **Ezekiel 32:7–8** – God declares He will darken the heavens, reinforcing the theme of cosmic upheaval.
- **Joel 2:31** – The sun turning to darkness and the moon to blood is linked to the Day of the Lord.
- **Amos 8:9** – God warns that He will darken the earth in broad daylight, symbolizing divine intervention.
- **Matthew 24:29** – Jesus speaks of celestial disturbances as signs of the end times.

These passages show the trumpet as a warning of divine judgment, emphasizing both cosmic disruption and measured intent as darkness begins to fall upon those who have rejected Christ. Recall Christ's words during the parable of the wedding feast.

11 But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. 12 And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 For many are called, but few are chosen. (Matthew 22:11-14, ESV)

This seems to be a clear picture of spiritual darkness that is even now throughout the world as so many are walking in the “domain of darkness” and the opportunity to be transferred to the “kingdom of light” is still available, for now, but for how much longer, none now except the Father. Once the end is here, there will only be those who spend eternity with Christ, where we will have so much light from Him that there will be no need of a sun. If not, there is a terrifying reality of complete darkness and eternal judgement from a **HOLY** and **RIGHTEOUS GOD**.

The Eagle's Cry: The Woes (v.13)

13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!”

This is a striking moment in the unfolding of the trumpet judgments. Here are some key insights into its meaning:

The Eagle's Cry – Some translations refer to an "angel," but many scholars favor "eagle" based on manuscript evidence. The eagle is often associated with swiftness, judgment, and divine warning (see **Deuteronomy 28:49** and **Hosea 8:1**). Its loud proclamation emphasizes the severity of what is to come.

The Threefold Woe – The repetition of "woe" intensifies the warning. In biblical literature, repetition often signals urgency and certainty (e.g., [Isaiah 6:3](#), "Holy, holy, holy"). These woes correspond to the final 3 trumpet blasts, which will bring even greater devastation.

Judgment on Earth's Inhabitants – The phrase "*those who dwell on the earth*" often refers to unrepentant humanity rather than believers. This suggests that the coming judgments are directed at those who have rejected God's warnings.

Transition to the Next Trumpets – This verse serves as a bridge between the first 4 trumpets, primarily affecting nature, and the last 3, which directly impact humanity.

The intensity of judgment is about to escalate.

Conclusion

The dramatic and catastrophic imagery of the trumpets in [Revelation 8](#) is intended not merely to instill fear but also to call believers to deep introspection and urgency. As followers of Christ we are called to be holy, sanctified, students of the word, mature in Christ, and living lives of readiness for the Lord's return. The vivid descriptions of the trumpets serve as stern warnings. They remind listeners that while judgment is imminent, there is an underlying call to repentance and transformation. The trumpets symbolize a moment of unavoidable reckoning and a terrifying judgement. At the same time, there is much mercy, as the Lord is urging the people of every tribe and nation to bend the knee to the King.

1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 and being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:1-11, ESV)

The truth is that all will bow before Christ. Either in worshipful admiration or in fearful subjugation of a jealous, holy, righteous, and vengeful Creator.

Brothers and sisters, if you have been bought by the blood of Christ and been sealed by the Holy Spirit then rest in knowing that you are redeemed and are safe from the judgement that is to come. Use your time to look at your hearts and with real introspection on how you're living your life. Are you serving the King? Are you following the mandate of the Great Commission? Are you being diligent in spending time in prayer, knowing that the prayers of the saints are not forgotten but rather are memorials set before the Lord?