



Revelation 8

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4 Trumpets

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Class notes, info & Directory posted to www.SJCalvaryBerean.com or scan the QR code



- i. **Help Take Back Our School Boards from Liberal, Anti-Family Trustees**
 - a. marc.cooperwghs@gmail.com or call him at 510-759-8502.
- ii. **Family Research Council Pray for America campaign:**
 - a. <https://www.frc.org/get.cfm?c=CHECKOUT>
- iii. **Regent University's '40 Days of Prayer & Fasting'**
 - a. <https://www.regent.edu/news/40-days-of-prayer/>
- iv. **"Reagan" documentary, starring Dennis Quaid** to be released August 30
 - a. <https://www.reagan.movie/>
- v. **Calvary Wednesday Night 'Prophecy Updates'**: 7:00-8:30, also available online, on YouTube & the app
- vi. **Joe & Jill Novelo: YWAM Ships (Kona)** - jnovelo@mac.com or (954) 937-0270
- vii. **Understanding The Times:** Jan Markell interviews Michele Bachmann to discuss the reality of the Deep State. We have a shadow government run by dark forces who have "pushed the button" for global government. Do we have time to turn things around? The cover has been pulled back. Also discussed:
 - a. How deep does the 'Deep State' go? Why the Left can openly make threats against a former President (a FELONY) with impunity; Was the Democrat nominee democratically selected? How DEI & 'wokeness' has eroded the Secret Service
 - b. **Not on YouTube this week due to YouTube 'topic censorship'**
OliveTreeViews: <https://bit.ly/31WMM0s> **Rumble:** <https://tinyurl.com/34p5nvme>
 - c. To sign up for **Regent's 40 Days of Prayer**, send an email to pray@regent.edu.
- viii. **Curtis Bowers Agenda Weely:** "The Don McAlvany Story, Part 2" <https://tinyurl.com/4repan5h>
- ix. **Netanyahu delivers 5th Speech to Congress** - <https://tinyurl.com/bdzh8466>

II. Revelation 8: The First Four Trumpets

- a. **Verse 1: ... silence**
 - i. **Why emphasize the silence?** Speculation: "breathing space," ... or, the angels are silent so the prayers of the saints can be heard, ... or to hear the cry of the martyrs; but no clear Biblical defined reason for the silence.
 - ii. More likely, this **silence in heaven** demonstrates a sober, awestruck silence at the judgments about to come
 - iii. Contrast the silence with the prior constant praise & worship of God (Revelation 4:8-11)
 - iv. **Why half an hour? Why not 15 minutes or one hour?** Again, no clear answer given, but the Greek is specific to ½ hour ("Hemiorion")
 - v. Interestingly enough, this is the ONLY instance of a "half hour" mentioned in Scripture.
- b. **Verses 2-4 Seven Angels / Seven Trumpets**
 - i. In the OT, **trumpets** (1) sounded the alarm for war & threw the enemy into confusion, or (2) called for the assembly of God's people.
 - ii. These **seven trumpets** will sound as God's battle-alarm during the tribulation.
 - iii. **"A golden censer... the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God"**: Prayer & incense are often associated in the Bible. The idea is that just as incense is precious, pleasant, & drifts to heaven... as our prayers do. So here, before any event happens at the opening of the seventh seal, our prayers come before the Lord God.
 - iv. **"The prayers of the saints"** set in motion the coming consummation of history. "More potent, more powerful than all the dark and mighty powers let loose in the world, more powerful than anything else, is the power of prayer set ablaze by the fire of God and cast upon the earth." (Torrance)
- c. **Verses 3-6 ... Incense & "prayers of all the saints"**
 - i. **2 Peter 3:10-12** says we "**hasten the coming of the day of God**" by our holy conduct & godly lives. We can hasten the Lord's coming by prayer, as Daniel prayed for speedy fulfillment of prophecy regarding captive Israel (**Daniel 9**), we can & should pray "**Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**" (**Revelation 22:20**)
 - ii. **"So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound"**: We waited for the seven seals to be opened and saw them loosed one by one. But when the seventh seal was finally loosed, the end did not immediately come. It set in motion **seven trumpets** that signal judgements.

