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Revelation 34 Divine Destruction. Revelation 8:6-13

Revelation 8:6-13, *So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.*

First Trumpet: Vegetation Struck

⁷ *The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.*

Second Trumpet: The Seas Struck

⁸ *Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. ⁹ And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.*

Third Trumpet: The Waters Struck

¹⁰ *Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. ¹¹ The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.*

Fourth Trumpet: The Heavens Struck

¹² Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

¹³ And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

This book authored by God Himself needs to be understood.

The Old Testament says every word of God is pure.

The New Testament says every word is profitable.

This is a very poignant and a very powerful, in some ways a very shocking, foreboding series and at the same time a very joyous and hopeful one because it portrays for us in very clear terms the future, the future of God's own children, the redeemed and that's the joyful part.

The future of those who reject Christ, the judgment of God and that's the tragedy.

As we approach the events just described, all of heaven is absolutely silent.

V 1, When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

What induced that silence was the breaking of the seventh seal. What is in the seventh seal is here described by the trumpet judgments.

All the hosts of heaven gathered around the throne of God see what is written on the scroll that is unrolled, they are stunned into silence.

After a brief period of silence, then the action begins. What is described in that final seventh seal encompasses seven trumpet judgments and seven bowl judgments.

The final deadly vengeance of God that is poured out on the earth in the last time period before the reign of Jesus Christ is established is described there.

These are frightening, terrifying, foreboding judgments. No wonder that heaven itself is stunned into stillness.

As the judgments then begin to unfold, they unfold with first the trumpets and later the bowl judgments.

All of them together make up the unavoidable, inevitable, terrifying wrath of God during a period of time which the Bible calls the day of the Lord.

There is a sense in which this is man's day.

Man can sort of do what he will within some limitations.

There is also a sense in which this is Satan's day. The usurper is given certain liberty within the parameters of God's sovereign tolerance.

Between Satan and man, they orchestrate the world and its cosmos, or its system.

But the day of the Lord is coming when the Lord takes over and establishes the Kingdom of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

But before the establishing of that Kingdom is the destruction of the domain of Satan and men.

This takes place during a time of the tribulation, a 7 year period after the Rapture of the church. The church is caught up into heaven and then God lets loose wrath all over the world.

That wrath culminates in the final holocaust of judgment, known as the day of the Lord. The day of the Lord is the final component of God's wrath, not all there is to it.

At the end of chapter 6 the day of the Lord begins in the sixth seal, but there are five other seals of judgment that come before it.

Revelation 6:12, *I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.*

The character of the sixth seal has already taken place by the time we get into chapter 8.

We don't know how long its duration is, it may well overlap the seventh seal as well and have some continuing impact. But the sixth seal is broken, there's a great earthquake, the sun becomes black as a sackcloth made of hair, the moon becomes like blood, the stars of the sky fall to the earth.

The sky splits apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island are moved out of their places.

The kings of the earth, the great men, the commanders, the rich, the strong and then every common slave and freeman hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains.

They said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

This is the day of the Lord. It is a fearsome event described there at the end of chapter 6. But it does have some containment.

While I said the elements of it may continue, the impact of it may be residual because those kinds of holocausts are bound to have some longer-term effect.

It comes and it hits and then it is followed by the seventh seal. What described in the seventh seal as the blowing of these trumpets might just begin as these people are crawling out from under the rocks. They have just suffered the horrors of the sixth seal.

We don't know if there is a time gap or if there is, how long that time gap might be. But just when they maybe have settled back into some kind of acceptance of the way things are crawled out from their hiding places. They are hit with the terrifying and rapid-fire, machine gun trumpets and bowl judgments that wrap up the final day of the Lord.

At the end of a period called tribulation which lasts seven years. We are now well into that period and down to the final months of that period as these events take place.

What is depicted then in chapter 8 under the trumpet judgments comes with the bowl judgments. What is depicted is detail about the judgments described in detail.

