

Threading the Pearls of the Book of Revelation An Expositional Study Session 18: The Trumpets, part I Trumpets 1-4: Wormwood

REVELATION 8:7 — 8:13

©2015 ThreadingthePearls.org

E-mail: admin@threadingthepearls.org

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 water. ¹¹*The name of the star is Wormwood*. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

[REV 8:1]



REVELATION 8

7 And the first angel sounded the trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mingled with blood, and it was cast on the earth, and the third part of the earth was burnt up, and the third part of the trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

The first angel sounded his trumpet

EZE 33:2-5, "Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: 'When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, "when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if *he blows the trumpet and warns the people*, "then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head. "He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life.

Hail and fire

ISA 30:27-30, Behold, the name of the Lord comes from afar, Burning with His anger, And His burden is heavy; His lips are full of indignation, And His tongue like a devouring fire... ³⁰The Lord will cause His glorious voice to be heard, And show the descent of His arm, With *the indignation of His anger And the flame of a devouring fire, With scattering, tempest, and hailstones.*

Mixed with blood

LUKE 13:1-3, There were present at that season some who told Him about the *Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices*. ²And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? ³"I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish".

Hurled down upon the earth

ISA 28:1-4, ...²Behold, the Lord has a mighty and strong one, Like a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, Like a flood of mighty waters overflowing, *Who will bring them down to the earth with His hand*. ³The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, Will be trampled underfoot; ⁴And the glorious beauty is a fading flower Which is at the head of the verdant valley, Like the first fruit before the summer, Which an

observer sees; He eats it up while it is still in his hand.

A third of the earth was burned up

ISA 24:5-6, The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, Because they have transgressed the laws, Changed the ordinance, Broken the everlasting covenant. ⁶Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, And those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore *the inhabitants of the earth are burned*, *And few men are left*.

A third of the trees were burned up

JER 7:18-20, "The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger. ¹⁹"Do they provoke Me to anger?" says the Lord. "Do they not provoke themselves, to the shame of their own faces?" ²⁰Therefore thus says the Lord God: "Behold, *My anger and My fury will be poured out on this place-on man and on beast, on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground.* And it will burn and not be quenched"; ISA 1:28-31, The destruction of transgressors and of sinners shall be together, And those who forsake the Lord shall be consumed... ³¹The strong shall be as tinder, And the work of it as a spark; Both will burn together, And no one shall quench them.

All the green grass was burned up

JOEL 1:15-20, Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is at hand; It shall come as destruction from the Almighty... ¹⁹O Lord, to You I cry out; *For fire has devoured the open pastures*, And a flame has burned all the trees of the field. ²⁰The beasts of the field also cry out to You, For the water brooks are dried up, And fire has devoured the open pastures.

CONSIDER THIS —

©2015 ThreadingthePearls.org

Page 2

A trumpet for war!

NUM 10:9, When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the Lord your God, and *you will be saved from your enemies*.



REVELATION 8

8 And the second angel sounded the trumpet: and as it were a great mountain, burning with fire, was cast into the sea, and the third part of the sea became blood:

The second angel sounded his trumpet

JOB 1:16, While he was still speaking, <u>another also came</u> and said, "*The fire of God fell from heaven* and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

A huge mountain

DAN 2:31-45, You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. ³²"This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, ³³"its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. ³⁴"You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵"Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And *the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth...*

All ablaze

EZE 20:45-48, ...⁴⁷say to the forest of the South, 'Hear the word of the Lord! Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I will kindle a fire in you, and it shall devour every green tree and every dry tree in you; *the blazing flame shall not be quenched*, and all faces from the south to the north shall be scorched by it. ⁴⁸"All flesh shall see that I, the Lord, have kindled it; it shall not be quenched.

