

God's Wrath on the Despisers of Good

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I know in my life time, all too often the Feast of Trumpets has tended to get looked at in what I would call a myopic point of view. What I mean by that is, sometimes instead of looking at the whole picture of the Day of the Lord, which is what this day pictures, its focus is often that this is the day that Christ returns. The day which ushers in the Millennium and it's all a happy, warm, fuzzy, positive picture. But that really misses the focus of what this whole day is about.

The Day of the Lord is the day of God's wrath, as we're going to see today. The Bible describes it as a dark and gloomy day. It's very horrific because of the events that take place and it is a necessary step in the plan of God. Yes, it does ultimately end well with regard to what it leads to in preparing the way to establish the Millennium and set up a happy picture. But the day itself pictures very horrific events; it is the day of God's wrath.

What we are going to do today is look at this from a more holistic point of view and look at what the whole day really pictures. We are also going to look at why God would do something of this horrific nature to mankind. If you would like a title for this sermon it's:

God's Wrath on the Despisers of Good

That title will make a little more sense as we get further into the sermon. It is going to speak to why God would bring about such unbelievably horrific events on mankind. As we go through the events that describe the Day of the Lord, one of the things we are going to see today is, just how incredible and horrific they are. It is hard for us to wrap our minds around this and then to really comprehend it. The Day of the Lord consists of seven trumpets and connects with the actual title of this day. Oftentimes, people look at it as just the seventh trumpet blowing and Christ returning and skips all the ugly parts of this day. We will look at this day from a more complete viewpoint. First to Leviticus 23 where we see all the Holy Days listed out and the instruction for keeping the Feast of Trumpets. We are going to start off by noticing some of the wording in the Hebrew which, if you are like me, you have never noticed. I think most of my life I have never realized some of this until the last few years.

Leviticus 23:23 *Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,*

24) Speak to the children of Israel, saying: In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.

25) You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. (NKJV)

What I mentioned with regard to the wording here which we often miss is, we read where it says, “a memorial of blowing of trumpets” and in our minds, because we relate to what a trumpet is in our modern-day society, we can assume that it is exactly what the Hebrew is saying— that it is talking about the instrument we call a trumpet. As we are going to see, this is not exactly accurate. The concept still applies in terms of how we look at it in English. But if we look at the Hebrew, does it have the word “trumpet” in there? Actually no, it doesn’t. The Hebrew word translated trumpet is *teruah* and it’s [Strong’s #8643](#) and in [The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the Old Testament](#) by Warren Baker and Eugene Carpenter define it as this:

“A feminine noun indicating a shout of joy, a shout of alarm, a battle cry. It refers to a loud, sharp shout or cry in general but often indicates a shout of joy or victory, a great shout anticipating a coming event. It can refer to the noise or signal put out by an instrument. Amos used the word to refer to war cries.”

So, notice it refers to a shout, it can be an alarm of war, something that announces something happening and it can be a battle cry. It even says it can refer to the sound of an instrument. We refer to it as a trumpet, as that is how we think of it in our time. As we are going to see, in Ancient Israel one of the things that they would do as an alarm for people, was to blow a shofar which is made from a ram’s horn. You could blow into it and it was similar to a trumpet in terms of the sound it would make. That was used as an alarm of war as well. That’s part of where the concept comes from.

Does it specifically say trumpet? No, it doesn’t. But at the end of the definition, they said Amos used this to refer to war cries. Notice in Amos 1 which is the example it is taken from. We are going to see a couple times where it uses this word *teruah*. Notice the context in which it is used.

Amos 1:13 *Thus says the LORD: For three transgressions of the people of Ammon, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, because they ripped open the women with child in Gilead, that they might enlarge their territory.
14) But I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour its palaces, amid shouting [this is where *teruah* is] in the day of battle, And a tempest in the day of the whirlwind.
15) Their king shall go into captivity, He and his princes together,” Says the LORD. (NKJV)*

We go on into chapter 2 and keep reading and we see another use of *teruah* and a very similar type of usage.

