

Pastor Mark Mikels

-

May 17, 2020

DISCOVERING HOPE IN THE REVELATIONS OF SCRIPTURE

"THE REVELATION OF THE SIX TRUMPETS"

(Revelation 8:6-9:21)

Intro ... Well, today's the day. Today is the day that we enter into the part of the Book of Revelation for which it is best known. Today we begin to discover John's revelations of the coming Judgments upon mankind and upon the earth itself.

The Book of Revelation is the last book of the Bible for a reason. The Book of Revelation reveals how the entire story of mankind on this earth comes to an end.

John the Apostle is given visions that are bizarre and astounding. They are unlike anything recorded anywhere else in the Bible.

Keep in mind as we begin that these are all visions that John is receiving. Nothing is exactly as it seems. It's like dreaming a dream with your eyes open. John's visions are a bit like Jesus' parables.

They seem to be one thing, but the meaning goes beyond the seeing. There is a story being told but it's symbolic and dynamic.

Just one example of what I mean: Revelation 17:1

One of the angels came and said to me:
*"Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute,
who sits on many waters ..."*

John is not told who she is or even perhaps what she is. Men have speculated about her identity ever since the Book of Revelation was written.

Here, though, is my point this morning.

Fourteen verses later in Revelation 17:15, the angel explains:

*"The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits,
are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages."*

That's what I mean: This '**Great Prostitute**' could be understood to have had great influence over and most likely corrupted untold numbers of people but you would never get that from the initial vision that simply tells you that she was '*sitting on many waters.*'

Some things like this will be interpreted for John but for many other things John will just be left recording the astounding vision he sees.

In our passage of the morning we will be reviewing some awesome results wrought in the earth by the power of God but don't think that when we are done, we will have a clue about what and how it happens. The only thing that matters is that we are being told that it will happen. Apocalyptic literature is always about the end result! Keep that in mind.

It may well be over the next chapters that John visions cover the same time period just seen from various aspects. Resist trying to create an absolute time sequence. There's a sense in which each vision stands on its own, revealing the nature of these End-Times Judgments.

So, having said all that, here comes ...

HOPE GENERATING REVELATION TEN ...

"THE REVELATION OF THE SIX TRUMPETS"

(Revelation 8:6-9:21)

Right after John' received the revelation of the Prayer-Filled Golden Censer ... The Seven Angels with the Seven Trumpets prepared to Sound them ... Wait a minute, are there seven trumpets or six?

Well there are seven but only Six are Sounded or Blown in our passage of the morning ... In fact, there's a chapter and a half break in between the Sounding of the Sixth Trumpet and the Seventh.

So here we go ... These are sounds that none of us ever want to hear. They are sounds that no ear has ever previously heard. These are trumpets only to be sounded once. They announce the pouring out of God's Wrath upon this sinful world.

At this point, (I believe) the **Rapture** has taken place and all those who were watching and ready for Jesus have met Him in the clouds, been glorified and been taken to heaven with him.

By this time (I believe) the 144,000 have ministered mightily for the Lord and that vast multitude that no man could count has been won for the Lord and taken into glory ...

Only the sinners and demonic beings and the 144,000 are left on the earth. It's time for Judgment to begin and indeed it does ...

SIX TRUMPETS OF JUDGMENT ... A SOBERING REVELATION

These are hard to picture and even harder to try to identify; just focus upon the results.

Your note sheet summarizes what John saw.

Trumpet One Sounds:

- 1. Hail and Fire mixed with Blood -
1/3 of the earth burned up (Rev. 8:7)**

This was the earth's vegetation: trees and the grasses - worst wildfire ever

Trumpet Two Sounds:

- 2. Sea turned to blood - 1/3 of the creatures died
and 1/3 of the ships destroyed (Rev. 8:8-9)**

Something like a huge burning mountain was thrown into the sea.
Tremendous devastation.

Trumpet Three Sounds:

- 3. Waters of the earth made bitter -
many people die (Rev. 8:10-11)
Pollution many times over - more devastation**

Trumpet Four Sounds:

- 4. Celestial bodies affected -
Total darkness 1/3 of the time (Rev. 8:12)
Darkness descends upon the earth - pretty vivid imagery.**

Trumpet Five Sounds:

**5. Locusts released from the Abyss -
mankind (except those with the seal of God on their forehead)
tortured for 5 months (Rev. 9:1-11)**

Those that remain are subject to incredible torture - men will desire to die.

Trumpet Six Sounds:

**6. Three plagues of Fire, Smoke and Sulphur -
1/3 of mankind killed (Rev. 9:13-21)**

These horses were like no horses we have ever seen - They are John's vision.
A great slaughter of mankind is the result.

I'm surprised that John didn't once again just '*Weep and Weep.*'
These were his fellow human beings up against things for which
no man would ever be prepared. Even Stephen King could not
imagine such a scene. Judgment was beginning to fall.
Vast numbers of human beings were being killed.

I could easily imagine another half an hour or more of total silence in
heaven. It would be enough to take one's breath away.
Let's take a moment ourselves ...

Now consider with me what I'm calling today ...

TWO PARALLEL SCENARIOS:

While all of these things are unfolding there are
two parallel scenarios being played out on the earth.

