



Sermon Discussion Guide¹

Rev 8:6-9:12 | Kevin DeYoung

“Doom and Gloom” Reformation Sunday, October 29th, 2023

1. **Exodus:** Kevin drew parallels between the first four trumpets and the Book of Exodus.² What do you learn about God? ...His plan for His people? How do these parallels impact your thinking about Revelation 8?
2. **Star:** The fifth trumpet turns from judgment of the *cosmos* to judgment of the inhabitants of the *earth*. What new information did you gain about the “fallen star?” (ref Luke 10:18). Again, how is the broader context helpful as you try to understand John’s vision here?
3. **Sovereignty:** Kevin elaborated on the importance of the enemy being *given* authority for a time. Take a few minutes to consider the significance that “he only operates at God’s sovereign allowance.”³ Does this truth inflame your trust in God, or does it make that hard in some way?
4. **Unbelievers:** Respond to the strange and terrible truth that Satan’s work is against his own people (9:4). How might this inform your concern for, conversations with, and prayers for your family, friends, and neighbors who are not Christians?
5. **Bondage ~ Freedom:** “Bondage to God is the only freedom. Freedom from God is the worst kind of slavery.” What is your own personal experience of this reality? How might that encourage someone else?
6. **5th Trumpet:** The big question posed at the sound of the 5th trumpet is this: “What can Satan do to non-Christians that he *cannot* do to Christians?” What answer do we find inferred in the text?
7. **Guilt & Despair:** How do you see the prevalence of the profound weight of *guilt* and *despair* in the world around us? Can you recall a season during which this “woe” threatened you?
8. **Hope:** How does this text speak to the 5th trumpet’s threat to those who have placed their trust in Christ? Which aspects of these words resonate with you most profoundly today?
9. **HC 60:** We claimed the powerful hope of the Gospel for our own experience when we recited the Heidelberg Catechism 60. Read it again together:

Q: *How are you right with God?*

A: Only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though my conscience accuses me of having grievously sinned against all God’s commandments and of never having kept any of them, and even though I am still inclined toward all evil, nevertheless, without my deserving it at all, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned or been a sinner, as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me. All I need to do is to accept this gift of God with a believing heart.

¹ SDGs from the Sunday morning sermon are available on the [small groups page](#) of the church website.

² See outline for the references.

³ Let **WCF 5.4** be your guide: “The almighty power, unsearchable wisdom, and infinite goodness of God so far manifest themselves in his providence, that it extendeth itself even to the first fall, and all other sins of angels and men, and that not by a bare permission, but such as hath joined with it a most wise and powerful bounding, and otherwise ordering and governing of them, in a manifold dispensation, to his own holy ends; *yet so as the sinfulness thereof proceedeth only from the creature, and not from God; who, being most holy and righteous, neither is nor can be the author or approver of sin.*”

General Outline

- I. Introduction
- II. 7's in Revelation: 7 stars, 7 lampstands, 7 churches, 7 spirits of God, 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls
- III. 1st 4 Trumpets: *(1) OT Counterpart, (2) Possible Natural Explanation, (3) Spiritual Explanation:*
 - a. Trumpet 1: Judgement of Hail and Fire
 - 1. OT: 7th plague from Exod 9
 - 2. Natural: thunderstorm or an army that burns cities.
 - 3. Spiritual: hail refers to famine.
 - b. Trumpet 2: Mountain into the Sea which turns to Blood
 - 1. OT: 1st plague from Exod 7
 - 2. Natural: Mount Vesuvius' Eruption in 79 AD
 - 3. Spiritual: A kingdom being thrown down. God is judging the kingdoms of the earth.
 - c. Trumpet 3: Fallen Star and Bitter Water
 - 1. OT: 1st plague from Exod 7 again. Or bitter water at Mara in Exod 15.
 - 2. Natural: water contaminated by wormwood.
 - 3. Spiritual: the bitterness of suffering.
 - d. Trumpet 4: Darkness
 - 1. OT: 9th plague from Exod 10
 - 2. Natural: during war or siege, smoke rises and hides the sun
 - 3. Spiritual: spiritual blindness
 - e. Trumpets 1-4 represent two things:
 - i. De-Creation
 - ii. Proclamation of victory and issuing a warning to traitors on earth that they might repent.
- III. 5th Trumpet: Fallen Star given a Key
 - a. Luke 10:18 ("Fallen Star"=Satan)
 - b. *Given* Authority
 - c. The Devil harms his own people, not God's people.
 - d. Guilt & Despair
- IV. Conclusion
 - a. Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*
 - i. "All this is true and much more which thou hast left out. But the Prince whom I serve, and honor is merciful and ready to forgive. But besides, these infirmities possessed me in thy country. For there I sucked them in, and have groaned under them, and been sorry for them, and have since obtained the pardon of my Prince."