



**SOLID
BREAD**

A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES
Week 50: The Trumpet Judgements, Part 2
May 21, 2023
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Review:

- A. Last week, we began to study “The Seven Trumpet Judgments” that are mostly found in **Revelation Chapters 8 and 9**.
- B. We explored some background information before we started this focus, and among several points we looked at were the following:
 1. These Trumpet Judgments very likely are those judgments that begin the seven-year Tribulation.
 - a. This is the natural conclusion, if we believe the Seal Judgements (at least the first five or six of them) PRECEDE the Tribulation.
 2. The first few Trumpet Judgements strongly remind us of the judgements that God sent upon Egypt in order to motivate Pharaoh to let the Israelites go.
 - a. A key point to be made here: If we can accept God’s past judgments on ancient Egypt as being literal, then we should not choose to see His future judgments upon the world as being anything different.
 3. We also briefly reviewed Dr. Thomas Horn’s view that a large asteroid named Apophis, that is within our solar system **right now**. It is four football fields wide, and is on a course to strike the earth on Friday, April 13, 2029 (it won’t be happy hour).
 - a. The impact would be the equivalent of 65,000 atomic bombs of the sort dropped on Japan in WW2, and it is expected to strike the Pacific Ocean near Southern CA and Mexico.
 - b. Dr. Horn has written two books on this matter: *“The Wormwood Prophecy”* and *“The Messenger.”*
 - c. This essentially implies that the Tribulation would start somewhere around April, 2029. As we’ve considered before, this timeframe lines up more or less with the conclusion of the 2000-year church age.
 - d. In these books, Dr. Horn claims NASA is aware of this threat by Apophis, and they essentially agree with his conclusions. However, they are covering up the information because they do not want to cause worldwide panic.
 - e. I learned this past week that Dr. Thomas Horn is not the only one to accuse NASA of this Apophis cover up, there are others.
 - f. Included among those is Nathan Myhrvold. He is routinely listed as one of the top 100 critical scientific thinkers in the world today, and he once ran the science department at Microsoft.
 - g. He is making the very same claims as Dr. Horn, and he has written a peer-reviewed paper detailing out his concerns about NASA and Apophis.
 - h. Regardless, Dr. Thomas Horn lays out some scientific analysis showing that the events of a large asteroid entering earth’s atmosphere and striking the earth would conform to the details given for Trumpet Judgements #1 - #4.

- i. I stated last week that I would periodically go back and reference the points Dr. Thomas Horn makes as we wade through these first four Trumpet Judgments.
- j. That does not mean I agree or disagree with his conclusions, but I think they add some interesting dimension to these things we are studying.
- k. We are also wise to remember the words of **Luke 21:26** which is **Luke's** version of the Olivet Discourse in which Jesus taught about the end times.
- l. This passage in **Luke** may be referring to some of these same issues. It states:

“Men will faint from fear and anxiety over what is coming upon the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”

- 4. Last week, we then dove into the text of **Revelation 8:7**. This is the text of the First Trumpet Judgment, and we learned several things:
 - a. Hail, and fire, mixed with blood rains down on the earth and causes a third of the earth's vegetation to be burned up.
 - b. Again, we don't need to allegorize anything here. God has literally used these same judgments before in a localized area, and He can certainly use these judgements once again around the globe.
 - c. 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”*
 - d. All three of these elements described in **Joel** are present in this first Trumpet Judgment.
- 5. Considering Dr. Thomas Horn's Apophis premise, an asteroid of the dimensions of Apophis, would be accompanied, in fact, **'preceded'** by a shower of burning smaller fragments and projectiles.
 - a. This was exactly the situation shown in the movie “Greenland,” which is about a large asteroid hitting the earth.
 - b. These smaller fragments precede the main body of the asteroid, and they would strike the earth in various places and would ignite fires all over the planet.

NOTE: It's time to move forward into the subsequent Trumpet Judgments. We will be going at a crisper pace through these next few judgments as the text on each is brief (**Text: Revelation 8:8-13**)

- I. **The Second Trumpet Judgment (vss. 8 & 9).** Again, some high-altitude thoughts first.
 - A. First, again we need to ask ourselves, *“Are these literal or symbolic judgments?”* Also, once again, a good consideration in determining this is to compare them against the plagues of Egypt. (**Cf. Exodus 7-11**)
 - 1. In **Exodus**, Moses waves his staff and waters turn to blood. In **Revelation**, an angel blows his trumpet and the same thing happens.
 - 2. Why should the two events be regarded any differently?

