

## **Revelation 8 – Sound The Trumpets**

In this chapter the first series of seven (seals) ends and the next seven begins (trumpets). Rather than a series of separate and successive chronological events, it is likely that this next series of sevens covers similar ground but from different points of view. Eugene Peterson says that what is revealed here is Revelation is not new information but the truth taught on nearly every page of the Bible. However it is teaching us *in a new way*, addressing our emotions and imaginations and moving us in a way more powerful than mere logic. So the best way to “feel” and “get” the message is to read it out loud.

### **Warm Up Question**

- When have you experienced a familiar truth or story taught in a new refreshing way (e.g. in song, story, drama, poetry, music, visual arts, etc.)?<sup>1</sup>

### **Discovering the Word**

- 1) **Read Revelation 8:1-5.** After the Lamb opens the seventh seal, there is a period of silence in heaven.
  - Why, amid seals and trumpets, is there this silence?
  - What happens during the silence?
  - What breaks the silence?
- 2) How do these verses show and tell us that prayer matters?<sup>2</sup> When have you seen or experienced the power of prayer lately?
- 3) **Read Revelation 8:6-13.** What events follow the sounding of each of the first four trumpets?
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet –
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet –
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Trumpet –
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Trumpet –
- 4) In our day, trumpets are primarily musical instruments but not in biblical times. Read the following passages to see how trumpets/horns were used for in ancient times (see Ex. 19<sup>16,19</sup>; Ezek. 33<sup>1-4</sup>; Joel 2<sup>15</sup>; Amos 3<sup>6</sup>; Mt. 24<sup>31</sup>) and what the purpose of the trumpets is here in Revelation.
- 5) How many of the plagues in Egypt can you recall as a group (check them out in Exodus 7<sup>14</sup>-11<sup>10</sup>)?
- 6) What similarities & differences can you see between the Exodus plagues and the Revelation trumpets? How do the trumpet blasts compare or contrast with the breaking of the seals?
- 7) While these trumpets may be chronological dateable events like those of the Exodus they are more likely events or conditions being played out at various points in history. What trumpet-like warnings have sounded in history and are sounding in our day? What response(s) is God getting?

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<sup>1</sup> Notice for example how the creation story of Genesis 1 is put into poetry in Ps. 19 (cf. parables, hymns, etc.).

<sup>2</sup> Someone has suggested trying to imagine the content and volume of *the prayers of all the saints* for these two millennia and what their significance and impact has been (and will be).