Amos 2:1 *Thus says the LORD: For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, because he burned the bones of the king of Edom to lime.
2) But I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the palaces of Kerioth; Moab shall die with tumult, With shouting [again, *teruah*] and trumpet sound.*

3) *And I will cut off the judge from its midst, and slay all its princes with him,*”
Says the LORD. (NKJV)

It’s using *teruah* referring to shouting but it compares it to a trumpet—the sound of a trumpet. As I mentioned, in Israel oftentimes an alarm was done with a shofar—a ram’s horn that they cut off and used like a trumpet we use today. You would blow into it and make a loud noise similar to the trumpet instrument we would think of today in our time. This was used as an alarm to alert people, oftentimes of danger or of war calamity. It was a way in those times, without modern technology to get a sound out to warn people.

In Jeremiah 4, we see how this concept worked for them and how it was an alarm.

Jeremiah 4:19 *O my soul, my soul! I am pained in my very heart! My heart makes a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because you have heard, O my soul, The sound of the trumpet, The alarm of war. (NKJV)*

In English it says trumpet and if you look it up in Hebrew it’s a shofar. It’s the instrument they would make out of a ram’s horn and they use that as a warning, as a battle cry, just as we would use a trumpet in modern day. You can see how the association between the term Feast of Trumpets—again the concept is not exactly what the Hebrew says—I think it’s an accurate concept in how we would look at it in English. If we look at what this day pictures, the alarm of calamity or war is totally appropriate when you look at the horrific events that this day pictures. It’s definitely a day of warning for mankind for what’s going to take place. As we are going to see, the Bible refers to this day as a dark and gloomy day.

As physical human beings we would much rather focus on the good news; on the things that are positive and that make us feel good and warm and fuzzy. All too often we look at the Feast of Trumpets and focus just on the seventh trumpet because the sounding of the seventh trumpet is when the first resurrection takes place and culminates with the return of Christ and ultimately ushers in the millennium. When I have heard sermons that focus just on this, I have kind of nick named them The Feast of Trumpet—they are making it the Feast of Trumpet, without the “s”—just one trumpet. To focus on just the seventh trumpet is to skip over all the horrific things that happen and just make it all positive good news. We have to keep in mind that the Bible specifically refers to this day as a dark and gloomy day because of the horrific events that are going to take place when this day is fulfilled. In Zephaniah 1 we will see this referred to *as a dark and gloomy day.*

Zephaniah 1:14 *The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out.*

15) *That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness,*

16) *A day of trumpet and alarm Against the fortified cities and against the high towers.*

17) *I will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD; Their blood shall be poured out like dust, And their flesh like refuse.*

18) *Neither their silver nor their gold Shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD s wrath; But the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy, For He will make speedy riddance of all those who dwell in the land.*
(NKJV)

It describes this as very severe and dark; this is a day of warning because unbelievably horrific things are going to take place when this day is fulfilled. This is most likely a year or better that this will play out. When it happens it's not going to be a warm, fuzzy or positive event for mankind; it's going to be unbelievably horrific. Ultimately it will end in good. In understanding this picture, as physical human beings we have the wrong definition of love. We tend to look at Godly love or just the subject of love in general as things that are positive and uplifting and make us feel good. We look at something that is so horrific like this and think,

“A loving God wouldn't do that—that's just so awful and painful; love wouldn't do that”.

That's because we are asking the wrong question. Love isn't about “does it feel good?”, love is about “does it do good?”. The reason that the loving God carries out these very horrific events is because of the severity of the generation he's going to bring this on. We are going to look at that in the latter part of this sermon. He has to deal with them to usher in the positive picture of the millennium that follows after it. He's not doing it because it's pleasant and it feels good, He's doing it because it ends well; because it does good. To understand God and His plan and how He thinks we have to grasp that definition of love. If we get stuck on, “does it feel good?”, we will skew the picture by trying to make it fit what we as human beings want to see. Whereas, if we look at it through God's eyes of, “does it do good and what is the ultimate result?”—then we focus on what He is always focused on. To understand Him and His plan and how He works, that's something we have to grasp.

We are going to see today that the devastation which will come about as the result of the Day of the Lord is so severe, it is hard for us, as physical human beings, to wrap our minds around it. We tend to think of calamities in terms of how we've experienced natural disasters. If you think of things that we can relate to, such as severe and natural disasters, we think of a hurricane or an earthquake or tsunami or other things that devastate a particular area, but they are regional. They affect a limited area and it affects that part of the world where it hits but not everywhere else. It's a limited area and other areas are okay and that one area that got hit may be severely devastated but it's not a global event.

The events we are going to look at in Revelation are super natural events on a global scale. They will literally affect the entire earth. That's really hard for us to wrap our minds around.