We could wish that, but this is enough to excite the heart.

One, to embrace the Lord so that you escape this.

Two, to witness for those of us who are Christians to witness to the unbelievers so that they might know what is to come and be able to turn to Christ in time.

Revelation 8:6, *So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.*

The world has already suffered through years of trouble.

The church has been taken out.

Satan has been running loose.

False peace, war, famine, pestilences, plagues, earthquakes, death has reigned over the earth.

Deadly destruction from God has occurred.

Already by the time you come to the trumpet judgments, Antichrist has risen, his reign of terror has begun.

He has massacred both Jews and Christians. He is terrorizing those who affirm their faith in Christ, and he is dominating the world. He by this time has successfully deceived the world into following him and so is fully in charge.

There is more to be said about his career in the chapters to come. We will look at them very carefully. But the world has been going through the worst imaginable time in human history, and they haven't seen anything yet.

Finally, the seventh trumpet will be blown.

A seventh angel will blow the seventh trumpet, and it will all be over. But before that final blowing of that final trumpet, all these trumpet judgments must also come to pass.

All the hosts of heaven can see that on the scroll, and that is why they are stunned in silence.

In the midst of their silence an angel moves and takes a golden censer. After going through some priestly functions, he takes it in verse 5 and throws it to the earth. There followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake. This is the seventh seal, at least its opening as a devastating earthquake hits the earth.

Then becomes the signal for the angels to blow the trumpets.

V 6, So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

They are going to sound in sequence.

Again, we don't know how long a time period this is. We do know that one of the trumpets alone will last for five months, according to **Revelation 9:10**, *They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months.*

We don't know what the sequence of time is, that is to say how long is one and how long before two blows, and how long is two, and how long is three.

The only one given a time reference there is the fifth angel. We don't know what overlap there might be between the judgments. We only know what the Scripture tells us.

But the angels have been waiting.

Don't think for a moment they've only been waiting for thirty minutes. They haven't. Even though heaven has been silent for about half an hour, they have been waiting for a long time.

How long have they been waiting?

They have been waiting since the Fall.

Maybe they didn't know that they would be doing this, but there has been anticipation in heaven that God would take back His world from the usurper and fallen man.

These angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.

The angels were described as the angels who stand before God. Very elevated angels who love and worship God and Christ with all their holy being, who long for vindication and in some unique way stand before the very presence of God.

Gabriel is identified as such a presence angel, one who stands before the Lord.

They know that when they are given the word to blow their trumpets, they will initiate the most stupendous and devastating convulsions the earth has felt since the Flood.

Joshua and Israel at Jericho. In the Old Testament, Jericho was about to be visited with judgment and destruction.

Here, the whole earth is about to be visited with judgment and destruction.

At Jericho, seven blasts on seven trumpets by seven priests after a sevenfold march on the seventh day, signaled judgment. Here, seven blasts on seven trumpets by seven angels during the seven-year tribulation signals judgment.

The first four trumpets are brief and straight forward.

The first four take seven verses and the last three take 50 verses.

The first four are all related. They are unique and yet related. They are intense but not as intense as the last three.

God has chosen to give us much more detail on them.

These four trumpet judgments have to do with the earth.

They are not to be taken symbolically.
They are to be taken literally.

No reason to make symbols out of them. Some people say this is all symbolic of political judgment, social judgment, commercial judgment, or economic upheaval.

All that kind of thing is going to be described later in the book of Revelation.

What we have here are literal, physical judgments on the earth.

The first trumpet.

First Trumpet: Vegetation Struck

⁷ The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

The first angel sounded.

The horn of wrath is blown.

Angel number one blows.

The other six are waiting their turn.

The judgment triggered is quite interesting. There was hail and fire.

There are a couple of passages in the Old Testament where you see hail associated with divine judgment.

