Revelation 8-9 • The Trumpets

1. (Mt. 24:31, 1 Co. 15:52 & 1 Th. 4:6) The **silver** trumpets announce the removal and rescue of God’s people and were experienced when Jesus returned for them between the 6th and 7th Seals; these **shofars** announce the wrath of God to come on the earth dwellers left behind.
2. (8:1-6) The stage is set for all that remains for the non-believers left behind to experience the **wrath** of God’s **judgment**.
3. (8:7-12) These literal judgments of God’s wrath are taking place because of the spiritual conditions which mankind has **chosen** to embrace. They are literal expressions of the greater spiritual **situation**.
4. (8:13) A “**woe**” is never employed as a warning to repent or in the course of an offer for reconciliation, but solely to pronounce **judgment** where all that is left is God’s wrath leading to the eternal destination of **hell**.
5. (9:1-12) The 5th Trumpet and first woe is unprecedented **torment** and **persecution** of those who have not simply rejected Christ, but are in active **opposition** to Him.

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| **Joel** | **Revelation** |
| An earthly army in the character of locusts from an earthly nation is released as a tool of God’s judgment. | A demonic army in the character of locusts from “the bottomless pit” is released as a tool of God’s judgment. |
| The leaders of this tool of God’s judgment from the Assyrian and Babylonian Empires are satanically influenced. | Satan’s subordinate, the “fallen star from heaven”, leads this demonic tool of judgment. |
| The activities are directed only against the geographical lands of Israel and Judah. | The physical environment is exempted and all activities exclusively applied to “only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads” (Rev. 9:4) with no geographical limitation. |
| The four successive invasions resulted in the Assyrian and Babylonian Captivities and their total destruction. | The goal is neither destruction of the environment nor death, but “to torment for five months” (Rev. 9:5) everyone in the whole earth with the mark; it is a judgment on the living. |

1. (9:13-19) The 6th Seal unleashes mankind against **each other** in the ultimate war to date.
2. (9:20-21) When the judgments of God fall on those with **rebellious** hearts, it does not lead to repentance but instead **hardens** them in their sins even more.

***Overall Application***:

* Deuteronomy 8:3
* Titus 3:5
* Ephesians 5:25-27
* Revelation 19:15, 20-21