We can start to get a grasp of this in Jeremiah 4:23.

Jeremiah 4:23 *I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; And the heavens, they had no light.*

24) *I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, and all the hills moved back and forth.*

25) *I beheld, and indeed there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled.*

26) *I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, and all its cities were broken down at the presence of the LORD, By His fierce anger. (NKJV)*

Back to verse 23.

23) *I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; And the heavens, they had no light. (NKJV)*

If you notice when it talks about the earth is without form and void, that's the same Hebrew wording that you find in Genesis 1. When it talks about *tohu* and *bohu* when God re-created the earth and fixed it back up after the devastation prior to the account we have in Genesis. The earth was just destroyed. What He is saying is, at the end of the Day of the Lord, it's going to be a similar situation. The earth is going to be absolutely devastated to the point that it will barely be able to sustain human life. Of course, to start the millennium God is going to have supernaturally heal it and bring about the new heaven and new earth because there is no way He could start the millennium with the absolutely wrecked earth that is going to exist at that point. He would have to supernaturally heal it just to sustain human life for any length of time. And particularly to bring about the utopian setting that we read about in the millennial prophecies. The earth would have to be supernaturally healed for that to come about.

To get a feel for the details of the Day of the Lord, go to chapter 6 of the Book of Revelation to go through an overview of the events that Revelation tells us about. We are going to start off with the heavenly signs that take place just prior to the Day of the Lord beginning. This starts in Revelation 6:12.

Revelation 6:12 *I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.*

13) *And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.*

14) *Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.*

15) *And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,*

16) *and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!*

17) *For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"* (NKJV)

Notice the dramatic events that take place that start this off. This is something that nobody could possibly miss. You would have to be dead or in a coma to not be aware that this is taking place. This will absolutely get the attention of everyone who is alive on the planet, and they will know what is taking place. There is no way you could be busy and distracted by something else and just hadn't watched the news lately and didn't realize this was happening. There is absolutely no way that that could take place. Everyone will be aware of it. But notice their reaction. Notice as this is taking place, it talks about everyone on the earth saying "This is the wrath of God and the Lamb". They are not saying, "What on earth is happening? What could this possibly be?" They know what it is. How is it that they know that?

Several years leading up to this, the 2 witnesses are going to be on the scene, performing miracles and prophesying that this is going to take place. These guys are going to stop the rain, they will be able to call down fire from heaven, they're going to perform miracles which get everyone's attention. They are going to be on the news stations, they are going to be lighting up Facebook and Twitter and whatever social media exists at that time. The whole world is going to take notice of these guys and this will have gone on for a couple of years, prior to this taking place. So, when these events start happening, just like these two guys have been predicting this whole time, people are going to put two and two together and realize what is happening. This is what those guys have been talking about this whole time; they weren't as crazy as we thought.

What I want you to see is that God is going to get everybody's attention from the onset of all of this taking place. There is no way anybody misses what's happening. They know what's happening; they know this is God's wrath. The two witnesses have been telling them for a couple of years now, that you need to repent and turn to God. So, they have been told what the right answer is. As we go through this, you will notice a couple of times that where all these horrific events happen, all the survivors repeatedly blasphemed against God. They were still rebellious. They refused to turn away from their sin because this is just how bent they are. As we are going to see, these are despisers of good.

This is why God brings about such horrific events on these people. He's not just doing this to a group of people who are just deceived and don't know any better. Just living their carnal lives and don't understand any better. This is not the severity of what He is dealing with. What He is dealing with is a generation of people who literally despise good and are repeatedly warned and told what the right answer is, to repent to Him. In spite of all of these events, which the two witnesses have been telling them would

happen, they still refuse to repent. That's important to understand when we look at the whole picture of this and understand why God would do this.

To get an overview of the events that take place, turn over to Revelation 8. Here we will get an overview and go through some of the major events that take place on this day. We're going to see that the Day of the Lord consists of seven trumpets and we will go through the different trumpets. The seventh trumpet has seven plagues in it. So, you see there are a lot of series of seven through here. As we go through this, notice that there is a very clear theme. These are super natural events on a global scale. We tend to think of natural disasters, from our frame of reference and how we experience them; they are regional. When a hurricane hits a particular area and devastates it or an earthquake or a tsunami happens it's on the news. We look at how severe and how tragic that is but we know that it is a limited area. It is not the entire planet it's happening to. In this case, it's the entire planet. Also keep in mind that there is a very clear theme of supernatural events. As we go through this, sometimes we make the mistake of trying to speculate and then try to explain it in physical means that relate to our physical world, not realizing that you can't pull this stuff off through physical means. These are massive global events that would have to be brought about by supernatural means.

