

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 31

THE FIRST TO FOURTH TRUMPETS

(REVELATION 8:7-13)



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*“The anger of the Lord will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. **In the latter days you will understand it perfectly.**”*
(Jer. 23:20)

Regarding the specifics of the End-Time judgments, God makes it very clear that He wants us to understand. He wants us to know why it is so severe. He wants us to understand His heart, His thoughts and His intentions. In fact, He promised that **we will comprehend it perfectly** — we will have such clarity if we are the ones who stand in His counsel and allow Him to mark His word on our hearts!



It is the same as we study the first four trumpet judgments. May we see the heart of the Lord, His thoughts and intentions. But first, an overview of the first four trumpets:

1. The first four trumpets are supernatural acts of God.

They are the supernatural acts of God through nature. They are **not man-made disasters** and God's hand is clearly in these events. So, let's not explain it away as deforestation by arson or contamination of the sea by chemicals, etc.

2. The trumpet judgments are specifically targeted at the Antichrist and his empire.

The trumpet judgments are not targeted at the saints, but at the Antichrist and his empire. The saints will be partnering with the Holy Spirit to release these judgments.

3. The first four trumpets destroy the resources of the Antichrist and his empire.

The seals, trumpets and bowls are grouped together in a unique pattern. The first four seals, trumpets and bowls are grouped together. So are the fifth and the sixth. They have a common purpose. The seventh judgment stands alone.

Whereas the fifth and sixth trumpets are released to torment and to kill, the main focus of **the first four trumpets** is to destroy the resources of the Antichrist and his empire.



They will affect four areas:

- a. **The Environment** – the trees, grass, sea, river, etc.
- b. **Water and food supply** – resulting in global famine and water shortage
- c. **The Economy** — By now, the Antichrist will have implemented the Mark-of-the-Beast economic system worldwide, and God is judging the evil system.

God will raise up Cities of Refuge which are the land of Goshen for the saints, and He will supernaturally provide for them through miracles such as the multiplication of food.

- d. **Cosmic Disturbances** affecting the sun, the moon and the stars

4. The purpose of the first four trumpets is not to kill, but to warn.

The very fact that God placed an intermittent stage of the trumpets, instead of going straight to the bowl judgments which contain the fullness of His wrath, speaks of the mercy of God!

All the seven trumpets speak of the mercy of God.

Firstly, **there is a limit placed** on the trumpets to **judge only one-third** of the earth. That gives the opportunity for unbelievers to repent before the fullness of the bowl judgments come.

Secondly, **there is a step-wise progression** in the intensity of the trumpets.



EACH STAGE IS TO WARN THAT SOMETHING MORE SERIOUS IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

Hence, the purpose of the first four trumpets is to warn that more severe judgments are coming and it's time to repent. If people continue to harden their hearts, God will judge through the fifth and sixth trumpets, which involve the torment of those without the seal of God and then finally the killing of one-third of mankind. If they still do not repent, the ultimate judgments through the seven bowls will come.

5. **The trumpet judgments will be released as a result of the fullness of the End-Time prayer movement** — the global prayer movement will be mature, focused, united and powerful.
6. **The first 4 trumpets have an intentional and deliberate limitation in its judgment** — they will only affect one-third of the earth.

As mentioned earlier, out of His grace and mercy, God is giving people time for repentance. **By the second seal, sin and iniquity have already reached their max. But God intentionally held back** from releasing the fullness of His wrath out of His mercy. His desire is that all should come to repentance!





7. There are three prominent signs in the first four trumpets — blood, fire and smoke.

Joel prophesied that blood, fire and smoke together would be prominent End-Time signs (Joel 2:30-31 — this passage was quoted by Peter who added the word “signs” in Acts 2:19).

The two witnesses in Revelation 11 will participate in the release of the trumpet judgments involving blood, fire and smoke (Rev. 11:5-6).

The signs point to God and warn of the coming ultimate judgment of God found in the last three trumpets (the seventh trumpet also contains the seven bowls).

Now let us talk about the first four trumpets.

In the **first trumpet**, hail and fire, mingled with blood were thrown onto the earth, causing one-third of the vegetation to be burnt up. This will affect the food supply on a global level, resulting in worldwide famine. Jesus Himself actually compared the End-Time judgments with that released upon Sodom and Gomorrah where fire literally came down (Matt. 10:15; 11:24; Mark 6:11; Luke 10:12; 17:29-30). The fire will be called down by forerunners moving in the spirit and power of Elijah, operating like what Elijah did but at a much greater level of anointing!

