

THE FIRST FOUR TRUMPETS - Rv 8:6-12

022022A

INTRODUCTION

1. The challenge of interpreting Revelation & review. Differences & similarities to cycle of the 7 seals.
2. Preliminary judgments. Martyr's prayer - 6:10 [2Th 1:3-10]; Rv 8:2, 6-12

Intro: The Trumpeters Prepare to Sound

1. 8:1-2 - trmpts - 7th seal of FJ. In silence, trumpeters take position. _
2. v6 - *prepared*: assume responsibility for a task. v2 & 6 prepare for impact

1st: The First Trumpet - v7

1. Similar to 7th seal - *fire thrown dwn* [8:5]
2. Exo 9:22-25 7th plague on Egypt: *hail - fire*. 3 targets: land; plants; trees.
3. Rv 8:7 *hail & fire - earth, trees, grass*. Includes *blood* [1st plague Nile -> blood]. 1/3 of land, trees, grass - temporary, partial.
4. Ezek 5:2,12 jdgmt on Jerusalem in thirds: fire, sword, famine. Famine [3rd horseman - Rv 18:8 - *famine* results from *plagues, pestilence, fire*.

2nd: The Second Trumpet - v8-9

1. In OT, mtn often = metaphor for gov'ts. Dan 2:35; Jer 51:25; Rv 18:20-21 We are seeing connection to Babylon - Rv 18.
2. *1/3 sea bec's blood* - 1st plague: Nile - blood [Exo 7:20]. repeats 1/3 => limited - v9 => maritime commerce affected [famine] - Rv 18:17
3. 2nd trmpt cld depict jdgmnt on Bab's idolatry, injustice, persecution of Xns

3rd: The Third Trumpet - v10-11

1. Inland waters - *great star: Wormwood* - 1/3. Many die [famine motif - 1st plague: Ps 78:44]
2. Wormwood - a bitter herb wh/ poisons water after a period of time.
 - i. Jeremiah: poison of idolatry that brings judgment - Lam 3:15-19
 - ii. Amos: poison of injustice - Amos 5:7; 6:12
3. *Great star that falls from heaven* - a symbol of what?

- i. 2nd trmpt: fiery Mtn [Bab?]; 3rd trmpt: star like burning torch.
- ii. Astral deities associated w/ angels: Lk 10:18 *I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning* [a torch-like star?].
- iii. Isa 14:12-15 Nebuchadnezzar would *ascend to heaven & raise throne above the stars of God* - Satan stands behind Neb's pride
- iv. Star = angelic principality operating thru Bab gov't.

4th: The Fourth Trumpet - v12

1. Target = *sun, moon, stars* - as 6th seal [Rv 6:12-13]; 1/3 => limited
2. Disturbances in the order of cosmos - thgs worshiped by pagans. 9th plague of darkness [Exo 10:21]; 10th plague: 1st-born sons [Exo 12:12]
3. 1/3 => limited but signifies aspects of FJ itself. Motifs of darkness & light
 - i. dark in Egypt - light in Goshen
 - ii. outer darkness [Mt 8:12; 22:13; 25:30] - light of glory Rv 21:23-26
4. Continuity of 3rd trmpt & 4th trmpt w/ 5th trmpt - Rv 9:1-2
 - i. fallen star is a "he" -> smoke becomes locusts
 - ii. Next 3 trmpts [#5, 6, 7] = 3 woes.

Applic #1: The Challenge of Interpreting the Trumpets: Literal or Symbolic?

1. Not interpret according to headlines, but according to OT & the enthroned Lamb. Move from Bible to experience, not from experience to Bible.
 - i. Scripture interprets Scripture.
 - ii. Application is to history & experience.
2. So, literal or symbolic? Historical or transcendent? Earthly or heavenly?
3. What is done in heaven affects life on earth & what is done on earth has heavenly significance.
4. Trumpets blown in heaven by angels affect earth & men.

Applic #2: Perceive the Lord's Attack on Idolatry

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1. Plagues against Egyptian gods - idolatry: Rm 1:25
2. earth-dwellers are also earth-worshippers: *the creature* = creation.
3. Earth & commerce = idols that God destroys

Applic #3: The Challenge of Experiencing the Trumpets: Judgments or Tests?

1. Earth-dwellers & Xns experience catastrophes: Judgments on idolatry or tests of faith? Depends on rxns of men who experience same events.
2. Rxn of obedient faith or rebellious impenitence?
3. God brought Israel thru the plagues - blood of Passover Lamb. We, in Christ, are sealed w/ HS & united to the enthroned Lamb. He will bring us thru wilderness to new cosmos. Believe! Do not be afraid - trust & obey - stay the course & overcome in Christ.