

Read aloud Revelation 8:6-13

1. (vs. 6) **“Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.”** Trumpet blasts are typically loud and used to call a company to attention or an army to battle. Considering that the Lord takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ez. 18:23), God will call the world to a place of repentance by turning the screws and ratcheting up the severity of the trumpet/plagues. Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt the Lord turning the screws on you in order to get your attention and lovingly bring you to a place of repentance? If you feel comfortable, share with the group.
2. (vs. 7) **“...The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth.”** When you read this passage, do you understand this to be literal or symbolic? How should we approach the interpretation of eschatological (prophetic, end time) passages in Scripture? Read Exodus 9:13-35 and discuss in light of this trumpet plague.
3. (vs. 8) **“The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea...”** John is certain that he saw hail, fire, and blood. But now he describes a fearful event: *“...something like a great mountain, burning with fire...”* This may be a large asteroid impacting the earth. As followers of Christ, we should not fear plagues, natural disasters, or any other form of tribulation. (Read Psalm 46:1-3) How can we minister to those today who are arrested with fear? How should we, as Christians live in this fear-filled world in light of the gospel?
4. (vs. 10-11) **“... a great star fell from heaven...The name of the star is Wormwood.”** The hail, the fire and the great mountain were all *thrown* but this star *fell* from heaven. The indication is that what is being described is not a celestial body like the sun, but a fallen angelic being who is named. (see also Rev. 9:1, Isaiah 14:12). What thoughts come to your mind when you consider the fact that God will use His defeated angelic foes to bring about tribulation on the earth? Why is this significant?