Revelation 8:7 *The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.*

If you burn up all the grass all over the earth, that is going to include grain products. You are going to massively affect the food supply for the planet. These first four trumpets, as we go through them, directly impact the food supply for the planet. If you wipe out a third of the food supply for the planet, you are going to create starvation and famine. That is going to create fighting over the limited resources and will result in violence. When there is a lengthy period of time of famine, another situation you get is disease epidemics. When people are not getting adequate nutrition, immune systems and health are compromised. When you look at areas of the world where you tend to have famine problems, what do you see? You often see epidemics of diseases that really wouldn't be that severe to a healthy population, become fatal and life threatening because of compromised health.

You look at this first trumpet, it says all the grass is burned up—it doesn't say one third, it says all of it—so that's going to include grain products throughout the world. This will have a massive impact on food supply. If you wipe out a third of the trees, you're not just affecting fruit trees and things that would provide a food source, you're also affecting the whole environment with the shade and all other aspects of what trees provide. Also think of this in terms of oxygen supply. If you look at the oxygen supply of the planet, about one half of it (I'm just rounding numbers) comes from plankton in the oceans, the other half comes from trees and other plant life that takes in carbon dioxide and converts it into oxygen. If you wipe out one third of the trees, you are affecting the oxygen supply to the planet. This isn't regional, this is a global event. Continuing on with the second trumpet in verse 8.

8) *Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.*

9) *And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. (NKJV)*

We just turned a third of the oceans into blood. As I mentioned before, half of the oxygen supply of the planet comes from plankton in the ocean. You turn a third of it into blood, you are going to kill that plankton. You're also going to kill your seafood as all the marine life are not going to live in blood like they would in salt water. Think of all the areas of the world where seafood is a significant portion of the diet. It is what they survive on and you just wiped all of that out. This is going to have a severely devastating effect on people. As I mentioned, these first four trumpets directly affect the food supply for the planet.

Going on to verse 10, the third trumpet.

10) *Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.*

11) *The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter. (NKJV)*

Now we have affected a lot of the fresh water supply. This is going to have a mushrooming effect in a number of areas. Human beings can go without food much longer than they can go without hydration. A major portion of our bodies is water; we have to have water to survive. We can go a lot longer without food than without water. Now you've got poisoned water and it's going to wind up having a significant death toll all by itself. It doesn't specifically mention this, but I would imagine the water that is poisoning all the people that are drinking it is probably going to poison the animals that are drinking it as well. It's going to affect the plant life that are consuming this water. There is massive devastation around the planet here. It's hard to wrap our heads around this because it isn't regional, it's global. It's an entire earth that is being affected like this; it's an unprecedented effect that's taking place.

Let's move to verse 12 and the fourth trumpet.

12) *Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.*

13) *And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!" (NKJV)*

Notice it's basically a third of the light taken from day and night. That is going to directly affect all of your plant light because photosynthesis is a very important process that

requires light which a lot of our plants need—plants that we rely upon for food. You're really hampering the ability to grow food and that hampers the ability to feed livestock and other animals we eat. So, you have this mushrooming effect that's growing. We don't have a specific death toll mentioned in these particular trumpets but think about this; if you wipe out one third of the food supply to the entire planet, you have poisoned water, you've affected the oceans and all the seafood—you can roughly knock off about a third of human beings as a death toll just as a result of taking away the food supply. You are also going to have violence as people fight over the resources because now there are limited resources available and what's going to happen? Just look at earlier this year at the COVID situation and the toilet paper rush we had. That's something really simple and silly but think about when resources like that become scarce and people want them—what happens? People start pushing others out of the way to get their supply. Imagine you are affecting a third of the food supply to the entire planet and what that can result in—it is a really ugly picture.

