

The Seven Trumpets Judgements

Chapters 8-11

Introduction:

Tonight we are going to consider an overview of the trumpet judgments.

The focus this evening is on that which is extremely obvious though not always observed.

We will focus on the plagues in Egypt as an extremely important informing theology for understanding the trumpet judgments in the book of Revelation.

Informing theology builds upon previous references to historical events and circumstances.

Old Testament	-----	New Testament
First reference	-----	Last Reference

It assumes that the reader knows and understands the previous references to Old Testament events to provide background information for subsequent events.

Informing Theology - can be likened to an inside story or joke.

The informed listener only has to hear a certain word or a punch line to understand all that the speaker intends.

Without having previously heard the story or joke the other listeners are in the dark.

One is in the dark in understanding many allusions and other formulations in Scripture without understanding the informing theology.

I believe that the understanding of informing theology is essential to good understanding of the Bible.

- I. An overview of the trumpet judgments.
 - A. The plagues in Egypt provide a very helpful informing theology for understanding the judgments in the book of Revelation.

- B. There is a striking similarity in the trumpet judgements of the book of Revelation and the plagues that come upon the land of Egypt in the book of Exodus.
1. They are similar in form.
 2. They are similar in purpose.
 3. They are similar in result.
- II. There is a striking similarity in the trumpet judgements of the book of Revelation and the plagues that come upon the land of Egypt in the book of Exodus in respect to form.
- A. The first trumpet - the hail judgement.

Revelation 8:7 (ESV) The first angel blew his trumpet, **and there followed hail and fire**, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

The corresponding plague upon Egypt.

Exodus 9:18 (ESV) Behold, about this time tomorrow I will cause very heavy hail to fall, such as never has been in Egypt from the day it was founded until now.

Exodus 9:19 (ESV) Now therefore send, get your livestock and all that you have in the field into safe shelter, for every man and beast that is in the field and is not brought home will die when the hail falls on them.” ’ ”

Exodus 9:20 (ESV) Then whoever feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh hurried his slaves and his livestock into the houses,

Exodus 9:21 (ESV) but whoever did not pay attention to the word of the LORD left his slaves and his livestock in the field.

Exodus 9:22 (ESV) Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, **so that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt**, on man and beast and every plant of the field, in the land of Egypt.”

Exodus 9:23 (ESV) Then Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven, **and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth**. And the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt.

Exodus 9:24 (ESV) There was hail and fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail, very heavy hail, such as had never been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

Exodus 9:25 (ESV) The hail struck down everything that was in the field in all the land of Egypt, both man and beast. And the hail struck down every plant of the field and broke every tree of the field.

Exodus 9:26 (ESV) Only in the land of Goshen, where the people of Israel were, was there no hail.

B. The second trumpet - The judgement of the sea turning to blood.

Revelation 8:8 (ESV) The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, **and a third of the sea became blood.**

Revelation 8:9 (ESV) A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Rev 8:8 And 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;

Rev 8:9 and a third of the creatures, which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.

The corresponding plague upon Egypt.

Exodus 7:20 (ESV) Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile, **and all the water in the Nile turned into blood.**

C. The third trumpet - The contamination of the water.

Revelation 8:10 (ESV) 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.

Revelation 8:11 (ESV) 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.**

The corresponding plague upon Egypt.

Exodus 7:21 (ESV) And the fish in the Nile died, and the Nile stank, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. There was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

D. The fourth trumpet - The darkness judgement.

Revelation 8:12 (ESV) The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.

The fourth plague falls upon the sun, moon and stars.

Exodus 10:21 (ESV) Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness to be felt."

Exodus 10:22 (ESV) So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was pitch darkness in all the land of Egypt three days.

Exodus 10:23 (ESV) They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the people of Israel had light where they lived.

E. The fifth trumpet: The locust judgement

Revelation 9:1 (ESV) And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit.

Revelation 9:2 (ESV) He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft.

Revelation 9:3 (ESV) **Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth**, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth.

The corresponding plague in Egypt.

Exodus 10:1 (ESV) Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may show these signs of mine among them,

Exodus 10:2 (ESV) and that you may tell in the hearing of your son and of your grandson how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the LORD."

Exodus 10:3 (ESV) So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh and said to him, “Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, ‘How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, that they may serve me.