If we compare the seventh plague with the first trumpet, we can gain five insights:



1

**IT IS ALWAYS GOD WHO INITIATES
THE JUDGMENT (EXO. 9:13-15)**

That is why we always have to lean in and hear what the Spirit is saying and doing and not be presumptuous about it.

2

**IT IS ABOUT THE GLORY OF GOD
(EXO. 9:16)**

3

**IT IS A PROPHETIC WARNING,
TO WHOSOEVER WILL TAKE HEED,
BOTH BELIEVERS AND UNBELIEVERS
(EXO. 9:17-21)**

For the Egyptians who took heed of the warning and gathered the livestock into their houses, their livestock were preserved!

4

**IT IS RELEASED THROUGH THE
PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS
(EXO. 9:22-25)**

5

**GOD WILL PROTECT HIS PEOPLE
(EXO. 9:26)**

The children of Israel were spared if they
were in the land of Goshen.

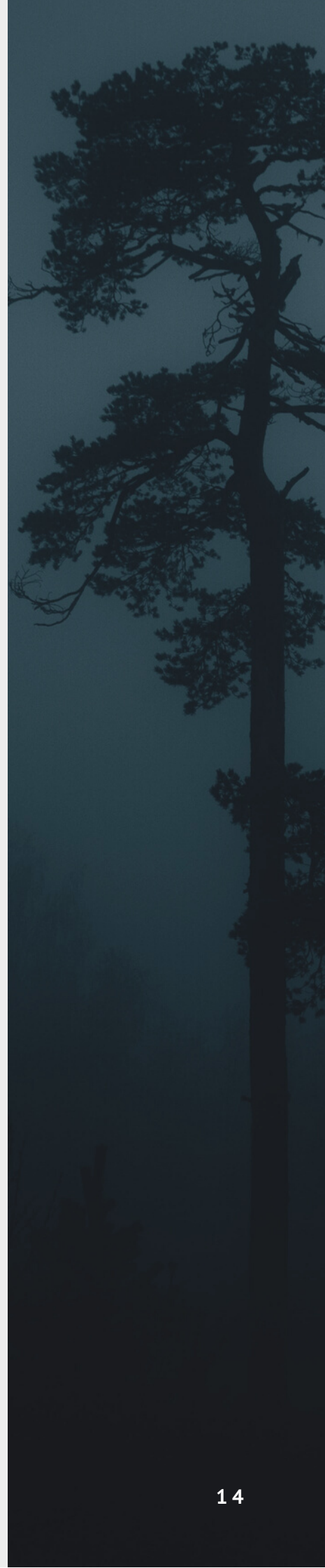


In the **second trumpet**, something huge and burning with fire, likely an asteroid, was thrown into the sea, destroying one-third of the sea creatures and the ships, and causing one-third of the sea to become blood. God uses blood as a form of judgment (Ezek. 21:32; 38:22; Joel 2:30; Rev. 6:12; 16:3-6).

There is a progression of blood judgment in the Book of Revelation:

- I. The sixth seal — the moon became like blood
- II. The first trumpet — blood is poured onto the earth with hail
- III. The second trumpet — one-third of the sea turned into blood

- IV. The sixth trumpet — blood is shed; one-third of the world population is killed
- V. The third bowl — every river and spring will turn into blood. To those who killed the saints, God is giving them blood to drink!
- VI. The seventh bowl — blood will flow like a river that is 300 km long and 3 feet deep (Rev. 14:20)



In the **third trumpet**, a great star, named Wormwood, fell and poisoned one-third of the water supply on the earth. This will add to the intensity that is caused by the worldwide famine. Wormwood is a kind of herb with a bitter taste that can poison water. It is mentioned a number of times in the Bible and is a symbol of divine judgment (Deut. 29:17-18; Lam. 3:15-19; Amos 5:7; 6:12; Jer. 8:14; 9:13-15; 23:15).





The **fourth trumpet** is a judgment of God through the darkening of the sun, the moon and the stars, the sources of natural light. It is similar to the ninth plague. It affects both the intensity (“*a third of them were darkened*”), as well as the duration of the light (“*a third of the day did not shine*”) (Rev. 8:12).

This will impact a number of things:



1

TEMPERATURE

The world will become colder when the sun is gone. If this is prolonged, there will be many deaths

2

HUMAN HEALTH

It will affect the diurnal cycle and the health of man. Sunlight is also required in the synthesis of Vitamin D.

