

# God Seeks to Get Our Attention So We will Seek Him

## The 7 Trumpet Judgments



*"20 But the people who did not die in these plagues still refused to repent of their evil deeds and turn to God. They continued to worship demons and idols made of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood—idols that can neither see nor hear nor walk! 21 And they did not repent of their murders or their witchcraft or their sexual immorality or their thefts."* Revelation 9:20-21 NLT

A Christian businessman once said that before he turned his life over to Christ, God had to let him sink so far down that he had to look up to see bottom. Some people hear about the love of God and immediately receive and trust Christ for their salvation. Unfortunately, too many don't give their heart to Christ until they are brought to the end of themselves.

Revelation chapters 8-9 describe the Seven Trumpet Judgments. This series of judgments, along with the bowl judgments, is God's last attempt to turn people from sin and rebellion to Himself through repentance. In the past, God has repeatedly demonstrated His love in order to draw people to Himself. Some have responded, but the world in general has rejected God. However, during the seven-year Tribulation period, God is bringing human history to a close, and He is making His last attempt to bring the world to repentance. Since the world has rejected His invitation of love, He will next resort to using the pain of judgment. God will use whatever is necessary to turn people from sin and keep them out of hell. The Bible says, "...He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent." 2 Peter 3:9 NLT.

**The Central Lesson:**  
God seeks to get our attention so that we will seek Him

1. **Get SERIOUS with God (8:1)** - the silence of heaven is the response to the seriousness of the Trumpet Judgments.

*"1 When the Lamb broke the seventh seal on the scroll, there was silence throughout heaven for about half an hour."*

2. **Give God your ATTENTION (8:2)** - trumpets in scripture were used to get people's attention. They represented the coming of important information or important events.

*"2 I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and they were given seven trumpets."*

Trumpets in the Old Testament were used to **sound an alarm**, like our emergency sirens that warn us of severe weather approaching. The trumpet was used to call Israel together for a public meeting, warn of attacking armies, or call Israel to war. So God sounds the trumpet in the book of Revelation. He is warning the people on earth of His coming judgments on their sins.

3. **PRAY passionately (8:3-5)** - God hears our prayers and will respond according to His sovereign time and plan.

*"3 Then another angel with a gold incense burner came and stood at the altar. And a great amount of incense was given to him to mix with the prayers of God's people as an offering on the gold altar before the throne. 4 The smoke of the incense, mixed with the prayers of God's holy people, ascended up to God from the altar where the angel had poured them out."*

Incense was burned in Israel temple, and as the smoke ascended, it symbolized prayer ascending to God (Exodus 30:7-9). God wants us to pray passionately and be assured that He hears and responds in His perfect time.

4. **WATCH for God's warnings (8:6-9:19)** - patiently watch as God makes a statement to sinful humanity - judgment is coming, repent.

*"6 Then the seven angels with the seven trumpets prepared to blow their mighty blasts."*



**1st Trumpet**—1/3 of Earth's **VEGETATION** Destroyed (8:7).

**2nd Trumpet**—1/3 of **SEA** Life Destroyed (8:8-9).

**3rd Trumpet**—1/3 of Fresh Water **POLLUTED** (8:10-11).

**4th Trumpet**—1/3 of the Sky **DARKENS** (8:12-13).

**5th Trumpet (The First Woe!)**—Agonizing **TORMENT** of the Earth's Population (9:1-12).

**6th Trumpet (The Second Woe!)**—1/3 of the Remaining Earth's Population was **KILLED** by an Army of 200 Million (9:13-21).

**7th Trumpet (The Third Woe!)**—the Seven **BOWL** Judgments (11:15-19).

5. **Guard against INDIFFERENCE (9:20-21)**.

*"20 But the people who did not die in these plagues still refused to repent of their evil deeds and turn to God. They continued to worship demons and idols made of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood—idols that can neither see nor hear nor walk! 21 And they did not repent of their murders or their witchcraft or their sexual immorality or their thefts."*

Those who survived the worldwide trumpet judgments refused to repent of their sin (9:20-21). Instead, they continued to reject and rebel against God. They persisted in their wickedness. Five specific areas of sin are listed:

1. **Idolatry**—worshipping demons and idols (9:20).
2. **Murder** (9:21).
3. **Witchcraft** - The occult & drug abuse (9:21). From the Greek word *pharmakeia* from which we get "Pharmacy." Also translated "sorcery." Illegal drug use is part of the occult and ancient sorcery. People who do drugs are dancing with the devil.
4. **Sexual immorality** (9:21). The Greek word is *porneia*, from which we get "Pornography." The word encompasses all sexual immorality - sex outside marriage, adultery, homosexuality, pornography, pedophilia, bestiality, etc.
5. **Theft** (9:21).

**Conclusion: God seeks to get our attention so that we will seek Him.**

**Action Steps:** ► Receive Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's Bible study. ► Attend a small group. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus. ► Read Revelation 7. *What do you learn about witnessing?*