

**THESE ARE DAYS OF VENGEANCE—THE GREAT DAY OF THEIR WRATH HAS COME!  
REVELATION 8**

I LOOKED HARD; I HEARD A LONE EAGLE, FLYING THROUGH MIDDLE-HEAVEN, CRYING OUT OMINOUSLY, “DOOM! DOOM! DOOM TO EVERYONE LEFT ON EARTH! THERE ARE THREE MORE ANGELS ABOUT TO BLOW THEIR TRUMPETS. DOOM IS ON ITS WAY!”

(REVELATION 8:13 THE MESSAGE)



***FOR THESE ARE DAYS OF VENGEANCE, TO FULFILL ALL THAT IS WRITTEN.***

(LUKE 21:22 ESV)

***If we do not receive and hold tightly to all that the Bible teaches about God and his wrath, then the God we profess to know must surely be a God other than the God of Scripture!***

- The wrath of God is the necessary response of a holy, righteous God to sin and rebellion. The love of God offers a way of salvation to sinful and rebellious humans that neither violates nor contradicts who he is.
- If we do not understand God’s necessary response to our sin and rebellion—his wrath, then we will never understand the necessary, finished work of Christ on the cross by which he provides eternal salvation that not only does not violate who he is but brings him joy, glory, honor and praise.
- How does this relate to our study in Revelation? The great day of wrath has come in which God will finish his necessary, final work in dealing with sin and will bring all things together for the good of his eternal purpose and to his glory.

**I. THE TIME HAS COME—THE DAYS OF VENGEANCE HAVE ARRIVED IN FULL FORCE, 8:1-5.**

- (Revelation 8:1–5 ESV) When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, **there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.** 2 Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. 3 And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with **the prayers of all the saints** on the golden altar before the throne, 4 and the smoke of the incense, with **the prayers of the saints**, rose before God from the hand of the angel. 5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.
- (Revelation 6:10 ESV) They cried out with a loud voice, **“O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”**

**A WORSHIPFUL, SOLEMN SILENCE ...**

*Silence falls over heaven as the Lamb opens the seventh seal putting forward the next phase of judgments—the trumpet judgments.*

**A. These necessary days of vengeance have long been prophesied and highly anticipated.**

- (Luke 21:22 NLT) **For those will be days of God’s vengeance, and the prophetic words of the Scriptures will be fulfilled.**
- (Deuteronomy 32:40–43 ESV) For I lift up my hand to heaven and swear, As I live forever, 41 if I sharpen my flashing sword and my hand takes hold on judgment, **I will take vengeance on my adversaries and will repay those who hate me.** 42 I will make my arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh— with the blood of the slain and the captives, from the long-haired heads of the enemy.’ 43 “Rejoice with him, O heavens; bow down to him, all gods, **for he avenges the blood of his children and takes vengeance on his adversaries.** He repays those who hate him and cleanses

his people’s land.”

- (Isaiah 34:8 ESV) **For the LORD has a day of vengeance,** a year of recompense for the cause of Zion.
- (Hosea 9:7a ESV) **The days of punishment have come; the days of recompense have come;** Israel shall know it.
- (Nahum 1:2 ESV) **The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD is avenging and wrathful; the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies.**
- (Luke 21:24 ESV) Alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! **For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people.**

**B. The battle lines are now clearly drawn between the God of heaven and the nations of earth.**

God has made his wrath and his opposition to the people of earth very evident.

**THE WRATH OF GOD IS GOD’S RESPONSE TO SIN AND REBELLION.**

- (Revelation 6:15–17 ESV) **Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free,** hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from **the wrath of the Lamb,** 17 for **the great day of their wrath has come,** and who can stand?”
- (Psalm 2:1–6 ESV) Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 2 **The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,** 3 **“Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”** 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. 5 **Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury,** saying, 6 “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”
- (Psalm 59:5 ESV) You, LORD God of hosts, are God of Israel. **Rouse yourself to punish all the nations;** spare none of those who treacherously plot evil. Selah
- (Psalm 76:8 NLT) **From heaven you sentenced your enemies;** the earth trembled and stood silent before you.

- (Isaiah 59:18 ESV) According to their deeds, so will he repay, **wrath to his adversaries, repayment to his enemies**; to the coastlands he will render repayment.

### C. We can trace the origin of the battle between the offspring of the devil and the offspring of God back to Genesis three.

