

Sermon Follow-Up — August 23 — The Seven Trumpets — Revelation 8

Sermon Recap:

There are 3 groups of 7 in Revelation. Last week there were 7 seals, today there are 7 trumpets, and next week we will study the 7 bowls. Each of these 3 sets have 7 judgements. As we move through Revelation the judgements effect more people. These are the 3 Mysteries from the seven trumpets in Revelation 8.

1. The mystery of Gods patience.

The trumpets are not yet heralding Jesus' return but are calling out judgement. Similar to the plagues in Egypt! There are parallels: hail, blood in the water, darkness on the earth, locusts. But in the midst of the plagues are pauses where believers are reminded of security through Christ. There is mystery in those pauses and periods of rest that show God's patience. As He shows mercy on His chosen people as well as all the world. He is patient not wishing that any would perish but that all would come to repentance. Judgment and warnings still display God's patience in times of waiting and pausing. He has already conquered sin and evil but waits patiently for His children. God's patience must lead us to repentance, but it doesn't always.

2. The mystery of impenitence

Impenitence is the lack of regret or shame or lack of repentance. We are called to repent of our sins. But too often we are not willing to repent and there will be judgement for our lack of repentance. Jesus is victorious and it is essential that we, as believers recognize when we are unwilling to submit. Say yes to repentance.

3. The mystery of the role of prayer

God really does listen to our prayers. He has 30 minutes of silence once the 7th seal is open just to listen to the prayers. Then incense is combined with the prayers to be offered to God. Prayer plays a central role in the advancement of God's kingdom. We are to pray that God's will be done and not ours. Our prayers should be to glorify him. God listens to our prayers. He will use our prayers as Christ continues to make all things new.

Application questions:

1. When have you experienced God's patience in your life? Are there times when it is difficult for you to accept that God is patient with you? Why or Why not?
2. Do you have a regular time of prayer and confession? Is there anything in your life that you are not or have not been willing to repent of? If so, would you consider repenting for that now? If there is "impenitence" in your life right now, consider asking someone to pray with you and hold you accountable.
3. When do you usually pray? (Daily, only in times of need, etc). Have you experienced the power of prayer in your life? What do you think about the concept that God uses our prayers to advance the Kingdom?
4. Would you be willing to spend 30 minutes in silence this week, letting your prayers rise up for God to listen to?