



A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES

Week 49: The Trumpet Judgements, Part 1

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Instructor: Steve Schmutzer

Review:

NOTE: Today, we begin our study of the seven Trumpet Judgements that are described in **Revelation Chapters 8-11**. A quick glance back at some of the events leading up to this point helps us to better understand these next judgements.

- A. We saw how the Seventh Seal Judgement in **vs. 1 of Ch. 8** was not a classic judgement per say. It is instead a period of ominous silence in heaven, an interlude between the Seal Judgements and the Trumpet Judgments.
 1. The implication of the Seventh Seal Judgment is this: God's wrath and judgment, the very same judgment that the martyred saints of Seal Judgment #5 were asking for is about to begin.
 2. Consequently, when the Seventh Seal is broken, we see that the redeemed and the angels in heaven are reduced to silence.
 3. This seems to be a response to the grim reality of the destruction that is about to take place on the earth. God's judgments, His wrath, will be fierce.
 4. So, this half an hour of silence is the proverbial calm before the storm. It is the silence of foreboding, of intense expectation, of awe at what God is about to do.
- B. We learned that **Zephaniah 1:7** appears to support these views. It reads, *"Be silent before the Sovereign Lord, for the day of the Lord is near. The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited."*
 1. This verse in **Zephaniah** also seems to suggest that a period of silence would precede those prescriptions of judgement known as the Day of the Lord, or The Tribulation.
 2. As we've learned, this is another reason to suggest that The Tribulation STARTS somewhere around this point. One could argue it begins after the seventh Seal Judgment, or just before.
 3. These details, and others we have also studied, have all contributed to my personal view that the seven years of The Tribulation do not contain the Seal Judgements (or at least most of them), but they DO contain the Seven Trumpet Judgments and the seven Bowl Judgements, which we will be studying later.
- I. Now, in the first few verses of **Revelation Ch. 8**, a few preparatory things take place before these Trumpet Judgements commence. Here's a quick overview of them:
 - A. In **vss. 2-6**, there are a series of proceedings which involve angels. Each of those verses make mention of angels and their role in these Pre-Trumpet Judgment preparations.
 - B. From this point forward, we will see that angels have a key function to play in every judgement now to come.

- C. Each judgment will be administered by an angel who has been commissioned to carry out his duty from within the throne room of heaven. These are specifics which stand apart from the prior Seal Judgments.
1. In **vss. 2-6** we see the various preparations for the Trumpet Judgments:
 - a. First, seven angels are given seven trumpets in **vs. 2**. These are the same trumpets that will be blown before each of the next seven judgments to come.
 - b. Second, a different angel with a golden censer goes and stands at the altar. This is likely the same altar around which the martyred saints in Seal Judgement #5 were gathered and who are crying out to God, pleading with Him to begin His judgements.
 2. The text in **vs. 3** says this golden censer that the angel has is *“filled with much incense AND the prayers of all the saints.”* There are important precedents to consider here:
 - a. In the Old Testament, on The Day of Atonement, and in accordance with rules God prescribed for the Israelites as they were making their way to the Promised Land, Aaron was instructed to take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar.
 - b. He was to put the incense on the fire, and this incense would then form a cloud which would cover the mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant— which is where the Lord’s presence was.
 - c. Just like *“the prayers of the saints”* here in **Revelation 8:3**, this Old Testament ritual was described as being an intercession (**Cf. Numbers 16:46-48**).
 - d. Moreover, previously in **Revelation 5:8**, the twenty-four elders were also described as holding *“golden bowls of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.”*
 - e. Taking all the relevant texts together here, we can see that the prayers of the saints include petitions to God for His justice. This is all taking place before the Lord in heaven.
 - f. Very clearly, we see the same sort of pleas from the martyred saints under the altar during the 5th Seal Judgment.
 - g. In connecting the dots here, these *“prayers of the saints”* in **vs. 3** are very likely all the cries and pleas of believers who have come to faith in that gap of time between the Rapture and the Great Tribulation.
 - h. As we learned in the 5th Seal Judgment, these are pleas for justice against their persecutors and against all who have blasphemed God in that time.
 - i. Their prayers, as we can see by the heavenly incense which God has provided, show that He is in agreement with the pleadings of the saints.

