

4. Seven Trumpets - chapter 8:6-11:19

a) Six trumpets - 8:6-9:20

1. Five angels then blow their trumpets - The judgment of God falls on those who are persecuting the saints. Who are the persecutors? Remember Rev 2-3.
2. The judgment in Revelation 8 reminds us of the exodus judgments on Egypt. Hail, the sea becoming blood, a darkened sky, locusts (fifth trumpet, Rev 9.3).
3. Whereas in Exodus 9-10, Israel was saved from Egypt by God punishing Egypt, we see a complete reversal here. Israel that persecutes the followers of Jesus is treated as God treated Egypt.
4. This judgment is awful - no wonder, the ruler of these locusts who look like scorpions, is the angel of the bottomless pit (Rev 9.11), the devil himself. An interesting thought: The devil is God's servant when it comes to judging the persecutors.
5. The 6th trumpet: from the Euphrates River - that is, from Babylon, a war begins against the persecutors. A reminder for Israel of how Babylon once came to destroy the great city of Jerusalem. The devastation is enormous. (Rev 9.13-19).
6. Why does John not mention Babylon, but only the Euphrates River?
7. Note where the judgment of the sixth trumpet begins: from the golden altar for the incense before (the throne, the ark of the covenant of) God. That golden altar we have seen before: it is where the persecuted church prays to God for vengeance. (Rev 6, Rev 7) God is answering the prayers of his children.
8. Just like the Egyptians in the times of the exodus, the people now do not repent from their idolatry and sins, in spite of the judgments of God. They have the chance but they do not take it.

