

REVERSED THUNDER

November 12, 2023 Revelation 8:1-11:18 by Bob Branch
Standing In The Fire, part 17

Why study Revelation?

Revelation 8:1-11:18

Main truth: GOD JUDGES EVIL

God is answering the cry for justice. (6:10)

“Prayer is... Reversed Thunder.” **George Herbert**

Trumpet judgments are **partial**.

What does ⅓ symbolize? **Mercy**.

Warn and awaken the world of pending total judgment.

“Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill.
Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is
coming. It is close at hand” **Joel 2:1**

“he sees the sword coming against the land and blows the
trumpet to warn the people.” **Ezekiel 33:3**

Who should turn around? *“Those who dwell on the earth,”*

The judgments are not against all.

“have the seal of God on their foreheads” (9:4) are secure

When do these trumpets sound?

¹ **After Jesus Christ appears.** (Mt. 24:29-30)

² **With his appearing**—all part of his final coming.

³ **Before he comes in glory.**

Seals: from perspective of the church.

Trumpets: from the perspective of the world.

TRUMPET Judgments 1-4 reveal **natural forces let loose**.

1: Hail & fire mixed with blood, ⅓ of the earth-vegetation burned.

2: A great mountain burning with fire, thrown into the sea, ⅓ of
sea & creatures & ships are affected.

3: Great star “Wormwood” fell from heaven, ⅓ of rivers-springs
poisoned.

4: ⅓ of the sun, moon, stars darkened, disrupting natural rhythms
of day & night.

What is this? Nature gone berserk. (Ex. 7-11)

TRUMPET Judgments 5-7 are **demonic forces let loose**.

5: Fallen star? Satan

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn!
How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations
low!” **Isaiah 14:12**

Opens abyss letting demonic hords loose—to torment.

The point to humanity? (Rom. 1:18, 24)

6: Unleashing 4 angels “bound at the Euphrates” (9:14)

**The trumpets are intended to get our attention, warn us, call
us to repentance.**

“The rest of humanity... did not repent of the work of their
hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold,
silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear
or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts,
their sexual immorality or their thefts.” (9:20)

Little scroll (Ezek. 2-3)

“You must prophesy again concerning many peoples and
nations and tongues and kings” (10:11)

Trumpets + our witness brings hope.

How can we respond to this?

**1 We need to _____ of anything contrary to God's will and
way**—anything we have put before obedience to Jesus Christ.

**2 We need to _____, to plead for mercy for those who do
not know the living God.** “O Lord, break through!”

**3 We need to _____ to telling people *what God says* in the
circles where we live and work.**