As I mentioned previously, we tend to look and miss the fact that there is this theme throughout the Day of the Lord of supernatural events. The reason I mention this is because oftentimes we take the fifth and sixth trumpet and pull them out and, in our speculation, we try to give them physical explanations. We pull this out of the whole theme of the Day of the Lord which is the day of God's wrath; the day of His wrath on mankind that He is pouring out. It's not about the wrath of the beast on other nations or other nations on the beast. Sometimes we make those explanations and speculations about the fifth and sixth trumpet. What we do with that is, we tend to sometimes take the fifth trumpet and say this is a biological or chemical warfare attack on the nations against the beast. Then we take the sixth trumpet and say this is the retaliation of the other nations that had this attack on them. Now let's actually read through what is stated here and analyze it from that perspective and see that it makes more sense that these are supernatural events just like everything else described in the Day of the Lord.

Start off in Revelation 9:1.

Revelation 9:1 *Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.*

2) *And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So, the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit.*

3) *Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.*

4) *They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.*

5) *And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man.*

6) *In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. (NKJV)*

Notice, first of all, it clearly tells us the only people that are excluded from this trumpet plague is those who have the seal of God on their forehead. It affects everybody else. Think of that in terms of the speculation that is often put across in the church of God—I know all my life I've heard it—the idea that this is really just the beast doing a biological or a chemical attack on the nations of the east that are not aligned with it. When you do a war, do you try to do to yourself the same attack that you do to your enemies that you're against? That's not how that works, is it? If you are orchestrating an attack, you want that to be on the nations you are against and not to yourself and your own people—those on your side. It clearly tells us that this is a global event and it affects everyone except those that have the seal of God on their forehead. Why would the beast want to exclude those with the seal of God on their forehead—that's not how that would work. They certainly wouldn't want to do it to themselves. It makes a more logical explanation that this is a supernatural event just like everything else we have read and everything else which we will see that takes place during the Day of the Lord.

The sixth trumpet, we often put physical speculation on that as well and characterize this as the retaliation for the fifth trumpet. Read through what it actually says as well, then stand back objectively and look at this and see what it actually says on the page, verses which we have assumed. Revelation 9:13.

Revelation 9:13 *Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,*

14) saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”

15) So, the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. [Notice they are going to kill a third of mankind in the course of an hour.]

16) Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

17) And thus, I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.

18) By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths.

19) For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm.

20) But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

21) And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts. (NKJV)

I mentioned from even long before the Day of the Lord starts, the two witnesses will be on the scene repeatedly telling people they need to repent and turn to God. When the Day of the Lord starts, they understand that what is happening is what those two guys

have been telling us all this time. They know it's the wrath of God coming upon them. They are being told repeatedly to repent and it even says after all these horrific events, about two thirds of mankind being dead up to this point, they're seeing all this horrible devastation and being constantly told this is God's wrath and you need to repent, they are still refusing to repent. This gives us some insight as to why God has to bring such horrific events.

To go back to how I introduced this, I mentioned how we often speculate and say this is the nations of the East and they are retaliating because of what the beast did to them and that's what's happening here. Think about this because we often speculate that it must be China and the whole reason that we come up with China is because there is a big number mentioned. There are 200 million, it has to be China, it has to be huge. Keep in mind, about two-thirds of mankind is dead at this point. You have massively reduced the population. If you look at military numbers of China today—both active military and all their reserves—approximately four million is the number—I actually researched that. The numbers don't really add up, but also think about this—it doesn't say they are physical men; it just says there is an army of 200 million and calls them horsemen and gives a description of them that doesn't really fit anything physical. It says they kill a third of mankind in the course of an hour. If an army is going to kill massive populations like that in the course of an hour, the only way they could possibly pull that off is through nuclear missiles. If you're doing nuclear missiles, does the head count of your army really matter? How do you do that? You have a handful of guys in missile silos and in submarines, punching in codes into the computers and launching off missiles. If you launch 200 million nuclear missiles, you would obliterate the planet—nobody would be left. I think it makes more sense that this is just like every other event described throughout the whole Day of the Lord; it's the day of God's wrath on rebellious mankind and these are supernatural events that are taking place. I think that fits better more logically with the whole theme of everything that is taking place.

