

“The Seven Trumpets of Judgment.”

October 20, 2024

Text: Rev 8:6-11:19

Sermon Series: “The Unveiling: The Revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Pastor Dave Hentschel

Preterist Overview:

- In the preterist approach, the first four trumpets correspond to the disasters inflicted by the Romans on the Jews in the Jewish War (AD 66-70) The fifth trumpet probably depicts the demonic spirits rendering the besieged Jews irrational and self destructive. The sixth trumpet refers to the Roman armies, who destroyed Jerusalem slaughtered or deported all the Jews.

Futurist Overview:

- The futurist sees these trumpet judgments as calamities that will be endured by the unrepentant inhabitants of the earth during the coming 7-year tribulation. These may be supernatural judgments direct from the hand of God or merely the disastrous effects of man’s improper stewardship of the earth and his abuse of technology (such as nuclear weapons).

I. The First Four Trumpets: Natural and Cosmic Disasters (Revelation 8:6-13)

- **Key Idea:** The first four trumpets bring devastation upon the earth—land, sea, fresh water, and the heavens.
 - **Explanation:**
 - 1st Trumpet (8:7): Hail and fire mixed with blood—destruction of vegetation.
 - 2nd Trumpet (8:8-9): Burning mountain thrown into the sea—sea turns to blood.
 - 3rd Trumpet (8:10-11): Wormwood—contamination of the fresh waters.
 - 4th Trumpet (8:12): Darkness over the sun, moon, and stars.
 - **Application:** These judgments remind us that creation itself groans under the weight of sin (Romans 8:22), and God’s judgment affects every aspect of life.
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II. The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets: Spiritual and Physical Torment (Rev 9:1-21)

- **Key Idea:** These trumpets introduce torment and destruction through demonic forces and plagues.
 - **Explanation:**
 - 5th Trumpet (9:1-11): The locusts from the abyss—demonic torment but not death.
 - 6th Trumpet (9:13-21): The release of four angels to kill a third of humanity with plagues.
 - **Application:** Spiritual and physical affliction are signs of God’s call to repentance. Humanity’s *refusal* to repent (9:20-21) is a key theme here.
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III. The Little Scroll and the Two Witnesses: God's Sovereign Plan Continues (Revelation 10:1-11:14)

- **Key Idea:** God's message is bittersweet. The scroll represents both judgment and hope, while the two witnesses represent God's continued call to repentance through testimony.
 - **Explanation:**
 - The Angel and the Little Scroll (10:1-11): John's experience of the scroll being sweet and bitter reflects the dual nature of the gospel—sweet in salvation but bitter in judgment.
 - The Two Witnesses (11:1-14): There are several views here, perhaps symbolic of God's witnesses to a hostile world, and their resurrection points to God's ultimate triumph over evil.
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IV. The Seventh Trumpet: The Kingdom of God Proclaimed (Revelation 11:15-19)

- **Key Idea:** The seventh trumpet signals the climax of history—the proclamation of God's kingdom and the final victory of Christ.
- **Explanation:**
 - The kingdom of the world becomes the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ (11:15).
 - The response in heaven is worship and the declaration of God's reign.
 - The temple in heaven is opened, and the ark of the covenant is revealed, symbolizing God's faithfulness to His covenant promises.

Conclusion: A Call to Repentance and Hope

- The trumpet judgments show us both the horror of sin and the justice of God.
- The call to repentance is urgent, as seen in humanity's continued refusal.
- God's sovereignty is evident in His unfolding plan of judgment and salvation.

Reflection Questions:

1. How do you see the consequences of sin playing out in the world today, as mirrored in the trumpet judgments?
2. What does it mean for you to live as a witness in a world that resists the gospel?
3. How does the promise of Christ's ultimate victory give you hope in the midst of trials?