

“The Mercies of God in the First Four Trumpets”  
**Revelation 8:6-13**

**Last Sunday:** The Seventh Seal and the Prayers of All the Saints

**Today:** The Mercies of God in the First Four Trumpets

Five Introductory Points:

1. God will *righteously* punish a wicked world.
2. God will wreck heaven and earth to bring His elect to Him. God speaks to the idolatrous world saying, “Let my people go!” (Ex. 7:16).
3. Trumpet judgments are similar to the Exodus plagues: hail, fire, water to blood, darkness.
4. Is this Chronology or Recapitulation? The Seals kill 25%, the Trumpets strike 33%, and the Bowls? 100%.
5. “The first four trumpets are directed against the sources of life which men in their blindness take for granted” (Wilson).

**OUTLINE**

8:6-7, The First Trumpet

8:8-9, The Second Trumpet

8:10-11, The Third Trumpet

8:12, The Fourth Trumpet

8:13, The Announcement of the Three Woes

Overview of the Four Trumpets from the Four Views:

1. Preterist (past): This is Jerusalem’s fall and the First Jewish-Roman War of AD 66-74. This is God’s judgment against apostate Israel, not the world, so when you read the “earth” it can also refer to the “land” (of Israel).
2. Historicist (timeline): This is the series of barbarian invasions against the Roman Empire (Vandals, Huns, Saracens, Turks). Rome had not fought invaders for 800 years before this time period.
3. Idealist (spiritual): These are the various ways God judges sinful humanity (especially persecutors of the church) through natural disasters in history.
4. Futurist (future): This is an unprecedented time of judgment against unrepentant humanity in a seven-year Tribulation.

**8:7/** “The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.”

- First Trumpet: one third of the physical earth is judged.

**8:8-9/** “The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.”

1. Preterist: Sees the mountain as Israel/Jerusalem being thrown into the sea of Gentiles.
2. Historicist: Sees the mountain as the Vandals under Genseric who was called “The Tyrant of the Sea” (Gregg). For 600 years no one had challenged Rome’s mastery of the sea.
3. Idealist: Sees the mountain as Babylon (Jer. 51:25). Babylon is ***not just*** a city, it is symbolic of all cities of the world that persecute believers.
- Second Trumpet: one third of the saltwater is judged.

**8:10-11/** “The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.”

1. Preterist: The reverse of the Marah miracle in the wilderness (Ex. 15:25-26). Israel will not be healed but destroyed; God gives them poisonous water to drink (Jer. 9:15).
2. Historicist: The “Great Star” is Atilla the Hun (AD 434-453). This “star” killed 300,000 men who lay slaughtered in the European rivers.
3. Idealist: The waters that ought to sustain human life are worthless. Mankind prefers idolatry (worship of creation over the creator), yet their idol has turned against them.
- Third Trumpet: one third of the freshwater is judged.

**8:12/** “The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.”

1. Preterist: The heavenly bodies are struck = fall of nations and rulers.
2. Historicist: The heavenly bodies are struck = fall of nations and rulers.
3. Idealist: Darkness symbolically is a picture of sin or judgment.
- Fourth Trumpet: one third of the luminaries are judged.