

Revelation 8:6-11:19 The Trumpets of Heaven

Revelation 6-11 are images of the same general event—the judgement of the world by Christ. The various visions that we see are not step-by-step records of the end-times. Rather, they are like different camera angles on the one enormous judgement that is taking place. Each vision (or camera angle) gives us more insight into what is taking place. Each vision adds meaning and spells out more of what is happening.

Read Revelation 8:1-11:19, trying to grasp the scenes that are unfolding rather than getting bogged down with the details.

1. What words would you use to summarize what happens when the first four trumpets are blown (8:7-12)?

2. In 9:1-11, who is torturing whom? And what are we told about where the torturers come from? (See also 11:7, 17:8 and 20:1-3.)

3. The millions of mounted troops come from beyond the river Euphrates (9:14). This was the boundary of the territory God promised to Israel (Gen 15:18; Josh 1:4). What does this suggest about the kind of judgement we are seeing with the sixth trumpet blast?

4. What is the reaction of the remaining humans, having survived this torrent of judgement (9:20-21)?

5. In 10:1-11:7, an angel tells us what will take place with the seventh trumpet blast. What is it (10:7, 11:15)?

6. John is told to eat the scroll (10:9-11) in a similar manner to Ezekiel. Read Ezekiel 2:8-3:3. Who is Ezekiel addressing, and how might this help us understand who John is addressing in his prophecy in Revelation 11?

7. In 10:8-11, John is once again given a prophecy to speak, which he delivers in 11:1-13. During this time of suffering at the hands of the godless nations, what is going to happen:

in the temple (vv. 1-3)?

before the Lord (vv. 4-6)?

in the city street (vv. 7-10)?

after this (vv. 11-13)?

8. The “two witnesses” are described as olive trees and lampstands. How do the following passages help us understand them?

Zechariah 4:1-6

Revelation 1:12-13, 20

Deuteronomy 19:15

9. In the hymn of thanksgiving that the elders sing (11:17-18), what has God finally achieved?

The vision of the seven trumpets (Rev 8-11) has added more layers of meaning and understanding to the earlier vision of the seals on the scroll (Rev 6-7). We have seen a great and terrible description of what is to occur—for it involves the judgement of the world and the suffering of the

church before the glorious appearance of Jesus as king over all. We must ask God for the endurance and faith to be among those who will overcome.

Implications

Is it right or wrong to use 'scare tactics' in evangelism—that is, to warn people of the coming judgement of God?

Are you willing to suffer persecution for being a Christian, before your resurrection day?

Give thanks and pray

Thank God for being a God of justice and mercy.

Thank God for providing us with a certain refuge from the coming wrath if we trust in his son, Jesus.

Think of Christian people you know who are suffering for their faith. Pray for these people, and for each other, that you would all endure and remember the reality of heaven that is being unveiled.