

The Seven Trumpets



Collegiate Quarterly

Teacher's Guide

Materials

Reproducible Activity, Bibles, paper, pens, access to YouTube

Surveying the Source

Genesis 40–41; Eph. 5:2; Revelation 8–11

Plotting the Course

The students will:

- ▶ Identify that God is not indifferent to the suffering of His people.
- ▶ Explain that our prayers are an important part of God defending His people.
- ▶ Explore Jesus as both Judge and Defender.

Preparing to Lead

Revelation 8–11 is considered to be one of the more challenging sections of the book of Revelation when it comes to understanding and interpretation. It is important to remember John's words at the beginning of this book, about it being a

“revelation of Jesus Christ.” As you explore these chapters, consider what they tell you about Jesus Christ and yourself, and pray that God will guide and bless your exploration.

Getting Started

A. Give each class member a piece of paper and a pen, and invite them to write down as many examples as they can about the topic you will share in 60 seconds. When they are ready, share the topic: people in the Bible who gave a judgment or warning to God's people.

After the 60 seconds is up, invite class members to share what they have written with the whole group. *Ask*: “What percentage of the Bible do you think is devoted to the topic of God calling His people back to Himself?”

B. Brainstorm and consider the different contexts and stories where trumpets are sounded in the Bible. We see that in the Bible, trumpets are used in battle, worship, and celebrations. Why do you think God chose a trumpet as the instrument to represent significant events such as these?

Before launching into Scripture listen to the song, “The Seven Trumpets Blow” from The Lamb Wins: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMxfeclDKzU&list=PLL3TcBwFpbttRMFvnGf-bXcVXiGiADvWN&index=14>

Delving Into the Word

A. Read Revelation 8–9 silently. Review the messages to the seven churches (Revelation 2–3). Share that the narratives of the seven churches and seven trumpets show us the mercy and justice of God. There is mercy for those who repent (we see this in the narrative of the seven churches), and justice for the rebellious (seen in the narrative of the trumpets). God’s desire is for everyone to repent (2 Pet. 3:9), and for those who do overcome to sit beside Him on His throne (Rev. 3:20).

Discuss the following questions:

1. What stands out to you about Rev. 8:1–4? What are the saints doing? How might this challenge you, now?
2. Why might people refuse to repent of worshipping their “gods” and thereby reject God? (Rev. 9:20, 21).
3. Where do you see God’s mercy and His justice in these chapters? How does this message speak into your life, today?
4. How do you see God calling you to be ready to meet Jesus?

B. Distribute the Reproducible Activity. Explore some of the themes in Revelation 10–11, by dividing your class into small groups and allocating a question to each group to explore and then share with the whole group.

What does Num. 10:1–10 tell us about trumpets and how they were to be used for the Israelites in the Old Testament? What is new to you in this passage?

Discussing the Ideas

1. Does the word “judgment” typically bring to mind positive or negative thoughts and emotions? What are some examples of these thoughts/emotions?
2. What do the trumpets of Revelation tell us about Jesus?
3. Is it possible for Jesus to be a Judge and a Defender at the same time? What does it mean to you personally, to know

that Jesus is both of these for you?

4. How will God’s character be vindicated through the process of the judgment?
5. When life is chaos, how can you practically allow Jesus to be your lifeline? What does that really look like in your life?

Closing the Activity

To conclude, share the following quote, “The incense, ascending with the prayers of Israel, represents the merits and intercession of Christ, His perfect righteousness, which through faith is imputed to His people, and which can alone make the worship of sinful beings acceptable to God” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 353).

God accepts us because He sees Jesus standing over us, in His perfection. It is so essential that we abide in Him as we wait to see Him, face-to-face. He lovingly intercedes for you and I as our Savior, Judge, Friend, and Mediator. Give thanks to Him through a prayer of thanksgiving to conclude this lesson study.

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Divide the class into small groups and have them answer the following questions.

1. Revelation 10 is a short but important chapter. Why do you suppose it's placed where it is? How is this chapter meaningful to you, and the times in which you live in earth's history?
2. What sanctuary themes can be seen in these chapters? Why are they important?
3. Where is God seen as Mediator and Judge in these chapters?
4. What do you most appreciate about the seventh trumpet?



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