

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*



Worship Guide for May 16, 2021

Sermon Notes

The Trumpet Blast Answer to Prayer

Revelation 8

For centuries the cry of God's people to him has been, "how long, O Lord?" How long will you remain silent? How long will your people suffer? How long before you rise up against your enemies? How long before your kingdom comes and your will is done on earth as it is in heaven? The cry of the martyrs was, "*O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?*" (Revelation 6:10)

Revelation 8 doesn't tell us exactly *when* God will answer these questions, but it does show us *how* he will answer. What we see unfolding in this chapter of Revelation is the answer to the prayers of his saints that throughout the ages have gone up to him. Those prayers go up to heaven and one day God's answer will thunder back down from heaven as his holy wrath is unleashed in judgment on evil. The prayers of God's people matter!

As the seventh and final seal is opened, we see seven angels given seven trumpets. The four trumpet blasts that follow in chapter eight signal God's judgment on the natural world. Today we see God answer the prayers of his people as his holy wrath is poured out on the natural world. We see in today's passage that our prayers matter. We also see the foolishness and danger of misplaced trust. This world is not our ultimate home, and this world cannot meet our ultimate needs. Our holy and gracious Creator wants us to see this reality and is giving us time to respond as we should.

Let all the earth keep silent – the Judge of all the earth is about to speak (Rev 8:1-2)

Let all the saints be encouraged – the prayers of God's suffering saints will be answered (Rev 8:3-5)

Let all the earth be warned – God's wrath on this fallen world is coming (Rev 8:6-12)

Let all humanity be warned – God's wrath on hard-hearted unbelievers is coming (Rev 8:13)

Applications:

The day of wrath is coming – but today is a day of grace. Come to Christ while you can

The day of wrath is coming – but today is a day of grace. Believer, live and witness accordingly.

"God's delays are not God's denials." Believer, be encouraged in your prayer life.

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Know

**What does God intend for me to know?
In your journal, use the following prompts to write
some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| I never knew... | I was reminded... | A question I still have... |
| I was challenged... | I was convicted... | A truth I could share... |
| I was encouraged to... | | I need to dig deeper into... |

Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?
In your journal, use the following questions to write
some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Is there a command to obey? | Am I convicted to confess any sin? |
| How am I compelled to exalt God? | Is there a sin to avoid? |
| Is there a promise to claim? | How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel? |
| Is there a principle to follow? | How can I pray for someone else? |
| Is there an example to follow? | What am I compelled to love or desire? |

Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life?
In your journal, write your answers and thoughts
in response to the following questions.**

What is the importance of extended silence (and solitude) in the life of the believer? What are we confessing about God when we practice it? How does it hinder our spiritual growth when we neglect it?

How does this passage shape the way we view prayer? How does it encourage us to pray differently?

How should we pray for God's judgment? How does placing our confidence and hope in his judgment change the way we live and respond to the world and to others?

**Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.*

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