

The Seventh Seal is Opened
Revelation 8:5-13

“That half hour of silence came to an abrupt end when the angel who stood before the altar flung his censer to the earth. The resulting powerful earthquake (8:5) was the signal for the seven angels who had the seven trumpets, and they prepared themselves to sound them. The serial judgments the trumpets unleash will hit the earth and its wicked people just as they are crawling out of the caves and rocks where they futilely attempted to hide from the fury of God’s wrath during the sixth seal (6:15-17). Thinking that things are returning to normal, they will be hit with the terrifying, rapid-paced trumpet terrors, followed by the bowl judgments. These final judgments are likely the ones held back until the sealing of the 144,000 (7:3). The first four trumpets are described in a brief and straightforward manner; far more detail is given about the last three. The first four trumpets all deal directly with the earth. They do not symbolize political, social, or economic judgment; those types of judgments come later in revelation. Nor do they describe any judgment that has ever happened in history in some locale or region. The trumpet judgments are actual, literal, physical events that will affect the whole earth.” MacArthur

- I. Each judgment, be it a seal, trumpet, or bowl judgment, is meant to bring men and women to repentance. Even though severe in nature, they are still an act of God’s mercy. His purpose is to stir the heart through fear, despair, and desperation to receive the gospel that is being loudly proclaimed throughout the earth. During that time, God will use whatever means necessary to save as many as possible from having to stand before Him to be judged for their sin at the great white throne judgement that will occur at the end of the Millennial reign of Christ.

Rev. 8:1
2 Peter 3:9
1 Tim. 2:4

Ezek. 18:23 *Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the sovereign Lord. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live.*

Ezek. 18:32 *For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the sovereign Lord. Repent and live!*

- II. The first four trumpet judgments are meant to make those who refuse to acknowledge God as the creator of both heaven and earth aware of how dependent they have been on His gracious divine providence toward both the righteous and unrighteous. They are meant to wake mankind up to His absolute sovereign control over the heavens and earth.

Revelation 8:5-6

Ps. 65:5-11

Divine providence is the governance of God by which He, with wisdom and love, cares for and directs all things in the universe. The doctrine of divine providence asserts that God is in complete control of all things. He is sovereign over the universe as a whole (Psalm 103:19), the physical world (Matthew 5:45), the affairs of nations (Psalm 66:7), human destiny (Galatians 1:15), human successes and failures (Luke 1:52), and the protection of His people (Psalm 4:8). This doctrine stands in direct opposition to the idea that the universe is governed by chance or fate. gotquestions.org

Matthew 5:45 *He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*

- III. The first four trumpet judgements deal directly with the environment. The first trumpet judgment brings massive environmental destruction upon the earth. The second trumpet judgment affects the sea by damaging greatly its commerce, oxygen supply, and food supply. The third trumpet judgment has a direct effect on the quality of the world's fresh water supply. The fourth trumpet judgment brings a foreboding darkness over the world. The cumulative effect of each successive judgment will either bring many to depend more on the Antichrist to solve their problems, or bring many to see their need for salvation, believe the truth, turn from the Antichrist and his deceptive ways, and be saved.

Rev. 7:7

Exodus 9:24

Rom. 1:25

Rev. 7:8-9

Isaiah 2:12,16

Rev. 7:10-11

Ex. 7:20-21

Deut. 29:18

Deut. 10:21

Rev. 7:12-13

Ps. 19:1-6