- iii. In considering how the seals and the trumpets relate to each other, **some believe they are poetic & repetitive, and John describes the same events with different words and details in both the seal and trumpet judgments.**
- d. **Symbolism & Repetitive Events from Chapter 6?**
- i. "This is typical of John's method. He goes over the ground again and again, each time teaching us something new. There is more to the End than we can readily take in. Every series of visions brings out new facets of it." - (L. Morris, cited by David Guzik's Commentary on Revelation)
 - ii. Re the claim of symbolism & duplication by some: John records a report from eternity. **It's important to emphasize these are real events.**
 - iii. "The truth is, if *earth, trees, and grass* do not mean earth, trees, and grass, no man can tell what they mean. Letting go the literal signification of the record, we launch out upon an endless sea of sheer conjecture."
- 'The Apocalypse: A Series of Special Lectures' - Joseph Augustus Seiss · 1882
- e. **Verse 7 ... The First of Four Trumpets**
- i. **The first trumpet brings a plague on vegetation.**
 - ii. "***Hail and fire followed, mingled with blood***": may refer to the *color* or the *result* of the phenomenon described here. We don't know if the **hail and fire** was red in color or if it brought forth red blood.
 - iii. "***A third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up***": **How will this happen?** Many commentaries mentioned nuclear war, fallout, pollution, meteors, etc. These ideas are interesting & possible, but they should never explain away **God brings judgment.** He's not a passive bystander... **HE IS THE SOURCE & INITIATOR OF JUDGEMENT TO OUR SIN.**
- f. **Verses 8-9 ... The Second Trumpet - a plague on the sea**
- i. "***Then 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. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed***".
 - ii. John clearly said this is not an actual mountain, but it was a blazing mass as large as a mountain.
 - iii. "***And a third of the sea became blood***": Here, **1/3 of the living creatures die & 1/3 of the ships are destroyed.** The "blood" may be either the *cause* or the *effect* of the widespread death in the oceans of the world.
- g. **Verses 10-11 ... The 3rd Trumpet - a plague of fresh water**
- i. "***A great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch***": We may immediately think of a comet or meteor crashing into the earth and bringing ecological disaster. But God may have something else in mind also.
 - ii. "***The name of the star is Wormwood***": Wormwood is a very bitter substance, & proverbial for bitterness and sadness.
 - iii. "***A third of the rivers... a third of the waters***": Notice the *proportion* (1/3) of the disasters stay the same in all the Trumpet Judgements (verses 7, 8-9, 10-11, & 12).
 - iv. Note: Chernobyl can be translated to 'Wormwood', but more accurately "Dark Weed"
- h. **Verse 12 ... The Fourth Trumpet - a plague on the heavens**
- i. "***A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night***": This doesn't describe a 1/3 lessening of light, but 1/3 of the day & night are plunged into absolute darkness. As Jesus said: "***the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light***" ([Matthew 24:29](#)).
 - ii. "***Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet***": The angel's woes are well founded, because 1/3 of the earth's population will die in the next 3 trumpets.
 - iii. **Note:** The ancient Greek words for ***angel*** ("angelos") and ***eagle*** ("aetos") are very close in spelling. Some ancient manuscripts say that it is an eagle "***flying through the midst of heaven***", making this cry.
- i. **Verse 13 ... Final Observations on the first 4 Trumpets**
- i. These first 4 trumpets **show the possible TOTALITY of God's judgment.** He removes all the earthly means of subsistence, such as food & water; **He removes consistency & 'normalcy'** (i.e. light & the regular rhythm of days)
 - ii. Man has come to regard aspects of God's created order as impersonal, perpetual forces. They occur with or without God. **During the great tribulation, God proclaims His Lordship over everything, including 'nature'.**
 - iii. Man is humbled in events like earthquakes. **We see "nature" isn't as constant as we think. With these first 4 trumpets, that realization is multiplied.**
 - iv. **The first 4 trumpets also reveal the mercy of God's judgment; these are partial judgments striking only 1/3 & are meant to lead a rebellious world to repent before the final curtain. For now, God spares more than He smites.**