Isaiah 28:2, *Behold, the Lord has a mighty and strong one, Like a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, Like a flood of mighty waters overflowing, Who will bring them down to the earth with His hand.*

Job 38:22-23, *“Have you entered the treasury of snow, Or have you seen the treasury of hail, ²³ Which I have reserved for the time of trouble, For the day of battle and war?”*

God sends hail as a form of judgment.

Ezekiel 13:11-13, *say to those who plaster it with untampered mortar, that it will fall. There will be flooding rain, and you, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall tear it down. ¹² Surely, when the wall has fallen, will it not be said to you, ‘Where is the mortar with which you plastered it?’ ” ¹³ Therefore thus says the Lord God: “I will cause a stormy wind to break forth in My fury; and there shall be a flooding rain in My anger, and great hailstones in fury to consume it.*

Ezekiel 38:22, *And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.*

Fire we know as a judgement from the story of Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities of the plain back in Genesis 19.

Genesis 19:24-25, *Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the Lord out of the heavens. ²⁵ So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.*

God sent fire out of the sky to destroy them.

Here, as this angel blows, here we are toward the end of the time of the tribulation, and out of the sky comes hail and fire.

We don't know any more than the fact that it comes.

We don't know necessarily what it is or why it comes or from where it comes.

But we shouldn't be too surprised because you will remember that in verse 5 it says that this angel threw a censer to the earth. As it came flying through space before it hits the earth, peals of thunder, sounds, and flashes of lightning, and that would all speak about hail.

As well the flashes of lightning could certainly ignite, then it ends with an earthquake.

The earth has already been experiencing unbearable things, I already read to you chapter 6, the collapse of the sky, the devastating trembling and shaking of the earth.

Just as they are recovering from that, the earth starts to shake again. This shaking would be the severest shaking yet.

Just when things have gone back to some kind of calm, the world begins to rattle and shake again.

From a scientific standpoint, an earthquake of this magnitude could easily trigger volcanic eruptions. Volcanic eruptions could occur all over the globe, sending lava raining all over, perhaps reflecting the imagery of the angel.

The angel threw was a censer filled with Fire, fiery coals.

It is possible that worldwide volcanic explosions would be a normal consequence of a worldwide violent earthquake. The masses of water vapor blown skyward might well condense in the intense updraft as hailstones and showers of burning lava might well be cast upon the earth. The blood of entrapped men and animals might be mingled with them, or possibly showers of liquid water drops might be so contaminated with dust and gases as to appear blood red.

V 7, “Hail and fire mixed with blood, and they were all thrown to the earth.”

This physical holocaust isn't too far afield from what scientists fear.

Scientists fear the collapsing universe, raining meteorites and asteroids. It may well be that that is what is being described here. We don't know.

- It could be volcanic eruptions,
- It could be the raining asteroids coming out of the sky.
- the tearing up of the sky,
- changing the weather patterns,
- bringing a complex of rain and hail,
- flaming fragments of a shattered comet,
- asteroid or meteor coming blood red with smoke through the sky, crashing to earth.

Whatever the scientific explanation, it's clear what Scripture says.

The result.

A third of the earth was burned up.

Then a third of the trees were burned up.

The earth's forests are going to be devastated.

Then all the green grass was burned up. No shrubs, no grass, no vegetation, no crops. The devastation will result in the loss of wood for construction, the loss of watershed for protection, the massive death of animals, crops totally devastated, which provide food for animals which people eat as well, food directly used by us.

The earth becomes devastated, and the globe is scorched.

Romans 1:18-20, *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,*

Man should have been able to look at his world and the immense creation and have concluded that there is a God and that God is powerful. They should have seen God in the creation. But they did not.

Romans 1:21-25, *because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonour their bodies among themselves,²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

Man, worships Mother Nature, the earth.

Man has failed to honour God, failed to recognize God, gives God no thanks. Gives God no place, rejects His manifest glory in the creation and worships the creature and the creation, rather than the Creator.

