

PASTOR: Kip McCormick

DATE: August 25, 2024

SERIES: Rev'd Up

SERMON: A Divine Throat Punch

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Revelation 8:1-13 (NASB)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE: Joshua 6:10-20; Exodus 7:14-24; 9:13-35; 10:21-23; Exodus 15:22-25; Matthew 24:21; 7:24-27; Psalm 119:105; James 5:16; James 1:22-25; Hebrews 10:25; Matthew 28:19

MESSAGE TAKEAWAY: It's necessary to know why you believe and what you believe before your beliefs are challenged by the unbelievable sufferings of life.

SUPPORTING THOUGHTS:

- Your faith needs to be on solid ground before the storms of life hit. It all comes down to preparation.
- Silence is about expectation.
- Ancient Jewish writings like the book of Enoch names 7 specific archangels: Uriel, Raphael, Raguel, Michael, Saragael, Gabriel, and Remiel. Scripture is silent on this.
- Tie-in to Battle of Jericho. Just as silence and trumpets are linked to the final and climactic judgment of Jericho, so silence and trumpets are directly linked to the final and climactic last days of the world.
- Throwing fire to the earth symbolizes God's wrath.
- Hebrew: Censer: "machtah" – it's nearly identical to the word for terror or wrath – "mechtah" (the difference between censer and wrath is one vowel).
- In Revelation we see an angel throwing burning coals from the censer to bring about wrath. They're thrown on behalf of innocent people who cry for justice.
- Trumpet and Bowl judgments reenact the plagues of Egypt. The first five trumpets are patterned after five of the plagues (Exodus).
 - Trumpet 1: Hail, fire, and blood = Hail, fire (Ex. 9:13-35).
 - Trumpets 2 and 3: Poisoning of Sea, Water = plague of Nile (Ex 7:14-24).
 - Trumpet 4: Darkness = plague of darkness (Ex. 10:21-23)
 - Just like the Exodus plagues against Pharaoh, these Trumpet Judgments won't produce true repentance.
- First Trumpet targets the earth.
- Second trumpet targets the sea.
- Third trumpet targets fresh water.
- "Wormwood" is a flowered herb that grows in the desert. It has a bitter taste that can cause drunkenness followed by death.
- Fourth trumpet targets the sky.
- "Woe" is equated with a divine pronouncement of judgment from God and portrays the miserable condition of those who reject the gospel.
- The first four trumpet blasts wreaked havoc on nature; next three will be an unleashing of demonic forces to attack the earth.



- ²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.” (Matthew 7:24-27)
- Foundations don’t just happen. Foundations take work.

CHALLENGE: Give yourself some SPACE. Scripture, Prayer, Application, Church, Equip.

- **Scripture:** Reading plans: YouVersion Bible App; Our Daily Bread; Through the Word Bible App. (Psalm 119:105)
- **Prayer.** ACTS – adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication (requests). YouVersion Prayer App/Guided Prayer. (James 5:16)
- **Application.** Love God, love others. Serve. (James 1:22-25)
- **Church.** Get. To. Church. Serve. Small Group. Bible Study. (Hebrews 10:25)
- **Equip.** Equip yourself/equip others. = Be disciples, make disciples. (Matthew 28:19)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think there is about half an hour of silence in heaven when the seventh seal is broken?
- Why does John say “about” half an hour?
- What does it mean that our prayers are like incense to God?
- How does knowing your prayers are like incense to God affect your prayer life?
- What do these four judgments target?
- Why do you think God targets the earth before people?
- Are these judgments more or less intense than the seal judgments? What can you learn about God’s character from this?
- Should we take these judgments as literal or symbolic?
- What is “Wormwood?”
- How do you think the world may explain away these disasters at that time?
- How do the judgments shape your view of sin? And of God?
- Why is preparation important before you hit a time of suffering? What are you doing to prepare yourself for that time?
- Talk through Kip’s “SPACE” challenge. What changes do you need to make in your life to meet this challenge?

SOURCES: Jason Dexter (Study and Obey on-line Bible Study, Revelation); Eliyahu Lizorkin-Eyzenberg, Israel Bible Center (multiple books and commentaries); Gotquestions.org; Michael Heiser (Naked Bible Podcast; *Unseen Realm* and multiple books); Life Application Study Bible Commentary, Revelation; John MacArthur (multiple books, sermons, study bible; Grace to You Ministries); Chuck Swindoll (New Testament Commentary – Revelation); Through the Word Bible App; YouVersion Bible App.