

## Trouble With Trumpets

The 7<sup>th</sup> seal of the judgment scroll is broken and instead of being the last of 7 judgments the 7<sup>th</sup> judgment is 7 more—7 trumpets.

Let's pick it up where we left off last week.

**<sup>5</sup> Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake. (Rev. 8:5)**

A multitude of earthquakes can affect the ecosystem of the region.

From midnight Monday morning, through late afternoon Tuesday, the Icelandic Meteorological Office detected about 900 earthquakes between **Grindavik** and **Sundhnukur**.

The minister of foreign affairs in Iceland posted this on X (formerly Twitter) on Sunday.



As of 6pm last night they are saying the number of earthquakes is now in the thousands with a volcanic eruption from the **Fagradalsfjall Volcano** (which had been dormant for 6300 years until 2019 when it seemed to awaken again. Activity suddenly accelerated on Oct. 24. Since that day approximately 8,000 earthquakes have been detected.).

In the Old Testament Trumpets were used for several things:

**First**, in the Old Testament liturgy trumpets were used for ceremonial processions, particularly as an escort for the Ark of the Covenant. (An example would be Israel marching around Jericho.)

**Second**, they were also used to proclaim the rule of a new king. John's 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet is a signal for the heavenly choir to begin to sing their coronation anthem. (Rev. 11:15)

**Third**, trumpets sounded an alarm warning Israel of approaching judgment and urging national repentance. (A call of warfare and worship.)

So, the horrors of the Great Tribulation are about to intensify with the earthquakes, lightning and thunder being the precursor of the trumpets announcing the coming of the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation which is referred to as "The Wrath of the Lamb."

**(Rev 8:6-7) <sup>6</sup> And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them. <sup>7</sup> The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet** 1/3 of all vegetation is destroyed by hail and fire—Loss of oxygen and food.

This is similar to the 7<sup>th</sup> plague that came upon Egypt. (Exodus 9:22-26)

The hail and fire could be from volcanic eruptions or meteor showers, we can only speculate. The word "trees" is fruit trees and wheat, rye, and barley are types of grass but used for bread. Everybody just assumes there will always be oxygen.....we in America assume there will always be food.

**(Rev 8:8,9) <sup>8</sup> The second angel sounded, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood, <sup>9</sup> and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet** 1/3 of the earth's salt water is ruined probably a massive tsunami—loss of seafood, oil, —anything harvested from or shipped by sea. *(In Luke 21:25 Jesus said the seas and waves will roar.)*

This is similar to the first Egyptian plague. (Exodus 7:17-21)

This type of devastation could lead to tidal waves, rotting decaying marine life on all shores, massive oil spills (that could be the reference of blood made here) ....whatever it is there certainly will be biological and economical chaos in the oceans and seas.

**(Rev 8:10-11)** <sup>10</sup> The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. <sup>11</sup> The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Trumpet** 1/3 of the earth's fresh water made undrinkable by a meteor of wormwood—Loss of Drinking Water. (The word 'wormwood' is the Greek word *apsinthos*. Some scholars say this word means bitter others say it mean undrinkable.)

This is also similar to the 1<sup>st</sup> Egyptian plague, but it also parallels Isaiah's prophecy of the fall of Babylon. (Isa. 14:12-15) The point may be that with the Antichrist rising in power Jerusalem has become a Babylon.

*Wormwood is a plant whose leaves are used to make a drink called Absinthe which is an alcoholic beverage that is so toxic and results in so many alcoholic deaths. In 1915 it was banned in the United States and in almost all European countries, with the exception of Spain. However, beginning in the 1990's some European nations begin to discard their own policies and adopt those of the European Union which does not prohibit the sale and consumption. In 2004 Gwydion Stone founded the "Wormwood Society" in American and The United States lifted its ban in 2007.*

This prophecy says drinking water won't just be bitter to the taste it will be deadly to many.

**(Rev 8:12-13)** <sup>12</sup> The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way. <sup>13</sup> Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

**4<sup>th</sup> Trumpet** 1/3 loss of light indicates Satan's increased power over nature—Loss of Natural things such as light, heat, nature, and the opportunity to work. (In Matthew 24:29 Jesus foretold that there would be a loss of light from the sun, moon, and stars.)