That preoccupation with Mother Nature, that environmental atheism, that evolutionist that says God is in everything and everything is God. That kind of atheism that says man is no more valuable than a frog, or a rat or a rock.

Millions of people gather to celebrate Earth Day worshipping the earth, the creation instead of the Creator.

God will destroy their false god. Men have made a god out of the earth and animals and even themselves.

God will devastate the earth and its animal population as well as its human population. People worry about the ozone, God's going to destroy the ozone layer. All that stuff flying out of the sky is going to do a number on the ozone layer for certain.

God will take over and God will get involved in global warming.

God will turn up the heat.

God will destroy the rain forests.

God will slaughter the plants and the animals.

If you think we are messing up this world, wait till you see what God does to it.

Not only will their source of life be taken, but their god will be destroyed. For their god is the creation.

Second Trumpet: The Seas Struck

⁸ Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. ⁹ And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

The first trumpet dealt with the land,
The second trumpet deals with the sea.

God judges at another point of His provision for man, the sea. Again, man has not accepted the fact that God created the sea to be a blessing to man.

Man has refused to acknowledge God, refused to thank Him, man has become a worshiper of that part of the creation as well.

So the Lord is going to destroy that idol, even His own creation so devastated by sin.

The second angel sounds and calls forth cataclysm number two.

V 8, “something like a great mountain”

Not a great mountain but something like a great mountain, burning with fire was thrown into the sea.

Some meteorites, some asteroids, some things, some pieces of a star or a sun will come out of the sky.

Only it's going to be the size of a continent. It is going to be something like a massive mountain, crashing into the ocean. Just what scientists now fear, a massive rock continent surrounded by combustible gases which ignite as they enter the atmosphere and make it a flaming ball. It is going to be steered right at the earth by the force of God's power.

I am sure everybody is going to see it on TV.
It is going to take a while to get here.

All kinds of predictions are going to be made about where it's going to hit and if it's going to miss. It's going to hit.

Some people won't have to watch it on television, they will just experience it.

Everybody will see it as the earth moves around at some point. When it hits, it is going to hit the sea and immediately a third of the sea becomes blood.

There is no way to know what this is, whether it's actual blood that comes from the devastation of the animals in the sea, or whether it's the same kind of blood colour.

Joel chapter 2 and from the day of the Lord passages which tells us that the moon becomes dark, and the sun is made like blood. The fiery explosions that are going on, the gases around it are going to set off a smoke which blankets the sun and the moon with a reddish colour that makes everything look like blood.

The ability to turn water into blood either by filling it with the actual blood of dead animals, or more likely by transforming it chemically or biochemically into blood-red water. Poisoned by multitudes of dead microorganisms as in the well-known red tides which occur frequently. Infrequently in modern oceans, made such an impression on ancient Israel that it was recounted in their songs.

Psalm 78, and Psalm 105 talk about it.

In this great future day when suddenly fully a third of the world's oceans become as blood can well be imagined.

The waters of the sea become blood.

Whether it's the reflection of the gassiest red in the sky, or whether it's the chemical changes that occur when this continent hits the sea.

Whether it's the death of microorganisms isn't important.

V 9, *And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.*

The ships go because they are going to create a tsunami, or a tidal wave like the world has never seen. A third of the creatures in the sea are going to die.

This is going to freak out the “save the whale”.

This is going to be hard for the people who voted to make dolphins equal citizens of Malibu with people. It will make them very distressed.

Poisoning a third of the sea is going to kill a third of its population from minute organisms to the large whales, fish.

The food chain will be terribly disrupted.

Whatever the poisonous effect might be, equally as dramatic is going to be this tidal wave that is going to destroy a third of the ships in the world.

The mad disruption of commerce that that will cause, no fishing, no ships, and no transport.

There are some visions that God gave to some of the Old Testament prophets in which they saw this as they looked into the future.