- j. IMPORTANT: These prayers come directly into Christ's presence, and these prayers result in the Seven Trumpet Judgments which will now be released.
- k. There is a great sense of anticipation as these prayers rise before God. These prayers will be answered.
- l. God's pending wrath and the prayers of His saints are directly connected.

NOTE: None of what I am suggesting here is fanciful conjecture on my part. It all ties together very well. In ***Psalms 141:2*** it reads:

"May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice."

Our text, here in ***Revelation Ch. 8*** affirms that the prayers of the end times saints will serve a similar purpose as incense that is burnt before the Lord, suggesting an aroma that is pleasing to God.

This text also lends further weight to the timing I have already suggested, that these prayers occur BEFORE God's Tribulation Judgments and how those prayers will be answered by God DURING His Tribulation judgments.

- D. The ***third*** aspect of the Pre-Trumpet Judgment preparations I want to comment on are the details of ***vs. 5***. It is in ***vs. 5*** that a graphic scene takes place which further cements the conclusions I have already given you:
 - 1. The angel with the censer now hurls that censer upon the earth.
 - 2. The censer is filled with fire from the altar before God, and the target he throws it on is planet earth.
 - 3. Here, we see a direct cause-and-effect relationship between the prayers of the saints which were mingled in the censer before its total contents were thrown to the earth.
 - 4. These are clear indicators of impending judgment. I believe these details further underscore that God's judgments will now, at this point, be directed against the earth and against those that are unrepentant and which dwell upon it.
 - 5. I take it as a sign that events have collectively reached that pivotal moment in which the Tribulation Judgments are about to begin.
 - 6. Again, this lends additional weight to the notion that the seven years of the Tribulation include the Trumpet Judgments and the Bowl Judgments, but not the Seal Judgments.
 - 7. *In vs. 6*, we see the seven angels who have been given the seven trumpets, and they are now prepared to blow them.

NOTE: All said, we see these pre-judgment preparations following an orderly, sovereign, and solemn process. As God reveals His divine Word to us, we see everything that happens

is in response to the prayers of the post-Rapture / pre-Tribulation saints for God to execute His judgment on earth.

- II. That brings us to the first Trumpet Judgment. It's here I want to step back and make a few important preliminary comments:
 - A. As we all know, because of my previous statements on this matter, most prophecy scholars view the three sets of Judgments (Seal, Trumpet, and Bowl) as all happening within the seven years of the Tribulation period. Not all scholars, but certainly most! I'm not one of them.
 1. As I have shared, I find no Biblical evidence for this position: not for the position which seeks to include the Seal Judgments within that seven-year timeframe.
 2. It has simply been a matter of foregone conclusion that this is the arrangement. The problem is that many of these scholars have struggled to fit certain details of *Revelation* within that conclusion.
 3. As we will see, those problems that they've encountered are largely addressed if we see the Tribulation starting now, at about THIS point here, and not with *Ch. 6 vs. 1*.

NOTE: If we conclude the arrangement is instead as I have shared it, and if we glance ahead, we see a better and a more orderly sequence unfolding:

4. We see the Seven Trumpet Judgments concluding BEFORE the details of the midpoint of the Tribulation are provided in *Revelation Ch. 13* where the abomination of desolation and the mark of the beast take place.
 5. We also see the Seven Bowl Judgments occurring AFTER the midpoint of the Tribulation in *Revelation chapters 15 and 16*.
 - B. The other preliminary comments I want to make here tie into the four angels who are standing at the four corners of earth back in *Revelation 7:1-3*.
 1. Recall, they were instructed to hold back the winds of God's judgments so that the earth, the sea, and the vegetative life of planet earth were not harmed, not YET anyway.
 2. As I shared before, the first three Trumpet Judgments do exactly that: they harm the earth, the sea, and earth's vegetation.
 3. So NOW, we begin to see God's judgements unfolding. Those four angels do not have to hold back the winds of judgement anymore. The time has come for the earth and its inhabitants to receive God's wrath. We see that in *vss. 7-11 of Ch. 8*.

