

Session 6

JESUS AND KINGDOM

October 18, 2026

Memory Verse

*The seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were
loud voices in heaven saying,*

*The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom
of our Lord and of his Christ,
and he will reign forever and ever.*

— REVELATION 11:15, CSB



Jesus and Kingdom

THEOLOGICAL THEME: God is merciful, just, and right.

CALL TO ACTION: Where do you need to trust the Lord in the midst of hardship now? How can you take steps toward this?

Last week, we studied when Jesus opened the first six of the seals on the scroll John saw in the heavenly throne room. Today we'll dive into the judgments that transpired after this. But first, Jesus opened the seventh seal.

You can read about this on your own in Revelation 8:1-5, notice verse 1:

When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.
—Revelation 8:1

If you take a quick flip through the chapters leading up to 8, you'll notice many auditory elements. There is so much sound in the heavenly throne room! But the praise that never ends went silent at this point. Why?

God silenced His own praise to listen to the prayers of His children (v. 3).¹ And our sovereign God chose to make these prayers a part of the exercise of His will.² The beginning of chapter 8 sets us up for the trumpet judgments. This beautiful picture gives way to God's response to the prayers of His people: judgment for unbelievers.

The seven seals dealt with how believers will experience the time in between Jesus's ascension and His return. The seven trumpets, however, described how those who don't believe in Jesus will experience this same timeframe (the church age).³

In Revelation 7, God sealed all believers (7:3). This acts as His guarantee. Believers are saved and safe and will one day be taken to heaven.⁴ Believers don't completely agree on what form this protection will take during the trumpet judgments, but agree that we are ultimately protected from God's wrath thanks to the atoning blood of Christ.⁵

Make no mistake: These judgments are heartbreaking and often hard to read. As we read, let's carry forward with some truths in mind. God is always good, just, and right. We can believe this in our bones and still grieve over the destruction that sin brings to our fallen world. Both things can be true. If you struggle with what we study today, take it to the Lord and ask for His help.

 When you think about God bringing judgment, how do you typically respond?

 Why is this judgment necessary?

Session Summary

After all seven seals on the heavenly scroll were opened, the seven trumpet judgments began.

In these passages, we see natural destruction, torment, and death. Every step is a wakeup call to the nonbeliever's need for a Savior. Even in the midst of this divine judgement, it is not too late to repent and turn back to our merciful God. An eternity apart from Him is much worse than anything the seven trumpets will bring.

While these passages can be hard to read, we can trust that God is good, just, right, and merciful.

1. The First Four Trumpets (Revelation 8:7-13)

 Describe the events that take place in this passage.

 What other biblical events might these be compared with? Why would that be significant?

The first four trumpets, all deal with nature, and are destructive. They also resemble the plagues God unleashed on the people of Egypt in the book of Exodus.

At the first trumpet, “hail and fire, mixed with blood” (Revelation 8:7) reminds us of “the LORD sent thunder and hail. Lightning struck the land, and the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt” (Exodus 9:23).

At the second trumpet, “So a third of the sea became blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died” (Revelation 8:8-9) reminds us of “all the water in the Nile was turned to blood. The fish in the Nile died” (Exodus 7:20-21).

At the fourth trumpet, “so that a third of them were darkened” (Revelation 8:12) reminds us of the plague of darkness: “and there was thick darkness throughout the land of Egypt for three days” (Exodus 10:22).

Back in the time of the Exodus, the Pharaoh asked the question, “Who is the LORD that I should obey him?” (Exodus 5:2) His disobedience and disbelief brought on the plagues. All unbelievers adopt a similar attitude, and there are consequences to this decision.

As a result of these judgments, a third of the trees and grass are burned up. A third of the seas become blood. A third of the waters become bitter and unfit to drink. A third of the day and night are without light.

Consider the impact. There would be less land for land animals to feed on. An entire third of sea creatures die. Less drinkable water creates a crisis for all living things. Darker days disrupt growing cycles for all plants that remain. Many gifts from God that have been taken for granted by nonbelievers are taken away here.

But the destruction is not total and final. Even in judgment, God is merciful. This is a wakeup call. A chance to repent.



How does God’s judgment provide a signpost and opportunity for repentance?

A common belief today is we are in control of our own destinies. This way of thinking believes we have (or can get) everything we need ourselves. It says we are independent and don't need God. Even Christians can live this way in moments, but unbelievers continually do, and the events of the first four trumpets expose just how helpless (and in need of a Savior) we all are.

2. The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets (Revelation 9:1-6,13-21)

 What judgments do these verses describe?

