

The Third Vision-The Seven Trumpets

Revelation 8-11

The opening of the seventh seal at the beginning of chapter 8 serves as the introduction to the vision of the seven trumpets. The first 6 seals had depicted signs of the end followed by the last Judgment. When you compare Matthew 24 with Revelation 6 there are four things missing in Revelation 6. What is missing is a reference to false prophets, false Christs, apostasy, and love growing cold. We may summarize these four signs as being ungodly living and false teaching. Therefore, the calamities in Revelation 8 and 9 are a graphic portrayal of the effects of heresy in the church.

Read Chapter 8

- 1) What do you think is being stressed when we are told there was silence for ½ hour in heaven?
- 2) What was the main use of trumpets in the Old Testament? (Amos 3:6)
- 3) What is the incense here that is offered up so that God answers our prayers?(John 16:23)
- 4) What message is being given when the censer is hurled to the earth?

The calamities mentioned in Chapter 8:6-13 are similar to the plagues in Egypt....False teaching is a punishment from God. When men refuse to take Scripture at face value, error and deception are natural punishments that come as a direct consequence of the rejection of God's Word. Because men have refused to love the truth, God will send them strong delusions so that they firmly believe lies instead. (2 Thessalonians 2:10)

Trumpet 1:

Trumpet 2:

Trumpet 3:

Trumpet 4:

5. What do you think it means that these heresies are able to destroy only 1/3?

His Word in My Life:

As horrifying as John's pictures of the last times are, they benefit the believers who read them. Can you think of one or more ways in which these scary pictures help us spiritually?

Read Chapter 9

1. Who is the angel of the Abyss?
2. What is being released when the key is used?
3. What do these passages teach us about the source of false teachings? (I Timothy 4:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:9)

4. What hints are there to suggest that we are to understand the locusts in a symbolic way?

5. What do you think the locusts are?

Note: The number 5 here seems to indicate that false doctrines, like locust swarms, have a tendency to fade away and lose their power, only to appear again for a new season of seeming success. (Arianism)

6. What does the picture of them having women's hair, but having lions' teeth say about these false prophets?

7. How can you be tormented by false teachings?

8. What do the 4 evil angels being bound, and being released at a certain time say about our God?

9. What is God's intent when He sends mental and spiritual pain and sorrow as a direct punishment flowing from falsehood, and heresy?

His Word in My Life:

Show some of the agony those who follow false teaching experience in their lives.