THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Bereans Adult Bible Fellowship Placerita Baptist Church

- 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.
- Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne.

- 4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand.
- Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

- 6 And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.
- 7 The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

- 8 The second angel sounded, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood,
- 9 and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.

- 10 The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters.
- 11 The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.

12 The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way.

13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

Place in the Book of Revelation

- . What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II. What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- What will take place after these things (Rev 4–22).
 - **A.** The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)
 - B. The Seven Trumpets (8:2–11:19)



- 1. Preparation for the Seven Trumpet Judgments (8:2–6)
 - a. The Seven Angels with the Seven Trumpets (8:2, 6)
 - Function of trumpets



Jeremiah 4:19

My soul, my soul! I am in anguish!
Oh, my heart! My heart is pounding in me;

I cannot be silent,
Because you have heard, O my soul,
The sound of the trumpet,
The alarm of war.

Judges 6:34

So the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; and he blew a trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called together to follow him.

Exodus 20:18

All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood at a distance.

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 - Angels and judgment

Matthew 13:39-41

- and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels.
- So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age.
- The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, . . .

- 1. Preparation for the Seven Trumpet Judgments (8:2–6)
 - b. The Angel with the Golden Censer (8:3–5)
 - Over or at the altar in Heaven



- 1. Preparation for the Seven Trumpet Judgments (8:2–6)
 - b. The Angel with the Golden Censer (8:3–5)
 - Over or at the altar in Heaven
 - Who is this angel?
 - What is this angel's work?

Revelation 5:8

When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Ezekiel 10:1–2, 6–7

- 1 Then I looked, and behold, in the expanse that was over the heads of the cherubim something like a sapphire stone, in appearance resembling a throne, appeared above them.
- 2 And He spoke to the man clothed in linen and said, "Enter between the whirling wheels under the cherubim and fill your hands with coals of fire from between the cherubim and scatter *them* over the city." And he entered in my sight.

Ezekiel 10:1–2, 6–7

- It came about when He commanded the man clothed in linen, saying, "Take fire from between the whirling wheels, from between the cherubim," he entered and stood beside a wheel.
- 7 Then the cherub stretched out his hand from between the cherubim to the fire which was between the cherubim, took some and put it into the hands of the one clothed in linen, who took it and went out.

Question for Discussion

Why can't the angel with the golden censer be Jesus Christ?

- 2. The First Four Trumpet Judgments (8:7–12)
 - a. First Trumpet—Hail, Fire, Blood (8:7)
 - Cp. 7th plague on Egypt
 - **♦** See Joel 2:30
 - 1/3 of the trees burn up
 - All of the grass burns up

- 2. The First Four Trumpet Judgments (8:7–12)
 - b. Second Trumpet—"Like" a Great Burning Mountain Cast into the Sea (8:8–9)
 - A large meteorite or asteroid?
 - 1/3 of the sea becomes blood
 - 1/3 of all sea creatures die
 - 1/3 of all ships destroyed

- 2. The First Four Trumpet Judgments (8:7–12)
 - c. Third Trumpet—The Star Called "Wormwood" (8:10–11)
 - "star" = meteor or comet or asteroid
 - Wormwood = bitter plant symbolic of judgment

Jeremiah 9:15–16

- the God of Israel, "Behold, I will feed them, this people, with wormwood and give them poisoned water to drink.
- "I will scatter them among the nations, whom neither they nor their fathers have known; and I will send the sword after them until I have annihilated them."

Proverbs 5:4

But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword.

- 2. The First Four Trumpet Judgments (8:7–12)
 - c. Third Trumpet—The Star Called "Wormwood" (8:10–11)
 - "star" = meteor or comet or asteroid
 - Wormwood = bitter plant symbolic of judgment
 - 1/3 of the rivers and fountains become bitter.
 - Many men die.

- 2. The First Four Trumpet Judgments (8:7–12)
 - d. Fourth Trumpet—Celestial Catastrophe (8:12)
 - Cp. 9th plague on Egypt
 - 1/3 of the sun darkened
 - 1/3 of the moon darkened
 - 1/3 of the stars darkened

"so that . . . the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way."

- Shortened day?
- Reduction of light?
- Less intensity or fewer hours?
- Longer night?

Matthew 24:21–22

- 21 For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.
- 22 Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

Question for Discussion

What is the significance of "one-third"?

Ezekiel 5:1–2

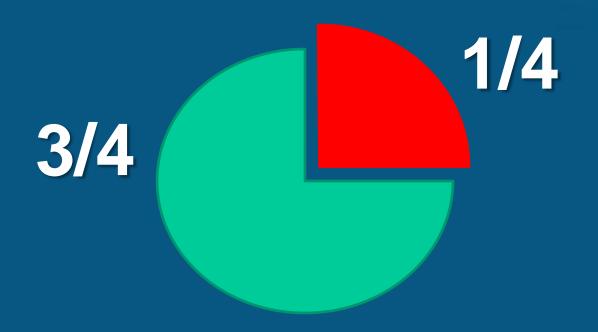
- 1 "As for you, son of man, take a sharp sword; take and use it as a barber's razor on your head and beard. Then take scales for weighing and divide the hair.
- 2 "One third you shall burn in the fire at the center of the city, when the days of the siege are completed. Then you shall take one third and strike *it* with the sword all around the city, and one third you shall scatter to the wind; and I will unsheathe a sword behind them.

Zechariah 13:8-9

- 8 "It will come about in all the land," declares the LORD, "that two parts in it will be cut off and perish; but the third will be left in it.
- 9 "And I will bring the third part through the fire, refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' And they will say, 'The LORD is my God."

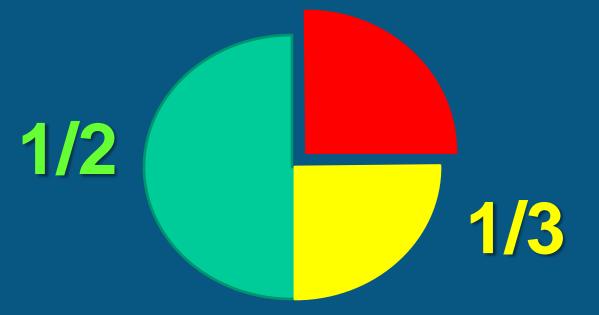
Revelation 6:7–8

- 7 When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come."
- 8 I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.



Revelation 9:18

A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths.



- 3. The Last Three Trumpet Judgments— *Three Woes* (8:13–11:19)
 - a. Introduction to the Woes (8:13)
 - An eagle, not an angel
 - "Woe, woe, woe"
 - "to those who dwell on the earth"
 - "because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound"

Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

- The wrath of Jesus Christ brings these judgments (cp. 6:16–17).
- Only three chapters lack any reference to Jesus: chapters 8, 9, and 18.
- These judgments come upon those who are not in Christ Jesus—they rejected Him.

Luke 19:41-44

41 When He approached *Jerusalem*, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. 43 For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side,

Luke 19:41-44

44 and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."