

SRMBC Family Bible Study

Revelation - The Triumph of God

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Lesson 7: Cheer Up! The Worst Is Yet to Come! Revelation 8 – 9

It was hardly what we would expect someone to say in hard times: “Cheer up! The worst is yet to come!” These ironic words, first uttered by Chase Johnson (1866-1939), contain a deep truth and a promise that points to our hope in Christ.

Group Discussion. Compare your experiences of hope and despair among nonbelievers and among believers. Do you find that Christians are generally more hopeful? Why?



The Hurricane Movie: “Risen From The Dead”
Rubin Carter is about to hear the judge’s decision in his final appeal. Carter has served twenty years of a life sentence for a triple homicide he did not commit.

Rubin tells Lesra the tremendous hope that he given him and that no matter what the decision, Rubin is already free.

When he was filled with hate, Rubin isolated himself from everyone. He changed when Lesra and his friends came to help.

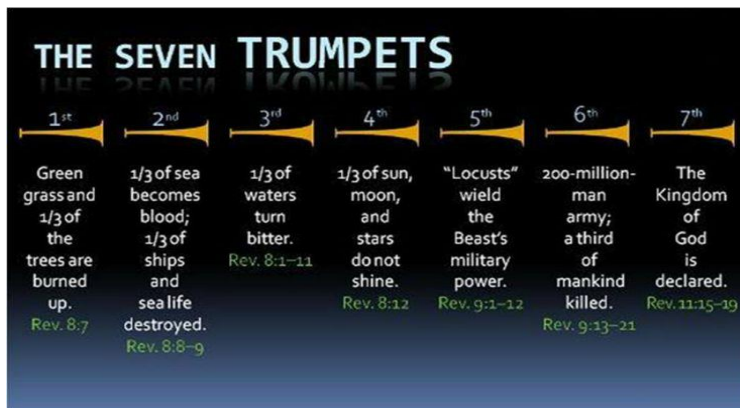
Questions:

- How does Satan seek to isolate Christians in order to destroy them? How do community, accountability, and fellowship bring life and hope?
- Rubin encouraged Lesra with the meanings of their names. How did these meanings encourage them?
- How can we hope for the best and not give up even when our situation remains unchanged?

Revelation 8—9 we see that John is convinced that the church is the new Israel, that the final redemption by Christ was the new exodus (15:2-3) and that Rome was the new Egypt (11:8). So, John crafts his message about the coming final judgment/deliverance around the model of the plagues of Egypt, saying in effect to the leaders of the new Egypt, “Let my people go!” and to Christians, “Hold your head high because your redemption is even nearer than when you first believed.”

Read Revelation 8—9

1. The trumpets announce that God’s saving judgments are implemented at God’s signal. List the events that happen when each of the angels blows his trumpet. What similarities do you note between all of these events?



Most of the Trumpet Plagues only affect **1/3** of the objects/persons in the announced judgements (An indication of God's Mercy).

Each judgement moves in increasing intensity eventually directly coming against mankind.

2. The unfolding of further disaster is preceded by an extraordinary silence in heaven (8:1). What is the purpose of this pregnant pause?
 - Since the heavenly choir sings night and day (Rev. 4:8ff) the half-hour silence in heaven is an awesome event.
 - In John's vision, he makes the point that God must and will hear the prayers of His people.
 - The silence indicates that they are at a crucial juncture of God's redemptive plan.
3. What is your own response to the truth that God will not complete the story of redemption until he has heard the prayers of the whole church?
 - It shows the importance and priority that Prayer should be in the Church (Mk.11:17, I Tim. 2:1).
 - What an awesome thought – that my/our prayers actually reach and move heaven.
 - it lets us know the responsibly the church has to pray in the will of God (Matt 6:9 – 13).
 - God is very interested in hearing the prayers of His people.
4. What encouragement is now given to those who are not yet martyrs and may never be concerning their role in the triumph of God over all (8:1-5)?
 - The Prayers and Praise of God's people are a crucial component of his final victory.
 - The spreading of the Gospel by the Church is even more important as the 2nd coming of Christ draws near.
 - The tribulation that is coming on the Earth – will not touch them/us
5. We are sealed by God just as the martyrs are. The eagle (8:13) announces that the last three trumpets are even worse. What is more woeful about what follows?
 - Woe means "grief, anguish, affliction"
 - The Rise of the Beast/Antichrist and war upon the earth.
 - 1/3 of the entire population of the earth will be killed.
 - A final war against Satan and his followers (Armageddon) will be necessary to usher in the kingdom of God.