The hostility was a result of the serpent's deception of Eve and God's subsequent curse on the serpent.

- (Genesis 3:15 NLT) **And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring.** He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.

We see the enmity between the offspring get very personal when Cain (*a child of the devil*) murdered his brother Abel (*a child of God*).

- (Genesis 4:25 ESV) And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, **"God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him."**
- (Matthew 23:35a ESV) So that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from **the blood of righteous Abel.**
- (Hebrews 11:4a ESV) By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, **through which he was commended as righteous.**
- (1 John 3:12a ESV) **We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother.**
- (Psalm 94:1–5 NIV) **The Lord is a God who avenges.** O God who avenges, shine forth. 2 Rise up, Judge of the earth; **pay back to the proud what they deserve.** 3 How long, Lord, will the wicked, how long will the wicked be jubilant? 4 They pour out arrogant words; all the evildoers are full of boasting. 5 **They crush your people, Lord; they oppress your inheritance.**

### D. The next judgments are personal as God answers the prayers of the saints and vindicates and avenges the people of God.

- (Deuteronomy 32:35–36 ESV) **Vengeance is mine,** and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their

calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly.' 36 **For the LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants,** when he sees that their power is gone and there is none remaining, bond or free.

- (Psalm 58:10–11 NLT) The godly will rejoice when they see injustice avenged. They will wash their feet in the blood of the wicked. 11 Then at last everyone will say, **"There truly is a reward for those who live for God;** surely there is a God who judges justly here on earth."
- (Psalm 135:13–14 ESV) Your name, O LORD, endures forever, your renown, O LORD, throughout all ages. 14 **For the LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants.**
- (2 Thessalonians 1:5–10 ESV) This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— 6 **since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you,** 7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, **when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.** 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 10 **when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed,** because our testimony to you was believed.

### E. A biblical view of vengeance frees us to live peaceably—as far as it depends on us.

- (Romans 12:18–19 ESV) If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, **but leave it to the wrath of God,** for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," says the Lord."
- (Isaiah 35:4 ESV) Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! **Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.**"

## II. THE DAYS OF VENGEANCE CONTINUE WITH THE FOUR TRUMPET JUDGMENTS, 8:6-12.

- (Revelation 8:6–12 ESV) Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them. 7 **The first angel blew his trumpet**, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. 8 **The second angel blew his trumpet**, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. 9 A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. 10 **The third angel blew his trumpet**, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing 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 people died from the water, because it had been made bitter. 12 **The fourth angel blew his trumpet**, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.

## III. THE THREE WOES ON THE EARTH ARE ANNOUNCED, 8:13.

- (Revelation 8:13 ESV) Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, “**Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!**”
- A. **The first woe** ... The fifth trumpet judgment (9:1-11) brings the first woe: the torment of the locust demons.
- (Revelation 9:12 ESV) **The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still to come.**
- B. **The second woe** ... The sixth trumpet judgment brings the release of four

powerful demon angels who will kill one third of humanity.

- (Revelation 9:13–14 ESV) Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God, 14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “**Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.**”
  - (Revelation 9:18 ESV) **By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed**, by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths.
- C. **The third woe** ... The seventh trumpet judgment possibly includes all the remaining judgments beginning in 11:15 and through chapter 19—the great red dragon, the beast, etc.
- (Revelation 11:14 ESV) **The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come.**

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### THE SEAL, TRUMPET AND BOWL JUDGMENTS ... A POSSIBLE SEQUENCE ...

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**THE SEVEN SEAL JUDGMENTS:** The seven seal judgments are found in 5:1-6:17 with the last seal being opened in 8:1 which introduces the trumpet judgments. There is an interlude in chapter seven in which we learn about the 144,000 who are sealed and the great multitude who are saved during the tribulation.

**THE SEVEN TRUMPET JUDGMENTS:** The seven trumpet judgments are revealed and described in 8:2-11:15. The seventh trumpet seems to include the battles and the various events up to 15:4 that established the kingdom.

**THE SEVEN BOWL JUDGMENTS:** The seven bowl judgments are more elusive as to the extent and the duration. There is no consensus among commentators but a general idea is that maybe these judgments continue to the coming of Christ. What we do know is that the last bowl judgment was poured out in 16:17.

- (Revelation 16:17 ESV) **The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air**, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, “**It is done!**”