

20. The Messages of the First Four Trumpets

In our last topic, we saw that we wanted to help our physical and spiritual children learn to understand and explain how the judgment of the first trumpet will impact all of the people on the earth. In this topic, we will see the judgments that will come on the creation when the second, third and fourth trumpets are sounded.

We saw that seven angels were given seven trumpets. In the last topic, we saw the judgment that will come on the earth when the first trumpet is sounded. Now, we go on to read about the judgment that will come when the second trumpet is sounded. Revelation 8:8-9 says, “Then the second angel sounded: And *something* like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.” Here, we see that this judgment is going to particularly affect the seas and oceans and the things that are related to them.

John did not know how to describe the judgment that came when the second angel sounded his trumpet. As a result, he said it was something like a great mountain burning with fire that was thrown into the sea. This could be something like a huge meteor that burns up and breaks up as it enters the atmosphere and lands in the oceans, because it will have an impact on the seas and oceans throughout the earth. We see that this will affect the oceans and the things on or in the oceans in three ways. First, we see that one third of the water will turn to blood. The first plague in Egypt gives us a tiny illustration as God turned the water of the Nile River into blood. Exodus 7:20-21 says, “And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that *were* in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that *were* in the river were turned to blood. The fish that *were* in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.” However, this judgment will be much greater because one-third of all of the water in the oceans will be turned to blood.

Second, we see that one-third of all of the living creatures in the sea will die. Genesis 2:21 says, “So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that *it was good*.” We see that God created great sea creatures, fish and all of the other things that live in the oceans. In this trumpet judgment, we see that one-third of all of these fish and other creatures that live in the sea will die. Third, we see that one-third of all of the ships in the ocean will be destroyed. Today, there are thousands of ships traveling in the various oceans of the world. Whether the number will be the same or greater at the time of the second trumpet, one-third of all of the ships will be destroyed. This will include all of the people who are on those ships.

Revelation 8:10-11 goes on to tell us what will happen when the third angel sounds his trumpet. Those verses say, “Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning 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 men died from the water, because it was made bitter.” This time we see that a great star or meteor from heaven will fall into the

atmosphere and it will burn like a torch. This will cause it to disintegrate and it will be scattered over one-third of the fresh waters throughout the world. The remains of this star will fall into rivers, lakes, and streams in various parts of the earth and cause them to become polluted.

We see that the name of this star is called “Wormwood”. Wormwood is described as something that is very bitter. Proverbs 5:3-4 says, “For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, and her mouth *is* smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.” Here, we see that an immoral woman speaks words of sweetness but her heart is controlled by bitterness. Deuteronomy 29:18-19 says, “So that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go *and* serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood; and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart’—as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.” Here, we see God warned the nation of Israel that a heart filled with bitterness toward God might turn to serve the gods of the nations because of that bitterness. We see that the star called Wormwood will pollute the fresh water.

One-third of all of the fresh water on the earth will be polluted and turned to wormwood by the remnants of this star as it falls in various rivers, lakes, and springs around the earth. When Israel was in the wilderness, the Lord showed Moses what to do to make the bitter water sweet. Exodus 15:23-26 says, “Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they *were* bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people complained against Moses, saying, ‘What shall we drink?’ So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast *it* into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them, and said, ‘If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I *am* the LORD who heals you.’” Here, we see God healed the waters and promised to prevent the diseases of Egypt if the people were obedient.

In contrast, we see that most of the people, in the time of the tribulation, will be in full rebellion against God. As a result, God will bring judgment on their drinking water, just as He did to the land of Egypt in the plague where He turned the water into blood. Exodus 7:20-21 says, “And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that *were* in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that *were* in the river were turned to blood. The fish that *were* in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.” This polluted water caused many diseases to spread among the Egyptians. The polluted water, in the tribulation, will do much more than just cause diseases. We see that many people will die from the water polluted by the wormwood because the wormwood will cause the water to become bitter and kill many people.

That brings us to the judgment that comes when the fourth angel sounds his trumpet. Revelation 8:12-13 says, “Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the

moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night. And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!” Here, we see that the sounding of the fourth trumpet will affect the entire universe. This trumpet judgment will affect the sun, moon and stars.

Matthew 24:21-22 and Mark 13:19-20 say almost the exact same thing about this time. Mark 13:19-20 says, “For *in* those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be. And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.” Here, we see that the Christ promised that these days would be kept short for the sake of the tribulation saints. If Christ had not promised to shorten those days, we see that no flesh would be saved.

Here, in Revelation, we see that a third of the sun, a third of the moon and a third of the stars will be darkened. This will have a dramatic impact on the earth. Some of this impact is described in Luke 21:25-26, where we read: “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” These changes in the sun, moon, and stars will cause distress of the nations. It will cause people throughout the earth to be perplexed. Most of all this judgment of the heavens will cause the hearts of men to fail them because of their fear and expectation of things that are yet to come on the earth. No one will be able to ignore what is happening.

At this time, another angel will fly through the midst of heaven. This angel will cry out with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!” The word translated “woe” or “alas” is “*an exclamation of grief*”. Here, we see that there will be three woes. Revelation 9:1-11 describes the fifth trumpet judgment. Then, Revelation 9:12 says, “One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.” Then, Revelation 9:13-11:13 describes the judgment of the sixth trumpet. Then, Revelation 11:14 says, “The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.” The seventh angel sounds his trumpet, in Revelation 11:15. The seventh trumpet judgment will include all of the following judgments through the end of Revelation 18. Revelation 18:16 and 18:19 both use the word “alas” (woe) twice as the trumpet judgments finish.

We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain the judgments that will come on the earth as God judges the rebellion of mankind. God will bring His judgment in His time, and that is why we are not to try to judge others ourselves. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to explain these judgments.