The trumpet judgments

(Part 2---Revelation 9:13-21)

We are in the middle of a series on the Book of Revelation—How The World as We Know It Will End. Last week reviewed the first four Trumpet Judgments found in Revelation 8 and then talked about the fifth trumpet in Rev 9:1-12.

**Review**

(Comments on slide RE: 7 Years /three series + added Scriptures!!!)

And as we saw last time, C. S. Lewis (in *The Problem of Pain*) put it this way:

*“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience,
but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”*

One of God’s purposes behind this future seven-year period of trouble will be to wake unbelieving and atheistic people up to the truth of eternal judgment, in other words, hell. Right now, people are not listening. God is drawing humanity to Himself, but humanity is pushing Him away. It will not listen. Therefore, because God LOVES mankind (and wants to save mankind), there will come a time when God will “turn up the thermostat” as it were. He will bring a period of seven years of unprecedented trouble on mankind in order to get as many people to listen to Him (and be saved) as possible. And as I said last time, the judgments increase in intensity across the seven-year timespan.

When people refuse to listen to God, God will do all He can to wake them up before it is too late.

Let’s do a quick review of Revelation 8 so that we can find our place as we look at chapter 9 this morning. The first four Trumpet Judgments found in Revelation 8 bring difficulties upon mankind through earth’s eco-system:

#1: Earth’s vegetation is scorched
#2: Earth’s oceans are struck and many sea creatures as well as humans die

#3: The water of earth’s rivers becomes toxic and many people die as a result

#4: The sun, moon, and stars are darkened bringing with it catastrophic results

Let’s look now at the last verse of Revelation 8 (= v.13):

Revelation 8:13 And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven [the sky], 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!"

The next three Trumpet Judgments (5, 6, & 7) are called the “Three Woes” because the first four Trumpets targeted earth’s **environment**, but the next three judgments will target earth’s **inhabitants**—

“Woe, woe, woe *to the* ***inhabitants*** of the earth…”

Then, as we saw last week in Rev 9, vv. 1-11, the fifth trumpet had to do with demons that will be released from the center of the earth that will not KILL people, but, essentially, immobilize them and torture them with pain that is like the sting of a scorpion for five months.

**5. Trumpet 5---demons loosed**

The reason that John calls these creatures “locusts” may be that,
like an army of locusts, these demons from the bottomless pit will cover the earth to wreak havoc, not on vegetation, but on unbelieving sinners.

Revelation 9:12 One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

Verse 13:

Revelation 9:13-19 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." 15 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill **a third of mankind**.

Notice, the demons in the last Trumpet Judgment were not permitted to kill. But the result of this judgment is the loss of life of a third of mankind!

And like the last judgment, John’s vision here is **HIGHLY** symbolical:

16 Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. 17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. 18 By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed -- by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. 19 For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

**6. Trumpet 6---mankind decimated**

This judgment is during the first 3.5 years and is probably at the very end of the first half of the Tribulation. Mankind has heard God’s Two Witnesses **predict** His coming judgments and **bring them to pass**, and yet mankind continues to resist and reject God.

There is no way of knowing exactly how this judgment will be fulfilled. But it is entirely possible that this will be a micro-organism of some kind. We are aware of the declining effectiveness of antibiotics, even against organisms that we thought we had conquered, and now we are hearing about new organisms.

(BTW, thankfully, the micro-organism you see on the screen is only at the bottom of the ocean near hydrothermal vents.)

Could an air-borne organism result in a plague that could decimate the population of the world? It’s very possible. This is grim stuff but this is what lies ahead for humanity. One-third of mankind will lose their lives.

Now the last two verses of chap. 9:

Revelation 9:20-21 But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.
21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Incredible! A third of mankind is decimated by divine judgment. But do people repent so that God’s wrath might stop falling? No. They harden their hearts and continue in rebellion against God.

(Before “Application,” take questions)

**Application**

When God “turned up the heat” on mankind, they refuse to repent.

Q: Are you resisting God in any way in your life? (Comments)