

The Seven Trumpets (Revelation 8:2-11:19)

Introduction: The Unfolding of Divine Judgment

The Seven Trumpets in the book of Revelation signify an escalating series of judgments upon the earth, heralding the final phases of God's wrath before the establishment of His eternal Kingdom. These trumpet judgments intensify as they unfold, each one bringing greater destruction and suffering, yet still offering humanity a call to repentance. The ultimate purpose of these judgments is to prepare the way for the establishment of Christ's reign, where He will rule over all the earth. As believers, we are reminded that God's justice is both a warning and a declaration of His sovereignty.

Ryan began, "In the seventh chapter, we saw the sealing of God's people, and now the trumpet judgments begin. Each trumpet brings something more devastating than the last, but we also see God's mercy in the midst of it all, calling the world to repentance."

Ariel asked, "How do the trumpets help us understand what's happening in the world today?" "Great question," Ryan said. "The trumpet judgments show us that God's justice is coming to deal with the sin in the world. While we may face troubles today, these judgments are a reminder that God will bring ultimate justice and will set things right in the end."

Key Teachings: The Seven Trumpet Judgments and Their Meaning

1. The First Four Trumpets: Warnings Through Natural Disasters (Revelation 8:7-12)

Key Verses:

"The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up." (8:7)

- **The First Trumpet (Hail and Fire):**

Ryan explained, "The first trumpet brings hail and fire mixed with blood, causing a third of the earth's trees and all grass to burn up. This judgment is a vivid reminder of the destructive power of God's wrath, targeting the earth's vegetation, which sustains life."

Ariel asked, "Why does God use nature for His judgment?"

"God controls all of creation, and nature is often used to show His power and authority over the world," Ryan answered. "These disasters remind humanity that nothing on earth is outside of God's judgment."

- **The Second Trumpet (The Sea Turns to Blood):**

"The second trumpet turns a third of the sea into blood, causing the death of a third of sea creatures. This affects the world's food supply and commerce, leading to further destruction."

- **The Third Trumpet (Wormwood - Bitter Water):**

“The third trumpet brings bitter water, where a third of the rivers and springs become poisonous, making water undrinkable. The effects are widespread, harming life and livelihood.”

- **The Fourth Trumpet (Darkness):**

“The fourth trumpet causes a third of the sun, moon, and stars to be darkened, bringing a period of cosmic darkness. This is a symbol of the spiritual darkness that has overtaken the world, and it points to God’s power to shake the very heavens.”

Alice asked, “Does this mean the sun and moon will stop shining?”

“It’s a cosmic upheaval,” Ryan said. “It’s a warning to show that God has the power to stop creation itself to bring about His judgment. But it also points to spiritual darkness—the rejection of God and the loss of His light in the world.”

2. The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets: The Release of Torment and Destruction (Revelation 9:1-21)

Key Verses:

"And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth... And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth... and their power was to hurt men for five months." (9:1-3)

- **The Fifth Trumpet (Locusts from the Abyss):**

Ryan continued, “The fifth trumpet unleashes locusts from the bottomless pit that torment people for five months. These locusts are symbolic of demonic forces that bring suffering, tormenting those who are not sealed by God. The plague is so intense that people will seek death but not find it.”

Ariel asked, “What do these locusts represent?”

“They represent spiritual forces of darkness, led by Satan, that will torment those who are opposed to God’s will,” Ryan said. “It’s a reminder that rejecting God leads to spiritual torment.”

- **The Sixth Trumpet (Release of the Four Angels and Death of a Third of Humanity):**

“The sixth trumpet releases four angels bound at the great river Euphrates. They are loosed to kill a third of mankind. The death toll is massive, but even this judgment does not lead people to repentance. Instead, they continue in their sin.”

Alice asked, “How can people not turn to God after so much destruction?”

“It shows the hardness of the human heart,” Ryan said. “Even in the face of judgment, many will refuse to repent, continuing to worship idols and evil.”

3. The Seventh Trumpet: The Proclamation of Christ’s Kingdom (Revelation 11:15-19)

Key Verse:

"The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." (11:15)

- **The Announcement of Christ's Reign:**

Ryan explained, "The seventh trumpet signals the final phase of God's judgment and the establishment of Christ's eternal kingdom. It marks the end of all earthly kingdoms, which will now be under the rule of Jesus Christ. The saints rejoice, proclaiming that God's kingdom has come."

Ariel asked, "Does this mean that Christ will rule forever?"

"Yes," Ryan said. "The seventh trumpet announces the eternal reign of Christ. No longer will evil rule; God's kingdom will be established, and Jesus will reign forever."

- **Worship and Praise in Heaven:**

"At the sounding of the seventh trumpet, there is worship and praise in heaven. The twenty-four elders fall before God, thanking Him for His righteous judgments and His sovereignty."

4. The Key Teaching: God's Judgment Leads to Christ's Reign

Key Teaching:

The key teaching of the Seven Trumpets is that God's judgment, though terrifying and destructive, ultimately leads to the establishment of Christ's kingdom on earth. Each trumpet judgment serves as a call to repentance, but also as a declaration of God's sovereignty and justice. The final trumpet announces that all earthly kingdoms will become Christ's, and He will reign forever. The judgments are a reminder that the present world is temporary, and Christ's eternal reign is certain.

Ryan summarized, "The Seven Trumpets show that God's judgment is both merciful and righteous. He allows time for repentance but will ultimately bring about His kingdom, where Christ will reign as King forever."

Key Points Summary

1. Escalating Judgment Through the Trumpets:

- The first four trumpets bring natural disasters and cosmic upheaval, showing the destructive consequences of sin and rebellion against God.

2. The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets:

- These trumpets release torment and death upon those who refuse to repent, illustrating the severity of God's judgment on the unrepentant.

3. The Seventh Trumpet:

- The seventh trumpet announces the end of earthly kingdoms and the establishment of Christ's eternal kingdom, where He will reign forever.

4. God's Judgment and Christ's Kingdom:

- Ultimately, God's judgment leads to Christ's rule and the fulfillment of His plan to restore the world and establish His reign for eternity.

Key Verse:

“The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.” (Revelation 11:15)

This passage teaches that the trumpet judgments serve as a means of purging the earth of sin and preparing it for the return of Christ. His reign will bring peace, righteousness, and the fulfillment of God's promises to His people.