

DELAYED JUDGEMENT RELEASED – Revelation 8

Recap – in **Revelation chapter 1**, the glorified Christ, our Lord and Savior, is revealed to the apostle John; in **chapter 2, and 3** we reviewed Christ's seven letters to the seven churches in Asia Minor; in **chapter 4** John describes the Throne Room of heaven; in **chapter 5** the "Lamb of God" (Christ) is the only one found worthy to break the seven seals on the scroll, which contain prophetic events to take place at the end of mankind's reign on earth.

In **chapters 6, 7** six of the *seven* seals are broken; 144,000 witnesses from the twelve tribes of Israel are selected, and a great *multitude* of martyrs from the Great Tribulation are seen worshipping around the throne of Christ. **Now in chapter 8** the seventh seal on the scroll is broken, and the trumpets of judgment *begin* to blow! The prevailing *wickedness* and *rebellion* of our age serves as a reminder that these angels must be "tuning up," if not ready to blow! **(Genesis 6:3a) "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever..."** Despite the teachings by many liberal theologians today, judgement is coming to the earth!

Billy Graham once said, *actually, Ruth his wife, said it first: "If God doesn't punish America He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah."*

Billy/Ruth Graham What was the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah? **(Ezekiel 16:49-50 - NIV) "'Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen.**

What an accurate description of America and the world today! How arrogant is it for us to believe that we can commit the same sins as did

Sodom and Gomorrah, and God will give us a pass?! How can God ignore the silent cry of babies being *aborted* and remain silent?! *According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Every year in the world there are an estimated 40-50 million abortions. This corresponds to approximately 125,000 abortions per day. In the USA, where nearly half of pregnancies are unintended and four in 10 of these are terminated by abortion, there are over 3,000 abortions per day. Twenty-two percent of all pregnancies in the USA (excluding miscarriages) end in abortion.* <http://www.worldometers.info/abortions/>

Surely, unless we repent, **judgement** is coming to America and the world! But thanks *be unto God* for the **good news** of the gospel of Christ! **(Isaiah 1:18-20) "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword"; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.**

The “trumpet judgements” in **chapter 8** begin the seven year tribulation period prophesied by Daniel in **Daniel 9:27**. After the seals are broken on the scroll, the releasing of the trumpet judgments denotes the first half (3 ½ years) of the *Great Tribulation* period; and the bowl judgments (**Revelation 16**) take place during the last half (3 ½ half years) of the Great Tribulation, *with each judgement increasing in intensity.*

Note: *as we will see*, most of the trumpet judgements parallel the plagues of Egypt in the days of Moses, which began in **Exodus 7**. One commentator noted: *“And why not? After all, the whole world will be saying, as did Pharaoh; ‘Who is the Lord that we should serve Him?’” (Exodus 5:2).* *Isn’t that the sentiment we find in our society today? Who is the Lord? He’s the One every soul will bow to! (1 Peter 4:5) They will give an account to Him*

who is ready to judge the living and the dead. (Read: v.1-4) Here we have silence before the storm! Seven angels (*seven being the Hebrew number for completeness*) are given seven trumpets; another angel is holding a golden censer.

As in the ancient temple of Israel, the altar of incense represented the prayers of the people, *as the smoke from the altar ascended upward*. The smoke of the incense offered by the angel along with the prayers of the saints (*people of God*) *is as a sweet aroma before the throne of God!* God delights in much incense, much prayer! **Your prayers are never in vain!** Thus, Paul exhorts us: **(1 Thessalonians 5:17) “...pray without ceasing.”**

(v.5) The *angel* then fills his censer with hot *coals* from the altar, and casts it upon the earth! Immediately there are *noises, thundering, lightning,* and an *earthquake* – **a symbolic warning of things to come!** There’s a lesson here: Fire from the altar of God can *either* purify or punish – purify as it did in **Isaiah 6**, *seraphim* (*angelic being*), or *fire can be for* punishment as with the two sons of Aaron, *Nadab and Abihu* (**Leviticus 10**), who presented “profane,” *literally “adulterous,”* fire (irreverent service) before the Lord! **(Hebrews 12:29) For our God is a consuming fire. He consumes to consecrate and to condemn!**