NOTE: Some of you are familiar with Dr. Thomas Horn. He's a prolific author and scholar, and he is one of the key founding figures of Skywatch TV.

He received a lot of attention a few years back with his book, *Petrus Romanus*, in which he boldly went out on a limb and made some predictions about the resignation of the then-pope and the final one to come.

4. His predictions proved absolutely correct, though there was no publicly-available information to support his claims at that time. Many people ridiculed him for the things he was saying.
5. Dr. Thomas Horn has written two other books since that point that provide some rather startling predictions about the future timeframe we are now studying in ***Revelation Ch. 8***.
6. He wrote the book, *The Wormwood Prophecy* and a follow-up book called *The Messenger*. I've not read either, but I've read multiple reviews of both, and I have seen his interviews concerning these two books.
7. Basically, in a nutshell, Dr. Thomas Horn believes there is a massive cover up at NASA. He believes he has uncovered a lot of evidence to suggest the following:
 - a. A large asteroid, called Apophis, will strike the earth on April 13, 2029.
 - b. Dr. Horn believes that NASA top brass agree with this assessment, but they've since tried desperately to cover up their findings.
 - c. He claims he has interviewed a number of people within NASA that say NASA is afraid of what they've learned, and they do not know how to get this information out there without causing worldwide panic.
 - d. NOTE: I urge you to look him up, his interviews, etc. and draw your own conclusions. I do that constantly.
8. The bottom line is Dr. Thomas Horn believes this asteroid, Apophis, is one and the same as "Wormwood" described in ***Revelation 8:10-11***.
9. He presents a very compelling and comprehensive case that the details of the first three Trumpet Judgments conform precisely to what would happen, if a large asteroid entered our atmosphere and struck the planet.
10. I will refer to some of his conclusions as we go through our study of these first three Trumpet Judgments.
11. However, I want to add, that IF Dr. Thomas Horn is correct, then the seven-year Tribulation would begin somewhere around the early part of 2029.
 - a. That timeframe lines up with what many other scholars have presented as they debate the end of the 6000 years which precede the start of the Millennial Kingdom.
 - b. As I've previously shared, the Bible presents a series of dispensations. These are Bible based periods of time. Dispensationalism is a theological system that recognizes these

different ages as being ordained by God to order the affairs of the world.

- c. They comprise a method of interpreting history that divides God's work and purposes toward mankind into different portions or durations.
 - d. Dispensationalism is under great attack in most churches today, because, among other things, it advances two key premises:
12. First, dispensationalism promotes a consistently literal interpretation of Scripture, especially Bible prophecy.
- a. Most churches, especially those of the seeker-friendly, emergent, or Reformed persuasions, prefer to allegorize Bible prophecy.
 - b. They basically want to believe the Bible does not mean what it says, and they tend to devalue (and even deride) Bible prophecy.
13. Secondly, dispensationalism believes in the uniqueness of Israel as separate from the Church in God's program.
- a. This, of course, is absolutely TRUE in the Scriptures. It's part of the reason the seven year Tribulation is called "The Time of Jacob's Trouble."
 - b. However, the aforementioned types of churches don't like to see it this way. They say instead, "It's all about the church."
 - c. This is why the heresy of Replacement Theology has gained such a strong foothold in most denominations today. These folks tend to look down their noses on the Jewish people and on all events concerning Israel.
14. I say all that to say this. IF Dr. Thomas Horn is correct in stating that Apophis (AKA "Wormwood" by his claims) will indeed strike the earth on April 13, 2029, then we can surmise several things:
- a. The last seven years of this present dispensation, otherwise known as "The Age of Grace," begins around 2029 sometime.
 - b. It also means the Tribulation would start somewhere around 2029 and end somewhere around 2036, after which point the Millennial Kingdom would begin.
 - c. It's easy to see how a gap of several years could exist between the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation. This conforms to the things we have already studied with the Seal Judgments.
 - d. Again, for reminder's sake, these dates more or less line up with the 2000-year period known as the Church Age which began on the Day of Pentecost.
 - e. **IMPORTANT: I'M NOT A DATE-SETTER.** I refuse to be one of those folks that irresponsibly says, "88 reasons why Jesus will return in 1988."
 - f. However, I DO believe we are called to recognize the seasons and to be watchful for the Lord's return. These are Bible-based instructions.