Thrown into the sea

EXO 15:1-7, ... The Lord is a man of war; The Lord is His name. ⁴Pharaoh's chariots and his army *He has cast into the sea*; His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea. ⁵The depths have covered them; They sank to the bottom like a stone. ⁶"Your right hand, O Lord, has become glorious in power; Your right hand, O Lord, has dashed the enemy in pieces. ⁷And in the greatness of Your excellence You have overthrown those who rose against You; <u>You sent forth Your wrath</u>; It consumed them like stubble.

A third of the sea turned into blood

EXO 7:17-21, 'Thus says the Lord: "By this you shall know that I am the Lord. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and *they shall be turned to blood*. ¹⁸"And the fish that are in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will loathe to drink the water of the river"...

CONSIDER THIS —

©2015 ThreadingthePearls.org

Page 3

A trumpet of warning!

EZE 33:2-5, ...'When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, ³'when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people... ⁵'He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But *he who takes warning will save his life*.



REVELATION 8

9 And the third part of those creatures died, which had life in the sea, and the third part of the ships was destroyed.

10 And the third angel sounded the trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, burning as it were a torch, and it fell on the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters:

A third of the living creatures in the sea died

HOS 4:1-3, Hear the word of the Lord, You children of Israel, For the Lord brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: "There is no truth or mercy Or knowledge of God in the land. ²By swearing and lying, Killing and stealing and committing adultery, They break all restraint, With bloodshed upon bloodshed. ³Therefore the land will mourn; And everyone who dwells there will waste away With the beasts of the field And the birds of the air; Even the fish of the sea will be taken away.

A third of the ships were destroyed

PSM 107:23-31, Those who go down to the sea in ships, Who do business on great waters, ²⁴They see the works of the Lord, And His wonders in the deep. ²⁵For He commands and raises the stormy wind, Which lifts up the waves of the sea. ²⁶They mount up to the heavens, They go down again to the depths; Their soul melts because of trouble. 27 They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, And are at their wits' end. ²⁸Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble, And He brings them out of their distresses. ²⁹He calms the storm, So that its waves are still. ³⁰Then they are glad because they are quiet; So He guides them to their desired haven. 31 Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!

The third angel sounded his trumpet

JOB 1:17, While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

A great star... fell from the sky

OBI 1:1-4, Thus says the Lord God concerning Edom... ³The pride of your heart has deceived you, You who dwell in the clefts of the rock, Whose habitation is high; You who say in vour heart, 'Who will bring me down to the ground?' ⁴Though you ascend as high as the eagle. And though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down," says the Lord.

A great star, blazing like a torch

NAH 2:1-6, He who scatters has come up before your face... ³The chariots come with flaming torches In the day of his preparation, And the spears are brandished. ⁴The chariots rage in the streets, They jostle one another in the broad roads; *They* seem like torches, They run like lightning...

Fell... on a third of the rivers

HAB 3:8-11, O Lord, were You displeased with the rivers, Was Your anger against the rivers, Was Your wrath against the sea, That You rode on Your horses, Your chariots of salvation? ⁹Your bow was made quite ready; Oaths were sworn over Your arrows. Selah You divided the earth with rivers...

Fell... on the springs of water 2KING 3:17-19, ... ¹⁸"And this is a simple matter in the sight of the Lord; He will also deliver the Moabites into your hand. ¹⁹"Also you shall attack every fortified city and every choice city, and shall cut down every good tree, and stop up every spring of water, and ruin every good piece of land with stones".

CONSIDER THIS —

©2015 ThreadingthePearls.org

Page 4

Habakkuk asks a question:

HAB 3:8, O Lord, were You displeased with the rivers, Was Your anger against the rivers, Was Your wrath against the sea, That You rode on Your horses, Your chariots of salvation? It appears throughout these chapters of judgment (REV 6-19), that the Lord's wrath is upon His enemies – those who have turned their backs to Him, those who oppose to Him.



REVELATION 8

11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood. And the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

The name of the star

PSM 147:4-5, He counts the number of the stars; *He calls them all by name*. ⁵Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.