Exodus 10:4 (ESV) For if you refuse to let my people go, **behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts into your country,**

Exodus 10:5 (ESV) and they shall cover the face of the land, so that no one can see the land. And they shall eat what is left to you after the hail, and they shall eat every tree of yours that grows in the field,

Exodus 10:6 (ESV) and they shall fill your houses and the houses of all your servants and of all the Egyptians, as neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have seen, from the day they came on earth to this day.’ ” Then he turned and went out from Pharaoh..

F. The sixth trumpet - the judgement of death

Revelation 9:13 (ESV) Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God,

Revelation 9:14 (ESV) saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”

Revelation 9:15 (ESV) So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released **to kill a third of mankind.**

The corresponding plague in Egypt.

Exodus 11:4 (ESV) So Moses said, “Thus says the LORD: ‘About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt,

Exodus 11:5 (ESV) **and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die,** from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle.

Exodus 11:6 (ESV) There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again.

Exodus 11:7 (ESV) But not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.’

Exodus 11:8 (ESV) And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, ‘Get out, you and all the people who follow you.’ And after that I will go out.” And he went out from Pharaoh in hot anger.

Exodus 11:9 (ESV) Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not listen to you, that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.”

Exodus 11:10 (ESV) Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, and the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go out of his land.

G. Seventh trumpet the deliverance of God's people.

Revelation 11:15 (ESV) Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

Revelation 11:16 (ESV) And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God,

Revelation 11:17 (ESV) saying, “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.

Revelation 11:18 (ESV) The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.”

The Exodus event and the inhabitation of the Promised Land.

Exodus 15:17 (ESV) You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.

Exodus 15:18 (ESV) The LORD will reign forever and ever.”

Exodus 15:19 (ESV) For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea.

III. There is a striking similarity in the trumpet judgements of the book of Revelation and the plagues that come upon the land of Egypt in the book of Exodus in respect to purpose.

A. The purpose is to show that God has made a difference between those who belong to Him and those that do not.

Revelation 9:4 (ESV) They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

Exodus 11:7 (ESV) But not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.'

- B. The purpose is for God to deliver his people from the suffering they are experiencing at the hands of the ungodly.

Revelation 6:10 (ESV) **They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"**

Exodus 3:7 (ESV) Then the LORD said, "**I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry** because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings,
Exodus 3:8 (ESV) and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

- IV. There is a striking similarity in the trumpet judgements of the book of Revelation and the plagues that come upon the land of Egypt in the book of Exodus in respect to effect.

Neither the trumpet judgements nor the plagues in Egypt lead the enemies of God to repentance.

Revelation 9:20 (ESV) The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk,

Revelation 9:21 (ESV) nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Exodus 8:32 (ESV) But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and did not let the people go.

- V. Lessons:

- A. Lessons from the similarity in the trumpet judgements of the book of Revelation and the plagues that come upon the land of Egypt in the book of Exodus in respect to form.

1. There is just cause to see the 7 trumpets as literal, direct judgements coming from God and not merely the working out of human events.

In my opinion it is totally unwarranted to make the locusts - fighter air craft for example.

2. There is just cause for the child of God to be comforted as to God's willingness and ability to spare him during these trumpet judgements just as God was willing and able to spare the Children of Israel during the plagues.

B. Lessons from the similarity in the trumpet judgements of the book of Revelation and the plagues that come upon the land of Egypt in the book of Exodus in respect to purpose.

1. God is able to make a distinction in judgment between those who belong to Him and those who do not belong to Him.

2 Peter 2:9 (ESV) then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

2. There is a wonderful deliverance and celebration that is had in view for God's people when the judgments are ended.

C. Lessons from the similarity in the trumpet judgements of the book of Revelation and the plagues that come upon the land of Egypt in the book of Exodus in respect to effect.

The lack of repentance on the part of the persecutors is not a testimony to God's weakness but rather to His greatness.

God's sovereignty is revealed.

Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Rev 11:16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshiped God,

Rev 11:17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

Rev 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth.

Exo 15:6 Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

Exo 15:7 And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.

VI. Concluding thoughts we should continuously look to informing theology to interpret and understand the book of Revelation.

A. The tree of life in the paradise of God should be informed by the tree of life in the garden of Eden.

Revelation 2:7 (ESV) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

Revelation 22:1 (ESV) Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb
Revelation 22:2 (ESV) through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Genesis 3:24 (ESV) He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

B. The millennial kingdom is informed by the Children of Israel's occupation of the promised land.

