

God Is Patient, Not Wanting Anyone to Perish

Revelation 8:1-9:21

It is difficult to read the judgments of the trumpets and think of the grace and patient loving kindness of God toward unbelievers, but that is just what is being revealed. The Scripture is clear, God desires all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (I Timothy 2:4). Even in judgment, God shows His mercy, as we will discover in our study of the eighth and ninth chapters of God's revelation to John.

I. A Brief Overview of the Trumpets & Comparison to the Bowls of Judgment

- A. 1st: hail and fire mixed with blood and 1/3 of earth, trees, & all grass burned up
- B. 2nd: blazing mountain hurled into the sea and 1/3 of living creatures & ships destroyed
- C. 3rd: great star falls from the sky on 1/3 of rivers & springs turning them bitter
- D. 4th: 1/3 of sun, moon, & stars turned dark; 1/3 of day and night without light

INTERLUDE OF THE EAGLE

- E. 5th: the abyss is opened and locusts swarm out upon the people
- F. 6th: the Angels at the River Euphrates are released to kill 1/3 of mankind
- G. 7th: Christ returns bodily to the earth to reign

II. The Loving-kindness and Patience of God in the Warning Trumpets

- A. The meaning of the trumpets--God sounds the warning note to unbelievers
- B. The message of the judgments with 2/3 being spared
- C. The mission of the Church to share the good news of repentance and faith toward God, of the love of God in the Cross and of the Lamb Who was slain for the sins of the world.

III. God's Methods in Motivating Change

- A. Do you not know that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? (Rom 2:4)
- B. God blesses the unbeliever in both common grace and particular grace in an effort to motivate him to repentance and faith
- C. God only resorts to judgment when other means have failed
- D. We must remember, even in judgment and tribulation, that God loves people--sinful people (whom we all once were)--and desires everyone to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. (I Tim 2:4) Even in the last days, God is extending His grace and favor right up to the end.

We must always bear in mind, when we contemplate the just punishment of the wicked, that we, too, were once numbered among them. We have been saved by grace, and not on the basis of works which we have done. Our salvation is by His merciful loving-kindness and not because we deserve special treatment. Filled with the Holy Spirit and the love of God for all people, our supreme mission is to share the Good News of Jesus with all who will listen (and they will be few), urging them in the eleventh hour to turn to God for help and salvation: there, but for the grace of God, go I!

	TRUMPETS	BOWLS
1	Hail, fire mingled with blood 1/3 earth, 1/3 trees, all grass (8:7)	Ugly festering sores on those who have the mark of the beast (16:2)
2	Great mountain burning with fire cast into the sea 1/3 sea becomes blood 1/3 creatures die 1/3 ships destroyed (8:8)	Bowl is poured out on sea and turned to blood All sea creatures die (16: 4-7)
3	Star falls from heaven upon the rivers and fountains 1/3 water becomes bitter and many die (8:10-11)	Bowl is poured out on rivers and springs and all become blood (16:4-7)
4	1/3 part of sun 1/3 part of moon 1/3 part of stars 1/3 of day & night darkens (8:12)	Sun scorches people with fire, intense heat But no repentance (16:8-9)
5	Star falls from heaven with key to the abyss Locusts come out and sting people (9:1-11)	Bowl is poured on the throne of the beast Its kingdom is plunged into darkness (16:10-11)
6	Loose the 4 angels They kill 1/3 of people (9:13-21) THE 6TH ANGEL HAS <u>THE</u> TRUMPET	Bowl is poured out and the Euphrates dries up Frogs go out – DEMONS – who gather the kings for battle “LOOK, I COME LIKE A THIEF” (16:12-14)
7	Loud voices in heaven “The Kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Messiah, and He will reign for ever and ever (11:15)	The 7 th angel pours out his bowl into the air and a loud voice from the throne says, “IT IS DONE!” Babylon falls and the multitude in heaven shouts, Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God... For the Lord God Almighty reigns... For the wedding of the Lamb has come (16:17-21 & 19:1-8)