(v.6) At this point, *when God’s wrath is ready to be poured out*, the church has been raptured from the earth, according to **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18; 5:9, 10.** **(v.7)** The first trumpet sounds – Vegetation is struck. An environmental disaster takes place. A third of trees and all grass is burned up! “*Hail and fire mingled with blood*” reminds us of the seventh plague God brought against Egypt – (**Exodus 9:18-26**). There is *nothing* here indicating symbolism. As with

the plagues in Egypt, the language here is literal. **(v.8, 9)** The **second** trumpet sounds - **Sea is struck**. Turning water into blood was the first Egyptian plague (**Exodus 7:19-21**); *in this case it is salt-water*. John describes something like a “great mountain” with fire (*possibly a massive meteor*) thrown into the sea.

There’s a three-fold judgement here: A third of the sea becomes blood; a third of the sea creatures die; and a third of the ships are destroyed. In 2017 the world’s merchant ship fleet consisted of 52,183 ships; this number does not include military vessels. (Statista.com). We can only imagine how devastating this disaster will be on global trade!

(v.10, 11) The **third** trumpet sounds —**Waters— Waters are struck**. The wrath of God now reaches inland, contaminating the fresh-water sources of the world. It is *likely* that this fallen star is molten (*being liquefied by heat*), thus, as it nears the earth it begins to *disintegrate* and falls into various bodies of water; thus contaminating the earth’s water supply. ***The National Geographic Society lists about 100 principal rivers on the planet.*** The name of this star is “Wormwood”; *wormwood is a bitter aromatic plant*. **In fact, wormwood literally means bitter.** In scripture wormwood is *synonymous* with sorrow and great calamity.

With this third trumpet, there is no direct parallel with the plagues of Egypt. However, in **Exodus 15:23-27** there’s an account given regarding the **bitter waters of Marah**. The bitter (undrinkable) waters were made “sweet” after Moses, *following the instructions of the Lord*, cast a tree into the water. The healing of the waters at Marah *spoke prophetically* of the cross! Metaphorically speaking, God would cast the “tree,” the cross upon which Christ died, into the “bitter waters” of the world, that the bitterness of our

lives might be *transformed* into something sweet! **Only Jesus can create something *beautiful*, out of *bitterness*! (Isaiah 61:3) “...beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”**

The **fourth** trumpet – **Heavens (solar system) is struck**. A third of the **sun**, **moon** and **stars** are “struck”; the earth is darkened *for a large part of the day and night*. Jesus mentions this event in **Luke 21:25-28**. **God will withdraw the very light He created!** *There will be serious consequences, as the seasons, human health, the growth of fruits and vegetables will be affected! In addition, due to the extra period of darkness, criminal activity will surge world-wide!*

~~This trumpet~~ parallel trumpet parallels the ninth *plague* against Egypt (**Exodus 10:21-23**). The ninth *plague against Egypt* lasted only three days. Thus, this *fourth trumpet judgment appears* to be temporary also; because in the **fourth bowl judgment**, the *power* of the sun is *actually* intensified (**Revelation 16:8,9**). In (v.13) the angel declares **three woes**. As if to say, *things are just starting to heat up*; there are three more *devastating* trumpet judgements to come! **In chapter 9 we find two of the three woes, the 5th and 6th trumpet judgments, which we will look at next time.**

APPLICATION: In referring to the new heaven and earth, Peter declares; **(2 Peter 3:11, 12) Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with**

fervent heat? If the Book of Revelation doesn't change our conduct, *ignite a flame within us*, we have a serious problem!

Gas stove – cancel button – spark but no fire! I discovered a message scrolling across the screen on the stove, telling me to press cancel; when I did, the burners worked! Perhaps the reason our *spiritual burner will not ignite is we have not pressed the “cancel” button on our carnal behavior!* **(Ephesians 5:14) Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."** In hospitals light is used as a disinfectant, a healing agent; and so it is in Christ!

The judgment to come is not something God rejoices in, but being a just and holy God, He must *punish* sin. **(Ezekiel 33:11) Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'**