 Passages like this can bring fear and anxiety. How do they also push us toward urgency and grace?

Already living in a devastating reality due to the previous events, the judgment unbelievers face in the fifth trumpet reads like a nightmare. The “abyss” John described here is the same one referred to in Luke 8. The one which the legion of demons begged not to be returned to: “And they begged him not to banish them to the abyss” (Luke 8:31).

Then comes a hellish army to torment nonbelievers. Note that they have no power of their own (v. 3), it has to be granted to them by God, who is sovereign over all things. They were given specific instructions to follow: not to harm the grass, plants, or trees (v. 4), or the entirety of believers who God sealed in Revelation 7. Nonbelievers had no such protection and were subject to five months of torment so awful that people seek death but cannot find it.

The judgment meted out in this scene is terrifying, but in it, God is still merciful. This inability to die gives the people further chance to repent, turn to the Lord, and be saved.⁶ This trumpet judgment ends ominously: “The first woe has passed. There are still two more woes to come after this” (v. 12).

 When was a time God used hardship to lead you to His grace?

The action of the sixth trumpet begins at the golden altar with horns (the altar from Exodus 30:1-3). In the judgment of this trumpet, four evil angels (demons) in positions of authority lead a demonic army two hundred million strong and mount up a staggering death toll.⁷ Our current world population is in the neighborhood of 8.2 billion.⁸ One third of that would be about 2.7 billion people.

Prior to this, the entire unbelieving population had been given multiple chances to repent, but in His mercy, God still leaves two-thirds of the population with yet another chance to humble themselves, turn away from their idols, and worship Him.⁹

Tragically, in defiance of the chances given, John wrote:

“The rest of the people, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands to stop worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see, hear, or walk. And they did not repent of their murders, their sorceries, their sexual immorality, or their thefts.”—Revelation 9:20-21

This is a devastating scene. Instead of grasping at the salvation offered, the people continued drowning in their idolatry.

3. The Seventh Trumpet (Revelation 11:15-19)



What took place when the seventh trumpet was blown?



How is this different from the other trumpets?

The seventh trumpet brings a departure from the others. Remember, in Scripture, seven is a number of perfection. The number of fullness and completion. With the blowing of the seventh trumpet, God’s mystery as announced to the prophets was completed, and there was much celebration.

John recorded loud voices proclaiming Christ's victory. While scholars don't agree on the full meaning of the text here, we can all agree on this: Jesus is victorious, and He has already won, and "he will reign forever and ever" (v. 15) in His eternal kingdom.¹⁰



How does Christ's victory give us reason for celebration and hope every day, no matter what we face?

Remember the twenty-four elders? They're back and they are worshipping again. Their emphasis is on the victorious King. Christ reigns, judges righteously, and rewards His servants.¹¹

The ark was God's home among His people, and here it appeared in the heavenly temple. These verses give hope. God is sovereign over all, even when it feels like the world is off the rails. He will right every wrong, and all believers are headed to an eternal home with Him.

Conclusion

The trumpet judgments started with natural calamities. "Hail and fire, mixed with blood" that burned up a third of the earth (Revelation 8:7), "a third of the sea became blood," killing a third of the living creatures within it (8:8-9), a third of the water became bitter and undrinkable (8:11), and "a third of the day was without light and also a third of the night" (8:12).

And it only got worse from there. With every trumpet judgment, the people were given a chance to repent. But they didn't heed the moment. Revelation says that they still wouldn't repent, even after God, in His mercy, had given more chances. Their hearts remained hard.

The last trumpet ends on a triumphant note, and we are reminded that Jesus has already won.

These events can be heavy and hard to read, but let's remember a few things as we finish. God is good, just, and right, and even in His judgment, He mercifully extends second chances to turn to Him.

Further, we have a role to play in His plan for humanity. He has commanded us to go and share the gospel, and to act as witnesses of His work in our lives. He wants us to be a part of the good work He is doing in the world. Are we participating?

If you don't yet know the Lord, He loves you so much He sent His Son to die so you could live. He doesn't want you to perish, but to have a relationship with you, and He extends countless opportunities to come to Him.

The Lord does not delay his promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.

—2 Peter 3:9



This is a hard portion of Scripture to study. How were you challenged?
How can you be encouraged?



How are we to live in light of what we've read today?



How does today's study give you urgency to share the gospel with others?

Memorize

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*The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom
of our Lord and of his Christ,
and he will reign forever and ever.*

- Revelation 11:15, CSB

References

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- ¹⁰Luter.
11. Wiersbe.