*** *Those who were SEALED (the 144,000)
were PROTECTED from HARM. (Rev. 9:4)***

(The vast multitude resulting from the 144,000's ministry has been lifted
to heaven already - the '*Band of Martyrs*' has likely been completed.)

Their protection would be as miraculous a work of God as the
Judgments themselves - like the Hebrews being protected in Egypt
the night the Death Angel passed through the land.

HOWEVER ...

* The **UNSAVED** who were **NOT** protected continue to **WORSHIP** demons and the '*gods of their hands*' and to practice their acts of **WICKEDNESS**. They do not **REPENT**. (Rev. 9:20-21)
(murders, magic arts, sexual immorality, and thefts)

Rather than repent of their sins and cry out to God for mercy, those left on the earth continue to practice the very things that have brought this particular judgment of God upon them.

They continue to reject the Gospel Message.
They continue to demonstrate just how fixed in rebellion the fallen nature of man really is.

Without a doubt, this is a most shocking and sobering revelation. How in the world can it generate any '***HOPE***' within us?

This morning I want to share **THREE PARALLEL HOPE-FILLED STATEMENTS** that I can see arising from this '*Revelation*' ...

HOPE-FILLED STATEMENT ONE:

***"OUR GOD - THE GOD OF ALL THE UNIVERSE -
IS A JUST AND HOLY GOD"***

EVIL WILL NOT PREVAIL FOREVER - JUDGMENT WILL COME

No one ever really "Gets away with anything!"
Put your Hope and Trust in your Just and Holy God!
Right now, right where you are, whatever you are experiencing.

That is a Cornerstone Truth of the Biblical Foundation that was laid under my life by my parents from my childhood days.

Mark: Don't look enviously at those who seem to be sinning happily. There will come a day when they will stand before God. The pleasures of sin are temporary; God's judgement upon sin is eternal.

Over the years of my lifetime, it has been increasingly common for people to say that '*God is too loving to send anyone to Hell.*' Maybe you yourself have heard that said. Maybe that's your own '*Fall Back Position.*'

Guess what. That statement is partially true.

God doesn't send anyone to Hell.

People send ***themselves*** to Hell by the life they live and by their refusal to accept what a loving God can do and has done ...
Provide a Savior for them!

At the end of life, unrepentant sinful human beings discover that to be true. Human Beings by nature are rebellious and John's Vision demonstrates just how deep-seated that rebellion is.

Even in the midst of World-Wide Catastrophe, the people left on earth refused to submit themselves to God - to repent of their sin and trust in Christ as their Savior.

The ***Hope*** I share this morning is for those of you who faithful stand for Christ and for the Word of God - who faithfully '*Walk with the Spirit*' who has been given to you - who perhaps receive criticism from those around you who promote a much freer life than you are living.

Be encouraged ... you have not made the wrong choice - you are not wasting your years living a God-Honoring Life. Those who have turned their back on Christ and on you will not prevail for ...

***"Your God - the God of all the Universe -
Is a Just and Holy God ...***

"Evil will not prevail forever - Judgement will come"

That's what John lived to see and what The Revelation of the Six Trumpets reveals to us!

Here now is ...

HOPE-FILLED STATEMENT TWO:

***"OUR GOD - THE GOD OF ALL THE UNIVERSE -
IS A JUST AND HOLY GOD"***

HIS PEOPLE WILL BE VINDICATED AND CELEBRATED

No act of obedience and surrender is ever '*lost in the shuffle.*'
No trial or tribulation endured '*goes by the wayside*' either.
God vindicates and celebrates His faithful ones!

Put your Hope and Trust in a Just and Holy God!

Do that right now, right where you are, no matter how difficult
being obedient and submissive might be.

Remember the vast multitude who came out of the great tribulation?

John was told: "*These are they who have washed their robes and made them
white in the blood of the Lamb ... He who sits on the Throne will spread
His Tent over them.*" (Rev. 7:14-15)

God the Father delights in providing redemption and protection
for those who put their faith and trust in His Provision for them.
He delights in given what Peter called "*A Rich Welcome*"
to each of them upon their arrival into His Presence.

Here's the most Hope-Filled Part of all ...

HOPE-FILLED STATEMENT THREE:

**"OUR GOD - THE GOD OF ALL THE UNIVERSE
IS A JUST AND HOLY GOD"**

HE REVEALS HIS PLANS FOR JUDGEMENT WAY AHEAD OF TIME

God's Final Judgement does not just come '*Out of the Blue.*' God has
revealed the last chapter of life on this earth. It's not a pretty picture;
but it's intended to motivate people to seek God's Salvation before it is
too late. Tell your family - Tell your friends - Tell everyone you can. Don't
be shy. Judgment is coming but judgment can be avoided

Put your hope in the fact that ...

*"Our God - the God of all the Universe - Is a Just and Holy God
Who Reveals His Plans For Judgement Way ahead of Time."*

Simply put, things can be boiled down to today's ***Final Thot*** ...

Final Thot ...

When '**PUSH**' comes to '**SHOVE**,' it simply comes down to this:
REPENT or forever **REGRET!**