Wormwood

JER 9:7-16, ...¹²Who is the wise man who may understand this? And who is he to whom the mouth of the Lord has spoken, that he may declare it? Why does the land perish and burn up like a wilderness, so that no one can pass through? ¹³And the Lord said, "Because they have forsaken My law which I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to it, ¹⁴"but they have walked according to the dictates of their own hearts and after the Baals, which their fathers taught them," ¹⁵therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: "Behold, *I will feed them, this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink.* ¹⁶"I will scatter them also among the Gentiles, whom neither they nor their fathers have known. And I will send a sword after them until I have consumed them."

A third of the waters turned bitter

EXO 15:22-24, Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³Now when they came to Marah, *they could not drink the waters of Marah*, *for they were bitter*. Therefore the name of it was called Marah. ²⁴And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"

Many people died from the waters

ISA 19:5-8, The waters will fail from the sea, And the river will be wasted and dried up. ⁶The rivers will turn foul; The brooks of defense will be emptied and dried up; The reeds and rushes will wither. ⁷The papyrus reeds by the River, by the mouth of the River, And everything sown by the River, Will wither, be driven away, and be no more. ⁸The fishermen also will mourn; All those will lament who cast hooks into the River, And they will languish who spread nets on the waters.

Waters had become bitter

NUM 5:17-24, ...²⁰if you have gone astray while under your husband's authority, and if you have defiled yourself and some man other than your husband has lain with you"- ²¹'then the priest shall put the woman under the oath of the curse, and he shall say to the woman-"the Lord make you a curse and an oath among your people... ²³'Then the priest shall write these curses in a book, and he shall scrape them off into the bitter water. ²⁴'And he shall make the woman drink the bitter water that brings a curse, and *the water that brings the curse shall enter her to become bitter*.

CONSIDER THIS —

©2015 ThreadingthePearls.org

Page 5

Bitter waters: The result of spiritual adultery? (see NUM 5:17-24)

ISA 54:5-6, your Maker is <u>your husband</u>, <u>The Lord of hosts is His name</u>; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. ⁶For the Lord has called you Like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, Like a youthful wife when you were refused," Says your God. ⁷"For *a mere moment I have forsaken you*, But with great mercies I will gather you.



REVELATION 8

12 And the fourth angel sounded the trumpet, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars, so that the third part of them was darkened, and the day did not shine for a third part of it, and the night in like manner.

The fourth angel sounded his trumpet

JOB 1:18-19, While he was still speaking, *another also came* and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁹"and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

A third of the sun was struck

EZE 32:7-9, When I put out your light, I will cover the heavens, and make its stars dark; *I will cover the sun with a cloud*, And the moon shall not give her light. ⁸All the bright lights of the heavens I will make dark over you, And bring darkness upon your land,' Says the Lord God. ⁹I will also trouble the hearts of many peoples, when I bring your destruction among the nations, into the countries which you have not known.

A third of the moon [was struck]

LUKE 21:10-11, He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹"And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and *there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven*.

A third of the stars... turned dark

ECC 12:1-7, Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them": ²While the sun and the light, The moon and the stars, Are not darkened, And the clouds do not return after the rain... ⁷Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.

A third of the day was without light

JOB 9:4-9, God is wise in heart and mighty in strength. Who has hardened himself against Him and prospered? ⁵He removes the mountains, and they do not know When He overturns them in His anger; ⁶He shakes the earth out of its place, And its pillars tremble; ⁷He commands the sun, and it does not rise; He seals off the stars; ⁸He alone spreads out the heavens, And treads on the waves of the sea; ⁹He made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades, And the chambers of the south.