- B. In the bigger picture, five of the Egyptian plagues are similar to five judgments in the book of Revelation. Though these are not confined to the trumpet judgments.
1. These are sores (boils), waters becoming blood, darkness, hail, and locusts although in **Revelation**, the locusts, as we will learn, are not the same.
- C. IMPORTANT NOTE: The plagues on Egypt were also a judgment from God upon the gods of Egypt, and upon their worship system and idolatries.
1. **Cf. Numbers 33:4** Moses records the various stages of the Israelites' journey out of Egypt, and he writes: "*For the Egyptians buried all their firstborn which the Lord had smitten among them; upon their gods also the Lord executed judgments.*"
 2. The Egyptians had a pantheistic doctrine of worship. They admitted and worshipped many 'gods.' Specifically, they saw reality, the universe, and the cosmos as all being part of one supreme divinity.
 3. If you are following what I am saying, the Egyptian religious belief system shared many similarities with the New Age Movement which is pervasive today, and which is gaining force and momentum:
 - a. The Egyptians had many 'gods' which were inspired by earth's creatures, the cosmos, and various other natural things.
 - b. I find it interesting that as the one true God was displaying His power against spiritual idolatry and pantheistic religion in Egypt (i.e. Ra, the sun god, etc.), so it may be that these judgments in **Revelation** have a similar purpose.
 - c. They will accomplish the same thing against those who worship 'mother earth,' the planet's creatures, and the universal cosmos.
 - d. If you recall, a few months ago in one of our lessons, I mentioned the current messages that various New Age leaders claim to be receiving from their 'spirit guides' (fallen angels / demons):
 - These messages are announcing that there will be a sudden disappearance of millions of people from the earth.
 - These 'spirit guides' are telling these New Age leaders that they (the 'spirit guides') will remove those who will not evolve to the next level. This is a twist on the Rapture.
 - They claim this will be done to preserve and heal the earth.
 - It's interesting to see how God's judgements lay all of that nonsense to waste. The earth will not heal; it will be destroyed.
- D. Let's look at some of the details of this Second Trumpet Judgment:
1. "*Something like a huge mountain....*" (Several things to note here):
 - a. It's not a mountain, but it reminds John of one. It is big and rocky in appearance.
 - b. We need to avoid getting into fanciful and wild speculation, and we need to stay faithful to the text: For example:
 - One commentator writes, "*We should take this literally, but not TOO literally.*" (Not sure what that means?!)

- NOTE: Some people see a huge volcano exploding as a result of the fiery debris raining down on earth in Trumpet Judgment #1, and a large portion of the volcano being thrown high into the air. Something like a huge mountain.
- According to Hal Lindsey (The author of the book "*The Late Great Planet Earth*") he thinks this will be a nuclear holocaust.
 - He states that in a nuclear detonation, humidity in the air is instantly compressed into water and driven straight up into the freezing temperatures of the upper stratosphere.
 - It then is instantly frozen and falls back to earth as giant chunks of ice similar to "a huge mountain."
- c. My own view is: we should accept the Bible at face value and use common sense where we can.
 - Given the comments I've already made, I therefore lean towards a large chunk of a burning meteorite falling into the ocean.
 - More specifically, it's not the shower of smaller fragments that would typically precede a large asteroid (such as we seem to see in Trumpet Judgment #1). Also, it's not the main body of an asteroid such as we will see in Trumpet Judgment #3.
 - I believe this could be a large chunk that broke off of the forthcoming asteroid, this is something Dr. Thomas Horn documents as normal for a major asteroid impact, and a chunk that is capable of doing a lot of damage all on its own.
 - It is "*all ablaze*," again, this would conform to a large meteor-like object burning as it enters earth's atmosphere.
 - Also, let's not rule out one other option here: this could be something entirely supernatural. God is not limited to our imaginations and rationales.
- d. It is "*thrown into the sea....*"
 - The overarching suggestion here is that it comes from above, from the air or the atmosphere above the earth. This is consistent with the Trumpet judgments before and after it.
 - I offer *this* point to discourage other theories concerning earthbound sources like volcanoes, nuclear missiles, or various exploding man-made infrastructures.
 - It is clearly directed AT the sea. Unlike Trumpet Judgment #1 which was directed at the land, this one is directed at the earth's oceans.

NOTE: It is best to regard 'the sea' mentioned here as being one of the large ocean bodies (Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, etc.)

2. Some scholars (i.e. Tim LaHaye) limit this verse to a localized event (Mediterranean Sea). I think there are problems with that view.

