

SERMON OUTLINE

Speaker: Dr Philip Satterthwaite

Text : Revelation 8: 1 - 13

Title : The Seventh Seal, A Pause And Four Trumpet Blasts

Introduction

The seven seals (6:1–8:1) and the seven trumpets (8:6–11:19):

Seven seals (6:1–8:5)	Seven trumpets (8:6–11:19)
Seal 1 (6:1-2)	Trumpet 1 (8:7)
Seal 2 (6:3-4)	Trumpet 2 (8:8-9)
Seal 3 (6:5-6)	Trumpet 3 (8:10-11)
Seal 4 (6:7-8)	Trumpet 4 (8:12-13)
Seal 5 (6:9-11)	Trumpet 5 (9:1-12)
Seal 6 (6:12-14); lament of humanity in response to God's judgment (vv. 15-17)	Trumpet 6 (9:13-19); impenitence of humanity in response to God's judgment
PAUSE (7:1-17): sealing of God's people; praise of the redeemed	PAUSE (10:1–11:14): the angel and the scroll; the two witnesses
Seal 7 (8:1-2) linking to seven trumpets	Trumpet 7 (11:15a)
CONCLUSION (8:3-5): prayers, thunder and lightning	CONCLUSION (11:15b-19): praise, thunder, lightning, earthquake, hail

- The same pattern, but an intensification with the trumpets
- Not a single series of events (Ignore the *Left Behind* series!)
- Both seals and trumpets are a representation of human history (judgments)

1. The Seventh Seal (8:1-5)

- The build-up to the breaking of the 7th seal
- The unexpected climax: a great silence; the seven trumpets
- Prayers, incense, thunder and lightning
- But the contents of the scroll have yet to be revealed (See c. 10)

2. The First Four Trumpet Blasts (8:6-12)

- 1st trumpet: hail, fire, blood
- 2nd trumpet: a fiery mountain cast into the sea
- 3rd trumpet: a great star ('Wormwood') from heaven
- 4th trumpet: sun, moon and stars darkened
- Repeated mention of 'a third' (contrast 6:8, 'a fourth')
- 'Woe, woe, woe!' (v. 13)

3. Interpreting the Text

- How to understand the judgments of 8:6-13?
- Not literally...
- ...not as teaching 'Things will get worse and worse'...
- ...but seriously
- (Where do catastrophes come from?)

Conclusion:

- The importance of our prayers
- How to respond to human suffering?