



Revelation 8-9: Round Two

MAIN THING

God's Judgments Increase In Severity

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 8-9

ICEBREAKER

OPENING THOUGHT

The Seal Judgments, which we talked about last week, were the precursor to the second round of judgments known as the Trumpet Judgments. The first four Trumpet Judgments seem to be a description of a nuclear war. Then we see the first signs of demonic activity as hell, in a limited capacity, is allowed to wreak havoc on unbelievers. The Trumpet Judgments end with an army of 200 million out of the east slaying another one-third of humanity. Even with this massive calamity, the Bible says that the people of the earth refuse to repent, and the Bible is very specific in what the people of earth continue to do to flaunt God's will and rebel against His ways.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. This is the only book of the Bible that says if you read it, you are blessed. How have the first nine chapters of Revelation been a blessing to you? Has it 1) allowed you to see things more clearly, 2) challenged you to walk with God more closely 3) convicted you of something that was off in your life, or 4) a combination of the above?

LIFE APPLICATION

As these judgments increase in severity, we see the same response of the people of earth- they refuse to repent and turn to God. The societal signs present during this time, according to Revelation 9:20-21 are 1) Worship of Demons and Idols, 2) Murder, 3) Magic Arts, 4) Sexual Immorality, and 5) Theft. Those have been present in every society that's ever existed since the beginning of time. So why do you think the Bible points those out now? Why are these particular sins singled out?

CHALLENGE

When God judges a society (or a person) He always follows the same progression- starts small and then increases the intensity until the society (or person) repents. The wise person stops and repents when the consequences are minimal. The fool persists in his or her rebellion and suffers the increasing judgments of God. This week, recognize that when God convicts you of sin or rebellion, it's wise to stop and repent early on before God's judgments become more and more severe.

Had the people of the earth repented early, none of the events of Revelation would have happened. God doesn't persist in bringing judgments on repentant, contrite people. That's not His nature. However, because they persisted, He sent stronger and stronger judgments as a call to wake up. He loves you, and the world, too much to allow us to persist in sin and rebellion.

Be wise. Repent early.