- g. They would not be given to us if we were not supposed to see events in the end times gaining greater shape and definition, and if being “watchful” was not supposed to mean anything.
- h. Perhaps Dr. Thomas Horn is one of those watchmen on the wall that helps the church to see what is coming with greater focus. I cannot say with certainty.

NOTE: All that said, let’s dive into our text here for the first Trumpet Judgment (**Cf. Revelation 8:7**).

- C. Right off the bat, it’s easy to see the similarity between the judgments found here and the physical and literal judgments which God poured out upon Egypt.
 - 1. I say that because many Bible interpreters insist on understanding the Trumpet Judgments as being symbolic rather than literal. Here’s the problem with that position:
 - a. That means one must also believe the plagues of Egypt were not literal plagues.
 - b. This is irresponsible to me. Why should **Revelation Ch. 8** not be describing literal judgments which God will send upon the earth? What is the difficulty?
 - c. To try to explain this away as being something other than what the Bible is saying is to show a lack of faith in the power of God, and in the Word of God. Such events have already occurred on earth. Why should they not occur again?
 - d. Here in **Revelation 8:7**, in the First Trumpet Judgment, a mix of fire and hail destroys a third of earth’s vegetation.
 - Likewise, in the seventh plague which God sent upon the Egyptians on behalf of Israel, God sent “*hail, and fire mingled with the hail, so very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.*” *This judgment was sent “on man, on beast, and on every herb of the field” (Cf. Exodus 9:22-23)*
 - We can assume the hail element here is from God’s “*treasury of hail....reserved for the day of battle and war.*” (**Cf. Job 38:22**)
 - It is likely that this First Trumpet Judgement is alluded to in **Joel 2:30** where it says, “*And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke*”
 - All three of these elements are present in this First Trumpet Judgment as the blood is mingled with the hail, and as the fire causes the green grass and trees to burn, generating huge plumes (pillars) of smoke.

2. **Question:** How can we understand this passage with Dr. Thomas Horn's predictions about Apophis in view?
 - a. I'm no scientist, but as I understand it, an asteroid of the dimensions of Apophis, would be accompanied, in fact, '**preceded,**' by a shower of burning smaller fragments and projectiles.
 - b. If any of you have seen the movie "Greenland," this was precisely the scenario that was presented in that movie about a large asteroid hitting the earth.
 - c. These smaller fragments, preceding the main asteroid, would strike the earth in various places and would ignite fires all over the planet.
 - d. As for the hail and blood element, I'll leave that part up to God. I'm quite sure that He can introduce the blood element as He sees fit He's done it before as we've seen.
 - e. Besides, it's my understanding that the atmospheric conditions of earth would be so disrupted by these events that a storm of very significant hail could easily be a part.
 - f. If we assume that Dr. Thomas Horn's predictions are correct, then Apophis (AKA "Wormwood") would strike the earth **AFTER** the preceding shower of smaller fragments and atmospheric disruptions. So, it's quite interesting to see the main Wormwood element specifically occurring later in **vss. 10-11**).

D. **I want to focus in briefly on that phrase "upon the earth."** This is the first of multiple judgments to come which specifically target the destruction of earth, the climate, and which destroy various life-supporting natural systems on this planet.