To finish up the overview, go to Revelation 16. We are going to skip over Revelation 11 which is the blowing of the seventh trumpet but the seventh trumpet includes the bowl plagues which are the final events of this. Once again, we are looking at supernatural events on a global scale. I'll briefly run over these. In verse 2 we start off with the first bowl plague of malignant sores torturing mankind. In verse 3 we have the sea turning into blood. This is the entire oceans all over the earth; there's no way to pull this off physically. We have all the oceans of the earth turning into blood. Not only is that going to kill everything in the sea, as I mentioned earlier, about half the oxygen supply for the planet is from plankton in the oceans. If you turn all the oceans into blood you're going to turn off half the oxygen supply for the planet. You're going to cause massive devastation. We get to the third bowl starting in verse 4 and now we have all the fresh water poisoned—now everything is blood and there is no water to drink for the entire planet. As I mentioned, human beings go a lot longer without food. We last without food a lot longer than we can last without hydration. Human beings can't go too terribly long without water before everybody starts dying.

Notice in verse 8 we have the fourth bowl and this is being scorched with intense heat. In verse 10 we have the fifth bowl which is darkness and pain across mankind. On the sixth bowl starting in verse 12, this is the Euphrates River being dried up. It directly tells us it dries this up so armies can gather together. Notice they are not coming to fight the beast; they are coming together to fight God the Father and Jesus Christ when they return to the earth. It even tells us it's the battle of that great day of God Almighty. That's what they're coming together for. This drying up of the Euphrates River is a supernatural event.

Beginning in verse 17 we have the seventh bowl plague and now we have an earthquake so severe that it flattens the mountains and drowns the islands. Something of that magnitude, I seriously doubt there is a physical structure that mankind can make which is going to survive that thing. If it's severe enough to flatten the mountains out and through tsunami's, drown the islands—this is a massive global event. The devastation that will take place here is literally hard for us to wrap our heads around. It is so horrific. Again, we tend to think of disasters like this from a regional perspective because that's how we have experienced them. When we have tsunamis or earthquakes or hurricanes, these are things that happen on a regional basis and it's not so overwhelming that it affects the entire planet. This will affect the entire planet. By the time this is done, a tiny portion of the population of mankind survives at the time this starts. Today we're talking about seven billion people and only a small fraction of them will still be alive when it's over. This is unbelievably horrific and hard to wrap our heads around.

Now we need to look at the question, why would God do this? It's so awful, it's so horrific, why would a loving God do this? Doesn't this seem out of character? We have to understand the culture that is taking place at this time. I skipped over this earlier but let me go into Revelation 16:11. This is right after the plague of darkness and pain. Notice mankind's reaction here.

Revelation 16:11 *They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds. (NKJV)*

Keep in mind, as they have been going through this, the two witnesses have been on the scene telling them you need to repent and turn to God, that's the right answer through all of this. In spite of all these events taking place, what are they doing? They are still blaspheming God and refusing to repent. This is why He is bringing such severe events. In verse 21, which is the end of the great earthquake in chapter 16; notice the reaction.

Revelation 16:21 *And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great. (NKJV)*

Once again, they are absolutely refusing to repent. Even after Christ returns back to the earth, what happens? They get together an army and they want to fight it out some

more. This is a people who just absolutely refuse to repent. These are people who despise good. To understand why this is the case, we need to understand the culture that will take place at the time this happens. In 2 Timothy 3 we need to get a feel for what the society is going to be like when these events take place.

2 Timothy 3:1 *But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:
2) For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
3) unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good [that's where I took my title from],
4) traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
5) having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! (NKJV)*

He is not bringing this on a group of people who are deceived and don't know any better; who are living their carnal lives because they don't understand better. He is bringing this on a culture of people who are literally just bent on evil. That is their entire focus. We're not talking about people who are just living their carnal lives and yes, they like to indulge in their sins. But, they are relatively, humanly speaking, decent people who try to live their lives from a moral perspective the best they understand but just don't know any better; that's not who He is bringing this upon. He's bringing this upon a generation of people who literally despise good.

To get a feel for that, go to Luke 17 where Christ gives us some examples of what society is going to look like at the time this happens.

Luke 17:22 *Then He said to the disciples, The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it.
23) And they will say to you, Look here! or Look there! Do not go after them or follow them.
24) For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day.
25) But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.
26) And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:
27) They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.
28) Likewise, as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;
29) but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.
30) Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed. (NKJV)*

Notice he gives two biblical examples in which God brought about severe calamity and destroyed lots of people. If we look at the context of what will take place, it gives us

some insight as to what kind of generation God is going to bring about the Day of the Lord. He mentions specifically the days of Noah and the days of Lot.