Hosea 4:3, *Therefore the land will mourn; And everyone who dwells there will waste away With the beasts of the field And the birds of the air; Even the fish of the sea will be taken away.*

Zephaniah 1:3, *“I will consume man and beast; I will consume the birds of the heavens, The fish of the sea, And the stumbling blocks along with the wicked. I will cut off man from the face of the land,” Says the Lord.*

Very similar word of prophecy in the very early part of Isaiah’s prophecy, where he sees the same kind of thing happening as God comes in judgment.

Isaiah talks about the mountains and the hills, and all those things being devastated as well as the sea, not just the land. God is coming in devastation against the sea and the land.

Then we come to the third trumpet with the whole heaven collapsing in on people, earthquakes, fire, devastation in the sea.

Third Trumpet: The Waters Struck

¹⁰Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. ¹¹The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

This takes a different approach.

First the hail and fire comes everywhere all over the land.

Second, this one great continent comes roaring out of the sky and plunges into the sea.

But this great star burns like a torch, and apparently as it comes through the atmosphere it disintegrates and spreads all over the globe. Falls on the rivers and the springs of waters everywhere.

All this is happening because men have rejected the gospel being preached. It is being preached during this time as it is today, and they are rejecting.

Some are believing and coming to Christ.

An innumerable number from all the nations of the world, and some of them are being killed.

Some of them are going to survive and go on into the kingdom.

But the rest of the world is rejecting and rejecting.

The longer they wait, the harder their hearts will get.

Revelation 9:21, *And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.*

They did not repent!

The above verse is from under the sixth trumpet.

They longer fight it and the longer they resist, the harder their hearts become.

In the end they will not repent.

If they can survive all of this and not turn to God, their hearts are indeed hard.

Angel number three adds to the celestial fanfare and a great ***asteros***, star. It simply means some kind of a celestial body.

From this the word from which we get the word asteroid.

“Falling out of heaven burning like a torch”

Could be a comet, a torch has a ball of fire, and then a flame going up like that.

Luke 21:11, *And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.*

This celestial body disintegrates as it nears the earth, scatters over the globe. Its flaming gassiest fire touches springs and rivers. This is really devastating.

Why?

You can live for a while without all the crops because there are certain things stockpiled.

Certain things canned and preserved.

You can live for a while without the ocean, without sea water. But you can't live without fresh water.

Again, a third of the world is judged, a third of the rivers, a third of the springs.

V 7 talks about trees and grass.

V 9 talked about sea animals dying and ships being destroyed.

V 11 says many people are going to die.

Now we are getting to the people.

You can live without sea water.

You can live for a while without the crops, but you can't live without the water.

Now the name of the star is called Wormwood.

The Greek, the word ***Apsinthos*** means the deadly liquor substance called absinth. The word is used in the New Testament only in this one verse, so it's kind of hard to trace back its precise meaning.

But the term "wormwood" is also used several times in the Old Testament to translate the Hebrew ***Laanah***.

It's translated as hemlock. It is nothing but a poison. There it is suggested that it's a poison derived from some kind of root.

Deuteronomy 29:18, *so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood;*

Proverbs 5:4, *But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword.*

It is very bitter.

It produces drunkenness and eventual death.

Lamentations 3:15, *He has filled me with bitterness, He has made me drink wormwood.*

Lamentations 3:19, *Remember my affliction and roaming, The wormwood and the gall.*

All this point out that wormwood refers to something bitter, poison that is actually deadly.

Whatever this poison is, it is lethal.

A third of the water becomes wormwood.

As a result, many men died from the waters because they were made poisonous. The rivers still run but they run with deadly poison. The wells are full but they are full of death. The lakes are rippling with lethal quenches.

In the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah was allowed to see as God gave him a vision of future judgment.