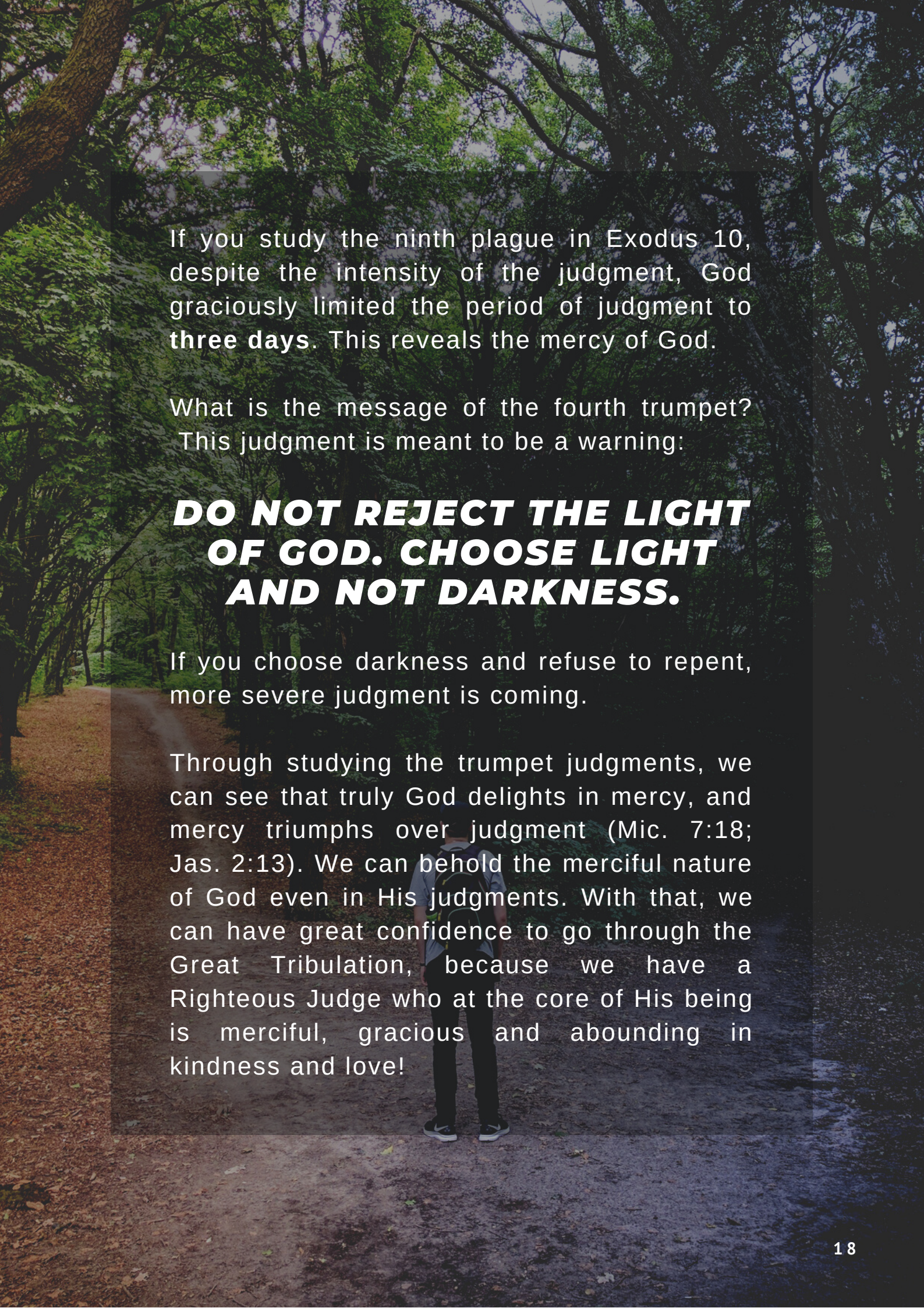
3

AGRICULTURE

Plants require sunlight for photosynthesis.

4

NAVIGATION

A person is standing on a dirt path in a forest, looking away from the camera. The path is covered in fallen leaves and is flanked by tall trees with dense green foliage. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting a shaded forest environment. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark rectangle in the center of the image.

If you study the ninth plague in Exodus 10, despite the intensity of the judgment, God graciously limited the period of judgment to **three days**. This reveals the mercy of God.

What is the message of the fourth trumpet? This judgment is meant to be a warning:

***DO NOT REJECT THE LIGHT
OF GOD. CHOOSE LIGHT
AND NOT DARKNESS.***

If you choose darkness and refuse to repent, more severe judgment is coming.

Through studying the trumpet judgments, we can see that truly God delights in mercy, and mercy triumphs over judgment (Mic. 7:18; Jas. 2:13). We can behold the merciful nature of God even in His judgments. With that, we can have great confidence to go through the Great Tribulation, because we have a Righteous Judge who at the core of His being is merciful, gracious and abounding in kindness and love!



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