3. We must remember that these judgments are on *'the inhabitants of the earth'* and there are many indications throughout the Scriptures, particularly in **Revelation**, that these are global judgments.
 - a. (Moving on): Do you remember those four angels at the beginning of **Revelation Ch. 7**; They were instructed to hold back the winds of judgment so no part of the earth, sea, or vegetation was harmed.
 - b. Well, now those angels are no longer holding these elements back. It is obvious the earth, sea, and vegetation are dramatically harmed just a short ways into the Tribulation.
4. *"A third of the sea turned into blood..."* It's here that we need to do a little examination of the text. **NOTE:** (We've mentioned the similarities between these Trumpet Judgment and the Divine judgments of ancient Egypt).
 - a. In the first plague God brought upon Egypt, Aaron stretched out his staff, and all the waters of Egypt became blood (**Cf. Exodus 7:19**).
 - b. Later in the Tribulation, in the Second Bowl Judgment, all of the sea will become as the *"blood as of a dead man"* (**Cf. Revelation 16:3+**), which may mean congealed or coagulated.
 - c. It suggests when the Scriptures say "blood" in these judgments, it means "blood" and not just a red color.
 - d. As we will learn in later lessons, like Moses, the two witnesses in **Revelation Ch. 11** will also have the power to turn water into blood.
 - e. In the Third Bowl Judgment in **Revelation 16:4**, the remainder of the rivers and springs of water which were not poisoned in the judgments of the third Trumpet Judgment (that's the next one) will also become blood.
5. **NOTE:** The word "blood" here is, in the Greek meaning, associated with "death," as opposed to the term "blood" being used to speak of life.
 - a. This provides additional insights for this particular passage.
 - b. This judgment may mean that the chemical composition of the waters will become so disrupted by the chunk of asteroid, or whatever it is that God will plunge into the ocean, that the marine life in the affected area will be killed.
 - c. Obviously, if it is a large chunk of a much larger asteroid hitting the oceans, the physical dynamic of that explosive event would destroy a great deal of life. (like fishing with dynamite in Louisiana).
 - d. NOTE: The text does not say the sea became "like" blood but that it "became" blood.
 - e. It's the same Greek word that is used in **Revelation 16:4-6** during the Third Bowl Judgment.
 - It's clear that "blood" here is likened to the blood of murdered saints.
 - Therefore, this should not be taken as only describing the color of the oceans, but must be understood literally, alongside its secondary implication of "death."

6. The destruction of the sea in this judgment will cause tremendous disruption to the food chain which supports all life on the planet.
 - God is systematically removing every means by which mankind will continue to imagine himself as independent of the one true God.
 - God is also reminding mankind that the 'climate change' is a farse, and that mankind cannot control the environment.
 - The impact, the pollution, and perhaps the chemical composition will wipe out 1/3 of the sea's living creatures.
 - In addition, the physical tidal forces or tsunamis will destroy a huge number of ships.
 - This is an important observation, because it limits the nature of this Second Trumpet Judgment.
 - One cannot reasonably account for ships being destroyed with other theories that do not result in this physical tidal force.
 - The prophet Isaiah spoke of this future time, and he mentions the destruction of ships (**Cf. Isaiah 2:16** – included in a list of things that will be destroyed "*In the last days....*" – **Cf. Isaiah 2:2**)
 - The resulting disruption of commerce and transportation will cause widespread economic chaos.

NOTE: I want to conclude by making three observations about the First Four Trumpet Judgments. We haven't gotten to #3 or #4 yet, but already these observations are applicable.

- A. **All four** of these judgments come, in some way, from above: from the sky (perhaps it assists a necessary perspective that God is behind all of this).
- B. As I mentioned last week, **all four** of these judgments affect 'one third' of something. It's a remarkable list: (earth, trees, salt water, sea creatures, ships, fresh water sources, sun, moon, and stars).
 1. This means more than these judgments just 'coming from the sky.' As I shared before, it displays the straightforward fact that God is behind this! The destruction will be precise, always exactly 1/3, and mankind will take note of this.
 2. Here's another thing: it displays God's mercy. He could destroy it all. He will still be calling mankind to repentance, and there is a message of His divine nature in the precise ratios of destruction.
- C. Lastly, **all four** of these judgments reshape 'earth as it is known.'
 1. As we've noted, it is laughable that godless man believes he can control the natural environment.
 3. The more secular man becomes, the more he believes he has this ability.
 4. The further mankind drifts from God, the more he embraces 'fictional science.'
 5. These judgments by God amount to a profound statement to humanistic man as he helplessly watches God in action. Mankind can do nothing about what is taking place.

