

"After the Rapture"

Part 4

Revelation 8-9, 16

Introduction: For the last three weeks we have been looking at a series of messages that are focused upon life on the earth after the Rapture. In the past three studies we have looked at the Seal Judgments and the first four Trumpet Judgments. The Seal Judgments will happen in the first three- and one-half years of the Tribulation and the Trumpet Judgements start at the mid-point of the Tribulation.

Revelation 8:1-5

And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

² And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

³ And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

⁴ And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

⁵ And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

There are two points we need to notice here. The silence is in anticipation of what is about to happen as the Trumpet Judgments sound out. The other point we need to see is that with the smoke of the incense THE PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS ascended up before God.

These are the prayers of the saints for over thousands of years that have been offered. Let us notice some examples of the cries of the saints.

Genesis 4:8-10

⁸ And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

⁹ And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

¹⁰ And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

Psalm 9:11-12

¹¹ Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings.

¹² When he maketh inquisition for blood, he remembereth them: he forgetteth not the cry of the humble.

Luke 18:7-8a

⁷ And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

⁸ I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.

The prayers which we offer to God are never forgotten. When we pray for God to judge the world for their evil the prayers will one day be answered.

In our study last week, we stopped at Revelation 8:12. Today I want to begin with Revelation 8:13.

**I. The Trumpet Judgments
Part 2**

➤ **Warning to the earthlings.**

Notice Revelation 8:13

Here is a warning given by God to the inhabitants of the earth concerning the last three trumpets. Each of the next three judgments will be "WOES". When God pronounces a WOE, we can be sure that we would want nothing to do with it.

1. Trumpet #5 - Releasing of Demons.

Notice Revelation 9:1-6

When this trumpet sounds a key is given to an angel and he unlocks the bottomless pit. From this pit comes smoke that darkens the sky which tells us this is a literal fire, so the abyss is a literal place that exists today.

Out of the smoke comes locusts that have power like that of scorpions. These are demons that have been locked up in the abyss and now they are released upon the earth. They will not have the authority to kill men, but they will torment all who have not the mark of God.

Now, today demons are invisible to you and me, but these will be given bodies.

Notice Revelation 9:7-10

These creatures will be terrifying.

Luke 21:25-26

²⁵ *And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;*

²⁶ **Men's hearts failing them for fear**, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

Now I want to show you what Joel recorded concerning the LOCUSTS. Now we must understand that Joel is writing about three events here:

1. A literal plague of locusts.
2. The invasion of the Syrians.
3. The future Tribulation period.

Joel 2:1-11

*Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for **the day of the LORD cometh**, for it is nigh at hand;*

² *A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: **a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.***

³ *A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.*

⁴ *The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run.*

⁵ *Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.*

⁶ Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.

⁷ They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:

⁸ Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.

⁹ They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.

¹⁰ The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

¹¹ And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

Notice Revelation 9:11-12

Apollyon means DESTROYER. This army will be led by a Captain who will be known as DESTROYER.

2. Trumpet #6 - Demonic Army

Notice Revelation 9:12-19

When this trumpet sounds 4 angels are loosed from the Euphrates River. They will organize an army of 200 million demons. This army will sweep across the face of the earth terrorizing people and they will kill one third of the world's population.

The fact that there are 4 angels tells us this is a global judgment because 4 is the number of the earth.

The horses are also demonic in this judgment.

If we combine this with the fourth Seal Judgment in which one fourth of the world dies, the total after this judgment is now over one half of the world's population will have died.

There are almost 8 billion people on the earth today and so after this judgment 4 billion are dead.

Notice Revelation 9:20-21

Here we see that man will have hardened his heart and he will refuse to repent. The word "sorceries" in verse 21 refers to witchcraft and drug use.

Listen to the words of Henry Morris:

"During the awful days of the tribulation, the breakdown of law and order will mean that there will be no more restraints on drug use. Furthermore, the fearful judgments on the earth will drive many to drugs as a form of escapism. The merchants of the earth will gladly cooperate because of the great profits involved."

3. Trumpet #7 - The Bowl Judgments

Notice Revelation 11:15

Notice Revelation 15:5-8

I want to point your attention to something here that we all need to see.

During these last seven plagues God will shut Himself in the temple and no one will be permitted to enter. What is this about?

Listen to the words of Barnhouse:

"What insight we should have here of the holiness of God, and may we not be allowed to think that behind this hiding smoke the heart of God is weeping, even as the Lord Jesus wept over Jerusalem, as He acknowledged that all the efforts of His mercy has been in vain, and that the city refused all of His offers of pardon and love? And as we shall be in Heaven at that moment, yet outside of the presence of God, shall we not know that he suffers alone for the horror of the sin that separates men forever from Himself and forces Him to send them away to outer darkness forever?"

4. Bowl Judgment #1 - Sores upon man.

Notice Revelation 16:1-2

The first Bowl contains a noisome and grievous sore that will fall upon one specific group of people. The words NOISOME and GRIEVOUS mean **foul** and **evil**. This is most likely a plague of ulcers. These are very painful abscesses that God strikes these people with.

5. Bowl Judgment #2 - All ocean life dies.

Notice Revelation 16:3

This will destroy the remaining food supply in the ocean.

6. Bowl Judgment #3 - Fresh water turned to blood.

Notice Revelation 15:4-7

7. Bowl Judgment #4 - Excessive heat.

Notice Revelation 15:8-9

8. Bowl Judgment #5 - Darkness

Notice Revelation 15:10-11

9. Bowl Judgment #6 - Demonic deception

Notice Revelation 15:12-16

10. Bowl Judgment #7 - Widespread destruction

Notice Revelation 15:17-21

Conclusion:

God has made a way for you to escape these judgments.

Jesus Christ died to pay your sin debt and if you will accept Him as your Savior you will never face the Great Tribulation.

Let me show you the promise for the saved.

Revelation 21:1-7

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

² *And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

³ *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

⁴ *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

⁵ *And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*

⁶ *And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*

⁷ *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*