

## **Back to the Future: The First Four Trumpets**

### **The seventh seal is the seven trumpet judgments, 8:1**

*It is opened and there is a silence that is deafening.*

*We have just heard the thunderous cries of heaven, 7:10, 11. Perhaps this is the "calm before the storm."*

*Those who were silent are the angels, living creatures, the elders, and the martyred of heaven.*

*Where are we?*

*The seven sealed scroll represented ownership/authority.*

### **The seven trumpets**

#### ***Prelude***

**THE seven angels get seven trumpets. 8:2 (cf Zeph 1:14-16**

*A trumpet always was blown for an important announcement.*

**They will respond to the "prayers of the saints," 8:3-4**

*What are the saints praying?*

**They may be praying for judgment.**

**2 Thess 1:6ff**

**Jeremiah prayed for mercy on God's people, then he prayed for judgment.**

*Jeremiah prayed for mercy, but then he prayed for judgment, Jer 18:19*

**They will start with this prelude, 8:5, 6**

**They do not recapitulate the seven seals, they are successive**

#### ***The first trumpet, 8:7***

**Hail and fire mingled with blood similar to the seventh Egyptian plague (Ex 9:13-35), see also Joel 2:31 (Acts 2:19)**

*Hail and red-lightening?*

*This plague was aimed at nature, which man depends on to feed him*

Earth, probably meaning the following in contrast to the sea of the next trumpet

Trees (probably fruit trees)

Grass (that which livestock feed on)

### ***The second trumpet, 8:8-9***

Huge mountain aimed at the sea

*This is probably a meteoric mass falling into the sea, perhaps the Mediterranean Sea.*

*One third of the sea was turned to blood*

Does this reflect the first Egyptian plague (Ex 7:20-21) where the water turned to blood, killing fish and making the water undrinkable?

*One third of sea creatures died*

Perhaps some chemical reaction causes this?

*One third of ships destroyed?*

Perhaps the violence of the waters destroys the ships

Human resources are dwindling

### ***The third trumpet, 8:10-11***

Perhaps another meteoric mass that turns to dust and covers the earth

This affects 1/3 of the fresh-water resources of the earth and its effect is similar to the first plague, making water undrinkable and many die as a result.

### ***The fourth trumpet, 8:12***

A darkening of the illuminearies of heaven

*A decrease in the intensity or duration of available light*

*In the OT, darkness was often a symbol for judgment and this is somewhat parallel to the ninth plague of Egypt (Ex 10:21-22) Prophets spoke of days of darkness (Amos 5:18; Isa 13:10; Joel 2:2)*

Almost every area of life will be effected by this

## **A brief intermission**

### **The eagle's fearful proclamation, 8:13**

The whole earth will hear this proclamation

## So What?

***It should be clear that what is happening on the earth can't be mere chance.***

***The people of the earth who survive certainly understand something of unparalleled proportions is going on.***

***Just because people see divine and miraculous events does not mean they will repent or believe them.***

In the days of Moses, the miracles only served to harden Pharaoh's heart, Ex 9:34

In the days of Jesus, the Pharisees saw Jesus miracles, yet they did not lead to repentance, John 11:47-48, 53.

***Men's hearts are deceitfully hard, Jer 17:9***

***God raised up Pharaoh for his glory, Rom 9:17***