

The First Four Trumpets

8:1-13

Introductory Notes

- We return to the chronological narrative in this chapter with the opening of the Seventh Seal
- The Seventh Seal contains the Seven Trumpet judgments that will follow.
- The distinguishing characteristic of the first four Trumpets is that God is judging man through nature.

Outline

- The Seventh Seal opened - vs. 1
- The Angels and the Incense - vs. 2-6
- The First Trumpet (Fiery Hail) - vs. 7
- The Second Trumpet (Sea Turns To Blood) - vs. 8-9
- The Third Trumpet ("Wormwood" Poisons Water) - vs. 10-11
- The Fourth Trumpet (Heavens Darkened) - vs. 12
- The Message of the Angel - vs. 13

Notes

- vs. 1 - Why the silence? Probably in awe of what is to come.
- vs. 3 - altar - I think it is an altar of incense, such as in Exodus 30:1-10
- vs. 3 - prayers of saints - are, at least in part, the prayers of martyrs in 6:9-10.
- vs. 5 - "voices", etc. - these are anticipating the judgment to come
- vs. 7 - The First Trumpet is very similar to the Seventh Plague in Exodus 9:23-25
- vs. 7 - 1/3 of trees - I found a report that said in 2010 there was 15,571,500 square miles of forests on earth. Add all the forests in Asia and Africa and you are just shy of one-third.
- vs. 8 - The Second Trumpet has similarities to the First Plague in Exodus 7:14-25
- vs. 8 - "great mountain" - I think quite possibly a super-volcano or perhaps a meteor.
- vs. 8 - 1/3 of sea - I couldn't get a very clear breakdown on this size, but is it roughly 70% of the Pacific Ocean.
- vs. 8 - "sea became blood" - I'm taking this as literally blood, just as literally 1/3 of the sea is affected and 1/3 of sea life is killed and 1/3 of sea vessels are destroyed.
- vs. 10 - I think this is clearly a meteor or comet
- vs. 10 - 1/3 of rivers - I think this is directed at fresh water in contrast to the sea before.
- vs. 11 - "waters became wormwood" - basically poisoned. Comets, for instance, are known to contain such things as hydrogen cyanide and formaldehyde. Possibly could be radioactivity also.
- vs. 12 - 1/3 of light is taken away, by both intensity and duration.
- vs. 13 - Think this is bad? Just wait for the rest of the Trumpets...