Jeremiah 9:13-15, *And the Lord said, "Because they have forsaken My law which I set before them, and have not obeyed*

My voice, nor walked according to it, ¹⁴ but they have walked according to the dictates of their own hearts and after the Baals, which their fathers taught them,” ¹⁵ therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: “Behold, I will feed them, this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink.

Talking about judgment on Israel but it's a preview of what's going to happen in the end.

John chapter 4 Jesus said to the women in Samaria.

John 4:13-14, *Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”*

There will be for those of us who know Christ some different water in the future.

Revelation 21:6, *And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.*

The water of life forever.

Fourth Trumpet: The Heavens Struck

¹² Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

¹³ And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

Now the attention moves away from the earth.

We have dealt with land, salt water, fresh water, and now we look up.

A partial eclipse that strikes the sun, strikes the moon and strikes the stars.

We can only imagine the panic on earth as people are in ecological seminars all over the globe trying to figure out how to react and to deal with devastation.

The fires the crop problems,
The problems in the sea.

We can only imagine what huge conclaves will be held, what massive discussions to try to solve the problems.

In the process before they can even approach a problem, another one hits. They are desperately trying to save their earth god.

They are desperately trying to preserve what is their only hope. Conferences, meetings, papers, discussions among scientists, capitalists, politicians and the common people.

Everybody wants to save the earth.

Before they can come up with any solution, the fourth trumpet blows, and before they can save the earth, the sky starts to go. The sun, the moon and the stars are reduced by a third.

This is temporary.

We know that because over in chapter 16 when the bowl judgments fall.

Revelation 16:8-9, *Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire.⁹ And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.*

The sun is given power to burn men with fire and to burn them with fierce heat. This time the sun is blocked a third, and that cools down the earth.

A little while later God just reverses that. Somehow the Lord is just going to block out one third of the sun, one third of the moon, one third of the stars.

A naturalistic scientist might object that such a thing is impossible. This, however, would be to say more than he knows. The nature of both the internal reactions in the sun and the external reactions on the sun's surface are still unknown.

Solar physicists until recently were confident that the sun's output of radiant energy resulted mainly from thermonuclear fusion processes in the sun's interior.

Now, however, the absence of the flux of solar neutrinos from the sun which should be generated by such reactions is causing a complete rethinking of the whole problem.

Recent evidence that the sun is measurable shrinking in size apparently means that much of the sun's energy output results from gravitational collapse. Presumably this would be true of other stars as well.

Thus, if the gravitational shrinking of the sun could be slowed down for a time, possibly its light output would also be slowed down.

Can angels somehow reduce the gravitational forces in the forces in the sun's mass?

Since no one knows exactly what gravity is anyhow, who's to say they can't?

Since solar physicists even yet do not really comprehend either the full nature of gravitational processes or of solar radiation processes.

Since it is at least plausible that God's mighty angels do understand such things, we are safe in assuming God's hosts are quite capable of accomplishing this tremendous hiatus in the normal operation of all the heavenly bodies.

God can do whatever He wants.

He cranked it up, He can crank it down.

The loss of solar heat will cause radical drops in temperature over the earth.

What that means is severe changes in meteorology.

What that means is violent storms, weather changes that are unpredictable and unknown to man.

There will be a total interruption of the botanical and biological cycles. As that begins to change, everything in the world starts to go mad.

Luke 21:25-27, *“And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with*

perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶ men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Whatever would have been left on earth to grow won't be able to grow now.

Food becomes unavailable.

All those things that **Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Zephaniah and Jesus** said will come to pass.

Could anything be worse than this?

V 13, *And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"*

Worse is yet ahead.

Again, all this because men reject God and Christ.

The first four trumpets, unimaginable. But nothing like the three yet to come.

Now is the hour of salvation.

Today!

The disciples asked Jesus, “When is this going to come to pass?”

Jesus said, “Nobody knows, so you be ready at any time.”

The way to be ready is to place your faith in Jesus Christ whom the Bible says delivers us from the wrath to come.