

Corresponds to Program 31

## INTRO TO THE TRUMPETS, PART 2 STUDY GUIDE

### SOUNDING THE ALARM

#### Revelation 8:1-6

In this second part of our introduction to the trumpets, we want to remind ourselves that trumpets in the Bible indicate several things: to get people's attention, to signal in battle or war, and to call for repentance and atonement. Trumpets were also used at Jericho to sound a warning of impending judgment and doom to those inside.

An example of this is found in Ezekiel 33:1-5: "Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: "When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life.'"

In light of this, we can expect judgment and the sword to follow the blowing of the trumpets in Revelation 8, and that is exactly what we will see as this first trumpet blows.

In Revelation 5:6, we learned that Jesus the Lamb appeared before the Father, and that the Holy Spirit, in perfect power, was sent to the earth. In Revelation 8, we again see a reference to fire—a picture of the Holy Spirit—being cast to earth.

Here is an interesting pattern. We know that this portion of time covers the early church period. The saints of God prayed, their prayers ascended to heaven and were mingled with the righteousness of Christ, and then fire was cast to earth. This can be none other than the experience of the upper room at Pentecost!

Some of the common elements that are seen around the throne of God are noises, thunders, and lightning. In Revelation 8:5, we see these elements. Thunder is often used to illustrate the voice of God. In Acts 9:3-7, we find this good example:



"And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets."

#### REVELATION 8:2

"As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' And he said, 'Who are You, Lord?' Then the Lord said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' So he, trembling and astonished, said, 'Lord, what do You want me to do?' Then the Lord said to him, 'Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.' And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one." God spoke directly to Saul and no one else heard it.

We see the fulfillment of fire falling from heaven in this description of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-4 "When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy

### KEY SCRIPTURES

**Acts 2:1** DAY OF PENTECOST

**Rev. 5:6** SLAIN LAMB SYMBOL OF JESUS

**Rev. 8:4** OUR PRAYERS GO UP AS INCENSE TO GOD

**Acts 9:6** ASK JESUS WHAT SHOULD WE DO

Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Not only do we see fire falling as a result of prayer, but of the gift of languages to preach the gospel. Here, God imparts voices, noises, from His throne to Earth. In the common understanding of the time when the Bible was translated into English, “noise” was a common word indicating speaking, such as “this

story has been widely noised abroad.” We still often say: “what is that noise” when referring to a large crowd talking.

We need to remember that all of this was shown to John before the first trumpet blew. This is a bit of background given to us to set the stage for the trumpets. We will look at the meaning of lightning in our next lesson. ★