A third of the night [was without light]

JOB 17:12-16, They change the night into day; '*The light is near*,' *they say, in the face of darkness*. ¹³If I wait for the grave as my house, If I make my bed in the darkness, ¹⁴If I say to corruption, 'You are my father,' And to the worm, 'You are my mother and my sister,' ¹⁵Where then is my hope? <u>As for my hope</u>, who can see it? ¹⁶Will they go down to the gates of Sheol? Shall we have rest together in the dust?"

JOSH 10:12-14, Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon; And Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon." ¹³So *the sun stood still*, *And the moon stopped*, Till the people had revenge Upon their enemies...

CONSIDER THIS —

©2015 ThreadingthePearls.org

The lights in heaven are for knowing the times (see GEN 1:14-15)

DAN 2:20-22, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. ²¹And *He changes the times and the seasons*; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. ²²He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him.



REVELATION 8

13 And I beheld, and heard the voice of one eagle flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice: Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth: by reason of the rest of the voices of the three angels, who are yet to sound the trumpet.

As I watched

PRO 30:18-19, There are three things which are too wonderful for me, Yes, four which <u>I do not understand</u>: ¹⁹The way of an eagle in the air, The way of a serpent on a rock, The way of a ship in the midst of the sea, And the way of a man with a virgin.

I heard an eagle

* NOTE — 'Angel' or 'messenger' in other translations: JOB 39:27-30, Does the eagle mount up at your command, And make its nest on high? ²⁸On the rocks it dwells and resides, On the crag of the rock and the stronghold. ²⁹From there it spies out the prey; Its eyes observe from afar. ³⁰Its young ones suck up blood; And where the slain are, there it is";

HOS 8:1-6, Set the trumpet to your mouth! He shall come like an eagle against the house of the Lord, Because they have transgressed My covenant And rebelled against My law...; JER 49:22-26, Behold, He shall come up and fly like the eagle, And spread His wings over Bozrah; The heart of the mighty men of Edom in that day shall be Like the heart of a woman in birth pangs. ²³Against Damascus."Hamath and Arpad are shamed, For they have heard bad news. They are fainthearted; There is trouble on the sea; It cannot be quiet. ²⁴Damascus has grown feeble; She turns to flee, And fear has seized her. Anguish and sorrows have taken her like a woman in labor. ²⁵Why is the city of praise not deserted, the city of My joy? ²⁶Therefore her young men shall fall in her streets, And <u>all the men of war shall be cut off in that day</u>," says the Lord of hosts.

Flying in midair

JER 48:40-47, thus says the Lord: "Behold, *one shall fly like an eagle*, And spread his wings over Moab. ⁴¹Kerioth is taken, And the strongholds are surprised; The mighty men's hearts in Moab on that day shall be Like the heart of a woman in birth pangs. ⁴²And Moab shall be destroyed as a people, Because he exalted himself against the Lord. ⁴³Fear and the pit and the snare shall be upon you, O inhabitant of Moab," says the Lord. ⁴⁴"He who flees from the fear shall fall into the pit, And he who gets out of the pit shall be caught in the snare... ⁴⁷"Yet I will bring back the captives of Moab In the latter days," says the Lord. Thus far is the judgment of Moab [see NUM 21:29-31].

Woe!

ISA 5:18-30, Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of vanity, And sin as if with a cart rope; ¹⁹That say, "Let Him make speed and hasten His work, That we may see it; And let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw near and come, That we may know it." ²⁰Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! ²¹Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!...;

ISA 17:12-13, *Woe to the multitude of many people Who make a noise like the roar of the seas*, And to the rushing of nations That make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters! ¹³The nations will rush like the rushing of many waters; But <u>God will rebuke them</u> and they will flee far away, And be chased like the chaff of the mountains before the wind, Like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.

CONSIDER THIS —

©2015 ThreadingthePearls.org

Page 7

Woe!

