

**A Study of the Book of Revelation**  
Source Material: *Come, Lord Jesus* by Mark Braatan  
Week 7: November 1, 2009

## **Read Revelation 8:3-13**

*What can verse 8:3 teach us about John's feelings on the importance of prayer?*

*What differences do you notice initially between the trumpets and the seals?*

*What Old Testament story does this section recall?*

Three things to remember about these words of judgement

“1. John is drawing heavily in this chapter (and in the entire book from the Old Testament). . . . God will judge a sinful world, but the judgment serves the cause of redemption. God will judge and destroy evil in order that he might make his world new and whole. God's ultimate goal is the redemption of creation.

2. These words of judgment also function as warning. . . . The judgements of chapters 8 and 9 show how God is going to deal with the ways of the world. Christians must not accommodate themselves to that which is going to be judged. What John is doing is using stark language, language of warning, to tell Christians not to accommodate themselves to the ways of the sinful world.

3. Perhaps the question we as modern readers need to ask is, will God also judge some of the things in our modern culture to which we have accommodated ourselves? . . . One of the functions of the words of judgement in Revelation is to wake us up to the challenges and evils of our day. We, like first-century Christians in Asia Minor, need to learn to stand against that which is not pleasing to our God.” (Braatan, pg. 69-70)

*Since very few people agree completely on anything, how do we find consensus on what is and is not pleasing to God so we can live faithfully?*

## **Read Revelation 9:1-12**

Useful notes to help with understanding the Fifth Trumpet

1. “In Jewish thought this falling star would be understood as an angel.”(pg. 70)
2. “A plague of locusts was the eighth plague on Egypt (Exodus 10). The repeated reference to five months is a reference to the life span of a locust.”(pg. 71)
3. “The king of the bottomless pit is called in Greek Apollyon, which means destroyer. . . . The emperor was a man named Domitian who liked to consider himself a descendant of the god Apollo. John here paints a most unflattering reference, comparing the emperor and his followers to grasshoppers!”(pg. 71)

4. “John’s imagery here cannot be fit into our normal terms of space and time. . . . What John is doing is announcing judgement in such horrible terms that Christians will instinctively recoil against it.”(pg. 71)

*What images would you draw upon if you were trying to describe harsh judgement?*

### **Read Revelation 9:13-19**

In John’s description of the cavalry, there are unmistakable references to the Parthians. . . . The Romans could not subdue the Parthians and lived with a deep fear of them. John is playing with that fear. . . . What John is doing is taking a contemporary fear, namely the Parthians, and raising it to a supernatural level.” (pg. 72)

*If John was writing today, what national fear do you think he would draw upon to help us to know that we need to rely on God, not just our selves, for our safety and security?*

### **Read Revelation 9:20-21**

*Given the harshness of what is described, are you surprised that humankind doesn’t repent? What does this say about the hardness of the human heart?*