

## **Lesson Eleven**

### **Trumpet Judgments One - Four (8:7-13)**

The opening of the seven seals has taken us to the End. The interlude between seals six and seven were necessary to provide assurance to Believers. Now it is time for the beginning of the Great Tribulation and the last moments of human existence on earth as we know it today. Seven angels with seven trumpets stand before God. Each angel sounds a trumpet to announce the first set of God's judgments during the Great Tribulation. Seven is the divine number and the judgments of God fall on an evil and perverse world.

#### **Trumpet One: Hail and Fire Mixed With Blood (8:7)**

The first judgment falls on the earth's vegetation. The fraction 1/3 is mentioned throughout the trumpet judgments to represent incomplete judgment. One must remember a similar phenomenon occurred in the past. This is similar to the 7<sup>th</sup> plague on Egypt (Exodus 9:22-26). It is normal for lightning to be equated with a hale storm. Imagine the dreadful outcome of this judgment. Food will become scarce; transportation, communication, economics, and all major social systems will be negatively impacted.

## **Trumpet Two: The Bloody Sea (8:8-9)**

The second judgment falls on the sea. Some commentators understand this to be volcanic eruption. A part (1/3) of the sea's fish and sea life perish. A similar phenomenon occurred in the past (Exodus 7:20-21). Notice the three-fold judgment and their devastation.

- 1/3 of the sea becomes blood. This will result in pollution.
- 1/3 of the sea creatures perish. This will result in an imbalance of ocean life.
- 1/3 of the ships are destroyed. This will result in great economic loss.

The oceans occupy approximately three-fourths of the earth's surface. Yet, this judgment is only partial.

## **Trumpet Three: Bitter Fresh Water (8:10-11)**

The third judgment falls on fresh water. This results in the pollution of rivers, lakes, wells, and all sources of fresh water. Many people die from this plague.

Wormwood represents bitterness (Jeremiah 9:15; 23:15). Some see this as a great meteor that falls to the earth. This "great star" appears to disintegrate as it enters the earth's atmosphere and falls into various bodies of fresh water. Over two-thirds of the earth's fresh water is frozen in glaciers and polar ice caps.

Most of the remaining unfrozen fresh water is underground. The world's supply of clean, fresh water is steadily decreasing. One great pollutant to the earth's depleting supply of fresh water and many people will perish.

### **Trumpet Four: Dark Heavenly Bodies (8:12)**

The fourth judgment falls on the heaven bodies, as the sun, moon and stars become dark. One third of the heavenly bodies are affected. This is similar to the 9th plague of Egypt (Exodus 10:21-23). It may be that this judgment will be temporary. In the fourth bowl judgment the sun will scorch inhabitants of the earth (16:8-9). One can only imagine the devastation if one-third less sunlight falls on the earth. The sun is a necessary resource of energy and it is necessary to support the systems of life for both man and nature.

### **The Eagle Announces Three Woes (8:13)**

The first four trumpet judgments fall on nature. The next two fall on mankind. John hears an eagle that brings bad news and warning. An eagle sounds a three-fold woe. It is as though the eagle says, "The worst is yet to come." The eagle soars above the earth and declares his warnings "to those who dwell on the earth."