ISA 5:24, as the fire devours the stubble, And the flame consumes the chaff, So *their root will be as rottenness*, And their blossom will ascend like dust; Because they have rejected the law of the Lord of hosts, And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Woe to the inhabitants of the earth

ISA 10:1-4, "Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees, Who write misfortune, Which they have prescribed ²To rob the needy of justice, And to take what is right from the poor of My people, That widows may be their prey, And that they may rob the fatherless. ³What will you do in the day of punishment, And in the desolation which will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help? And where will you leave your glory? ISA 45:9-11, Woe to him who strives with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' Or shall your handiwork say, 'He has no hands'? ¹⁰Woe to him who says to his father, 'What are you begetting?' Or to the woman, 'What have you brought forth?'"...;

LAM 3:38-39, Is it not *from the mouth of the Most High That woe and well-being proceed*? ³⁹Why should a living man complain, A man for the punishment of his sins?

The other three angels

MATH 13:41-42, "The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, ⁴²"and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Trumpet blasts about to be sounded

JER 4:19-27, O my soul, my soul! I am pained in my very heart! My heart makes a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, Because you have heard, O my soul, The sound of the trumpet, The alarm of war. ²⁰Destruction upon destruction is cried, For the whole land is plundered. Suddenly my tents are plundered, And my curtains in a moment. 21 How long will I see the standard, And hear the sound of the trumpet? ²²"For My people are foolish, They have not known Me. They are silly children, And they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, But to do good they have no knowledge." ²³I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; And the heavens, they had no light. 24I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, And all the hills moved back and forth. ²⁵I beheld, and indeed there was no man, And all the birds of the heavens had fled. ²⁶I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, And all its cities were broken down At the presence of the Lord, By His fierce anger. ²⁷For thus says the Lord: "The whole land shall be desolate; Yet I will not make a full end.





GROUP DISCUSSION

- REV 8:7 [DRA], the first angel *sounded the trumpet*, and there followed hail and fire, mingled with blood, and it was cast on the earth, and the third part of the earth was burnt up, and the third part of the trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.
- ① 1. What are some purposes for blowing trumpets that we find in the Bible?

(see also EXO 19:13, LEV 23:24, LEV 25:9, NUM 10:9, JOSH 6:4-5, 2CHR 5:12-13, NEH 4:20, ISA 27:13 & JOEL 2:1)

- EZE 33:2-5, "Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: 'When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, "when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if *he blows the trumpet and warns the people*, "then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head.

 5'He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life.
- ② 2. What possible purposes do the seven trumpets in Revelation serve?

(see REV 8:13, REV 9:13-15 & REV 11:15-18)

JER 4:18-22, "Your ways and your doings Have procured these things for you. *This is your wickedness, Because it is bitter*, Because it reaches to your heart." ¹⁹O my soul, my soul! I am pained in my very heart! My heart makes a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, Because you have heard, O my soul, <u>The sound of the trumpet</u>, The alarm of war. ²⁰Destruction upon destruction is cried, For the whole land is plundered. Suddenly my tents are plundered, And my curtains in a moment. ²¹How long will I see the standard, And hear the sound of the trumpet? ²²"For My people are foolish, They have not known Me. They are silly children, And they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, But to do good they have no knowledge."

⊕ 3. For what reasons might God have had the waters to turn bitter in Revelation 8:10-11?

(see also EXO 15:22-24, NUM 5:20-23 & JER 9:13-15)

HOS 8:1-3, "Set the trumpet to your mouth! He shall come like an eagle against the house of the Lord, Because they have transgressed My covenant And rebelled against My law. ²Israel will cry to Me, 'My God, we know You!'

³Israel has rejected the good; The enemy will pursue him.

⊕ 4. How can we prevent ourselves from rejecting the good? How do we heed the warning of the trumpet?

(see JER 6:8-10, HEB 2:1, 1TIM 4:1-3, ACTS 20:27-28 & LUKE 21:33-36)

NEXT SESSION —

©2015 ThreadingthePearls.org

Page 9

THE TRUMPETS, PART 2: TRUMPET 5: THE LOCUSTS

Revelation 9:1 — 9:12