The three woes of Revelation are the final judgment God pronounces on the evil inhabitants of the earth in order to spur them to repentance (Revelation 9:20).

Note: Some modern Bible Translations have eagle (Gk. “aetos”) instead of angel (Grk. “aggelos”).

6. It is sometimes maintained that Christians are removed from the world before God’s wrath falls. What alternative view is possibly suggested in 9:4?

Rev. 9:4 - “They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.”

- There is a specific command to the angels not to harm anyone (God’s Separated people) other than those who do not have the seal.
 - This verse seems to suggest that those – who have the seal are the church during the tribulation.
 - Jesus predicts that His followers that will face tribulation in the world (Jn. 16:33)
7. What apparently is God’s purpose in allowing these judgments to fall on the whole creation (9:20-21)? Does such a response by God seem justified? Explain.

God’s purpose in these Judgements is 3 – fold:

- To separate/make a distinction of the Godly from ungodly.
- To call the remaining people to repentance and salvation.
- To punish those who reject Him in Idolatry and Unbelief.

God in His perfect Holiness and Righteousness is Just in bringing His wrath to bear against sin and sinners.

8. Those mentioned in 9:20-21 did not repent. How do our sins today compare with theirs? Where do you see yourself in this list of sins?

| Sins in Revelation 9:20 – 21 | Sins Today |
|--|---|
| Works Of Their Hands | Idolatry, Pride Over Things We Created And Our Accomplishments |
| Worship of Demons | Devil Worship, False Religions, Rejection Of Biblical Truth/Righteousness |
| [Worship of...] Idols Of Gold, Silver, Brass, Stone, And Wood | Worship Of Money, Materialism, Lack Of Contentment Or Giving/Sharing. |
| Murders | Abortion, Mass Murders, Gang And Domestic Violence, Lies, Gossip And Slander. |
| Sorceries | Witchcraft, Manipulation Of People, Rebellion/Disobedience To Authority. |
| Sexual Immorality | LGBTQ+, Promiscuity, Pornography, Lewdness In The Media. |
| Thefts | Greed, Ponzi Schemes (Madoff), Crime, Identify Thefts |

Take time for silent or verbal repentance of your sins.

Keys For Living



Although the wrath of God against sin causes all kinds of sorrow and trouble in the world, we can rejoice because it means that Jesus coming soon (Matt 24:33).



God's purpose in sending or allowing trouble and judgement is not simply to punish or destroy, but to draw unbelievers to repentance and salvation in Christ.



God in His holiness is completely just in His punishment against sin and sinners. Seeing that there is none righteous (Rom 3:10, 23), we all need admit and confess our sins to receive forgiveness and cleansing (James 1:8 – 10).

Revelation 9 Notes

Who is Abaddon/Apollyon

The name **Abaddon** or **Apollyon** appears in Revelation 9:11: "They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon." In Hebrew, the name "Abaddon" means "place of destruction"; the Greek title "Apollyon" literally means "**The Destroyer**." Abaddon/Apollyon is often used as another name for Satan. However, Scripture seems to distinguish the two. Abaddon/Apollyon is the ruler of the Abyss and the king of the demonic locusts. These creatures will be given the power to torture any person who does not bear God's seal (Revelation 9:4). The pain they inflict will be so intense that sufferers will wish to die (Revelation 9:6).

What is Wormwood in Revelation?

Wormwood is mentioned in connection with the angel who will blow the third trumpet resulting in judgment during the future tribulation period. Revelation 8:10-11 states, "The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing 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 people died from the water, because it had been made bitter."

Wormwood is a star that will fall from the sky and pollute the earth's waters. Specifically, a third of the earth's water will become polluted, with many people dying as a result.

Wormwood is the name of a plant and of the bitter-tasting extract derived (Prov 5:3-5) from it and that is what the judgment of God will taste like to **everyone who refuses to repent and trust in Christ**. It will be the bitterest of things to swallow and the bitterest of all endings because it is without end .

As John writes; "the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name" (Rev 14:11).