This is like the 9<sup>th</sup> Egyptian plague. (Exodus 10:21-23). Also, like the plagues of Egypt the judgments are becoming intensified building up to the last 3 trumpets which is the 3 woes in verse 13. Most likely this 4<sup>th</sup> trumpet as the conditions resulting from the first three trumpets.

Volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, tidal waves, and meteor showers. All these disasters are piling up on each other. Also, it could be that as Satan's power and influence over nature is increasing and he is using it for his unholy cause so that the Antichrist can utilize it in his claim that he is God. God's judgment is continuing to take away the things humanity is ungrateful for and often takes for granted.

**On a side note:** The eagle is a prophetic warning of greater destruction, birds often shown in the Bible as descending upon the rotting flesh of the defeated enemy. (Gen. 15:9-12; Deut. 28:26, 49; Prov. 30:17; Jer. 7:33-34; 16:3-4; 19:7; 34:18-20; Ezek. 39:17-20.)

(Rev 9:1-11) Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him. <sup>2</sup> He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit. <sup>3</sup> Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. <sup>4</sup> They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man. <sup>6</sup> And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them. <sup>7</sup> The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. <sup>8</sup> They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like the teeth of lions. <sup>9</sup> They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle. <sup>10</sup> They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months. <sup>11</sup> They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.

**5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet** (Rev. 9) The boundaries of hell are removed, and the earth is flooded with demonic activity.

This reflects the 8<sup>th</sup> Egyptian plague (Exod. 10:12-15) but these are a different kind of “locusts.”

- These demons, John says are like smoke and locusts. They are visible and there are so many of them they darken the skies like the smoke from a forest fire.
- These things are ugly—human looking faces, gold crown shaped heads, long hair, sharp teeth, wings, armored bodies—probably hard to kill—and stingers on their tails like a scorpion.
- They torment people on the earth for five months....which is the maximum lifespan of a locust.
- They are organized under a king. Abaddon, Apollyon—this is Satan himself.

There is one bright note in verse 4—those who have the “*seal of God*” will not be hurt. God will not pour “*the Wrath of the Lamb*” upon His church so He is going to rapture them out.... but here God is protecting those who have gotten saved during the tribulation period.

**<sup>12</sup> The first woe is past; behold, two woes are still coming after these things. (Rev 9:12)**

This text finds us almost to the middle of the Great Tribulation period and we are reminded that God always watches over his children.

This reminds us of what kind of being the devil is. He is a real foe. ... He has supernatural power and he is using the power he has and the opportunities he gets to destroy people, destroy lives, and destroy creation.

**(Rev 9:13-14) <sup>13</sup> Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar, which is before God, <sup>14</sup> one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."**

### **6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet.**

According to Genesis 2 the Euphrates River ran through the Garden of Eden. Nimrod, the Old Testament type of the antichrist built the tower of Babel alongside the Euphrates River and according to this verse, at this very moment God is restraining four of the most wicked and powerful demons here as well.

We know, based upon Daniel 10:12-21, that these four demonic angels are the ones who empowered the world empires of Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. In God's timing, permission will be given to release them and they will be unleashed upon this earth to fulfill their wicked desires.

This is another reminder of Paul's instruction in Ephesians that our battle is not against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers, rulers, and wickedness in high places. **But here is the upside.** Yes, Satan is wicked, powerful, and evil. **But Satan is on a leash.** He may be sinister but God is sovereign—everything is allowed to happen ONLY as God wills.

**<sup>15</sup> And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind. (Rev 9:15)**

This verse isn't saying that these demonic angels will be released for 13 months it is saying that they will be released in a specific year, in a specific month, on a specific day, at a specific hour. These demonic angels are waiting for the moment when God will release them.

God has a purpose and a plan that is very specific.

- Not one speck of dust moves in this universe unless God gives permission.
- Not one blade of grass moves in the wind unless God O.K's it.

God is sovereignly and strategically moving in this world to accomplish His great will—which has two goals— to bless and reward those who accept Jesus and curse and punish those who reject Jesus.

<sup>16</sup> The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. <sup>17</sup> And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: *the riders* had breastplates *the color* of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone. <sup>18</sup> A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths. <sup>19</sup> For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm. <sup>20</sup> The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; <sup>21</sup> and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts. (Rev. 9:16-21)

The people of earth have so completely given themselves over to the evil that they cannot repent even in the face of clear warning and judgment.

We will come to the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet next week.