- a. About half of these judgments to come will impact the earth and its environment.
- b. Between them: they change the geography of the planet; burn up much of its vegetation; dim the sun, moon, and stars; render most of the world's water lethal to life; plunge the world into darkness; scorch the earth with intense heat; and pound the planet with 100-pound hailstones.

NOTE: I've stated this before, and I'll say it here again, "climate change is a false religion." It has no scientific foundation, and is instead based on a rejection of God and His role as Creator.

- c. That is why, even now in our times, those who reject God worship "*the creature rather than the Creator*" according to **Romans 1:25**.
- d. Climate change and global-warming advocates have an agenda they are trying to implement. It's important to understand this, and it's not hard to see. Once you do, everything else makes sense:
 - First, the hyper-regulation of economies and the restrictions of personal freedoms always follows alarmist rhetoric about climate

change. This is an intent to trip up strong nations to weaken them, and to make the masses a dependent class.

- Secondly, the larger goal of destroying a nation's wealth is about contributing to complete economic collapse on a worldwide scale. Few elements buoy the solvency of global markets more than a strong US economy, and that's why any sort of "America First" objective is hated amongst the globalists.
 - Thirdly, once the flames of international chaos are fanned, it'll be easier to thrust upon a desperate and confused world the notion of a one-world government. The globalists have already prepped their arguments to unite behind a single figure. Christians know this individual will be the Antichrist, however globalists are already planning to call him their "savior."
 - Lastly, and it's what I said before, all of this climate change frenzy pivots around a single all-important truth: Global warming is at its core, a false religion. It is "eco-fundamentalism," a militant and rabid rejection of God. It is characterized by a passionate worship of "mother earth" instead.
- e. That is why, at the time of the very end, God will set about destroying this idol of the earth dwellers. He will bring their lies and deceptions to their knees.
3. By way of a reality check here, none of this is hard to understand. People today are very concerned about saving the environment.
- f. Fears about the depletion of the ozone layer, fears about pollution, the destruction of the rain forests, and global warming are constantly in the news.
 - g. There is a passionate concern to save endangered species, everything from whales to spotted owls to California condors to snail darters to prairie dogs, and a host of lesser-known species.
 - h. As I've suggested, for many, protecting the environment has become far more than a concern for health and safety; it has become an issue of idolatry, as they worship "Mother Nature" or "Mother Earth."
 - i. That is why there is a strong and evil depopulation agenda taking place. Fallen mankind has failed to recognize and honor God as Creator, choosing instead to make a god out of the earth. Their belief is mankind must be removed, NOT THEM of course, just everyone else that doesn't agree with them.
 - j. Let me say that the environmental, evolutionary pantheism that devalues man but elevates animals and plants, and the false religion that ignores the Creator, will be severely judged.
 - k. "Earth Day" the year of the First Trumpet Judgment will be a gloomy and dismal affair. There will be little of the environment left to celebrate.

4. Lastly, there is that “third” element to take stock of:
 - a. In each of the trumpet judgments which result in death or direct destruction, “*a third*” of the population receiving the judgment perishes or is somehow impacted.
 - b. For example, a third of the trees is burned up here, a third of the sea becomes blood (**Cf. Revelation 8:8+**), a third of the sea creatures and ships are destroyed (**Cf. Revelation 8:9+**), *a third* of the rivers is polluted (**Cf. Revelation 8:10-11+**), *a third* of the sunlight, moonlight, and starlight is affected (**Cf. Revelation 8:12+**), and *a third* of mankind is killed (**Cf. Revelation 9:15+, 18+**).
 - c. I’m not sure what to say about this except:
 - The texts are very clear about the gravity of the impact.
 - The consistent 1/3 element is not going to go unnoticed by those who have rejected God.
 - It’s God’s message to them. It’s His way of saying He is behind it. Statistically, it’s too regular and systematic to be explained any other way.