

# **The Final Curtain: The Trumpet Judgments – Part 1**

Revelation 8:1–13

Following the parenthetical section in chapter 7 that introduces the 144,000 Jewish evangelists and an innumerable multitude of tribulation martyrs, Chapter 8 begins with the opening of the seventh seal which introduces the seven trumpet judgments, four in Chapter 8, two in Chapter 9, and the seventh in Chapter 11.

## **The Preparation for the Trumpet Judgments (vv. 1–5)**

vv. 1–2. Up to this point in the Book of Revelation, there has been a lot of noise!

vv. 3–5.

## **The Release of the Trumpet Judgments (vv. 6–13)**

The First Trumpet Judgment (v. 7): Hail and fire are frequently associated with divine judgment.

The Second Trumpet Judgment (vv. 8–9): Whereas the first trumpet judgment affects the land, the second one impacts the sea.

The Third Trumpet Judgment (vv. 10–11): The Greek word for “star” refers to any celestial body other than the sun or moon.

Wormwood is mentioned eight times in the OT, where it is associated with bitterness, poison, and death (Deuteronomy, 29:18. Proverbs 5:4, Jeremiah 9:15, 23:15, Lamentations 3:15, 19; Amos 5:7, 6:12). In three of those references, Wormwood is connected with poison water (MacArthur, 157–158).

The Fourth Trumpet Judgment (v. 12): The focus now shifts from the earth to the heavens.

The OT prophets associated signs in the heavens with “the Day of the Lord” (Ezekiel 32:7–8; see also Isaiah, 13:9–10; Joel 2:10, 31, 3:15; Amos 8:9). Christ (Luke 21:25) also predicted there will be signs in the sun and moon and the stars (MacArthur, 158–159).

Prediction of Three More Woes (v. 13)

The imagery is that of a strong bird of prey rushing to consume its victim ... “Woe” is used throughout Scripture as an expression of judgment, destruction, and condemnation (MacArthur, 159).

## **Applications**

*“The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working” (James 5:16).*