



Revelation 8 & 9 – The Seven (Well Six) Trumpets

In Revelation 8 and 9, Tim showed how there is a similar description of God's judgement on the world to that in chapters 6 and 7, but with slightly different emphasis and detail.

- 8 v2-5: God's people's prayers for justice are answered, but maybe not how we'd expect. God's judgement is a terrible thing. It's real, and it's being revealed now – it's not just a future thing, but a present reality.
- 8 v6-12: God's judgement affects the natural world. The first four trumpets here parallel with the first four seals/horsemen from chapter 6. In chapter 6, a quarter of all the earth was being killed – now it's a third.
- 8 v13 – 9 v21: God's judgement becomes focused against 'the inhabitants of the earth' – people who aren't believers (compare with 6:10). The fifth and sixth trumpets bring greater suffering and violence. This passage possibly gives more detail about what the four horsemen from chapter 6 are doing. However, there is a difference – believers aren't affected by this judgement.

What would the original readers, and what should we, take out of this terrifying and escalating scene of violence? Tim suggested four points:

1. Behind all this suffering and violence is Satan himself (9 v11)
2. The stability which Rome (for the original readers) offers is a lie – Rome's power is vulnerable
3. Christians will be spared some, but not all, of the judgements specified
4. While this process of judgement continues, there is still grace to repent

Finally, Tim gave two key take-aways from this passage:

1. The urgency of the gospel – there is limited time for repentance
2. We can be reassured God is sovereign over the seeming chaos we see in the world

Questions

1. What do you think about God's judgement in these chapters? Is it what you would expect, or does it surprise you in any way?
2. How should the urgency of the gospel, the fact that there is limited time to repent, affect us as Christians?
3. If we know that God is still in control when terrible disasters happen in the world, how should this affect how we respond to them?