Let's briefly take a look at the context to see what this shows us. In Genesis 6:5 is where, as you know God brought about a flood. It was a global event; it wasn't regional and it wiped out everyone on the planet with the exception of Noah and his family. God did that for a reason. He didn't just do this to a group of people who were just deceived and didn't know any better. Who weren't faithfully following every word of God because they just didn't understand it—that really wasn't what He was doing here. Notice what the environment was like.

Genesis 6:5 *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*
6) *And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.*
7) *So, the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.”*
8) *But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.* (NKJV)

This was a generation whose every thought of their heart was evil continually. These were not people who were just deceived and weren't obeying everything God said because they didn't understand it and they liked their sin but were still goodhearted people. That's not what this was. These were people just bent on evil, these were despisers of good.

In Genesis 19 we see the other example that Christ cited. He said it would also be like the days of Lot. I'll summarize the context of the story here. I'm sure you are probably familiar with God deciding to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of how evil these cities were. He decided to spare Lot and his extended family and sent a couple of angels there to extract them out of the city so God can destroy it. While they are there, a mob surrounded the house. They saw the two men come in and they were basically demanding that they be given out to them so they can gang rape them. This is what is happening. What I want you to see is how the Bible describes how extensive this attitude and approach was in the area. What I want you to see is that it's not just talking about the street gang in the bad neighborhood who was doing these heinous acts—this wasn't just the Bloods and the Crips of today who were just carrying this out and terrorizing the neighborhood. It is going to describe this as representative of the whole area; all the people are like this. Notice in Genesis 19:4.

Genesis 19:4 *Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house.*
5) *And they called to Lot and said to him, Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally.”* (NKJV)

They are basically demanding, “Bring them out so we can gang rape them”. Notice how

it describes it. Young and old, all the men from every part of the city. You could debate whether this is every single person represented there or not; probably not every single person but certainly the way it's worded would suggest this is not just an evil gang that is terrorizing all these nice people. This is representative of what the whole area is like. This is why God wanted to reign down fire and brimstone and burn the whole place out because there really wasn't anybody redeemable in the area. That's important to understand when we look at this picture. I grew up in the church of God from birth. In the '70's and '80's in particular, when I was getting old enough to really pay attention to what was being taught in services and to really understand and comprehend this stuff, one of the comments I have heard all my life is:

“The end has to be just a couple of more years, because it just can't get any worse. Mankind just can't get any worse.”

I heard that all my life, and honestly, I've looked at it and thought that it could get worse.

I grew up in a rural, farming community in southern Alabama in what, by today's standards, could be considered a very conservative area. You could leave your doors unlocked most of the time and not be worried about being robbed or having other problems of that nature. Not that there wasn't crime but it was a pretty safe area and most people for the most part tended to live their lives by Judeo-Christian values. Were they faithfully obeying God and keeping the Sabbath and the Holy Days and things of that nature? No—were they people bent on evil? No, they were trying to live a decent life as best as they understood and I used to scratch my head as a kid and ask, why would God bring such horrific events on these people because they just don't know any better. They are carnal but they are relatively goodhearted people and they just don't understand any better. Why do such horrific things of this nature on those people? That's not what He's going to do. What He is going to do is bring this on a generation of people who are just bent on evil. When all the thoughts and imaginations of their heart are just bent on evil. People who despise good. This is what the kind of culture and environment is going to be like when He orchestrates these events; that's what warrants His actions.

One of the common questions we have at this time of year, when we focus on these events, is how much longer? How long will it be until all of this takes place. Giving my official answer on that one—I don't know. I don't think anyone has the formula to figure out how long it's going to be and when these events are going to take place. The Bible does give us some signs to look for, some general things to be watching for to be aware of world events and such which would indicate that we are getting to that point.

What we're going to do in the rest of this sermon is look at one of the statements made in this regard because I think we are seeing this being fulfilled before our eyes. I don't think we are there yet but I think we are seeing events going in that direction. The Day of the Lord is directly described in the Bible in Ezekiel 30:1 as the time of the Gentiles.

Ezekiel 30:1 *The word of the LORD came to me again, saying,*
2) *Son of man, prophesy and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Wail, Woe to the day!*
3) *For the day is near, Even the day of the LORD is near; It will be a day of clouds, the time of the Gentiles.*
4) *The sword shall come upon Egypt, and great anguish shall be in Ethiopia, When the slain fall in Egypt, and they take away her wealth, and her foundations are broken down. (NKJV)*

It refers to it as a time of the Gentiles. There's a very similar comment that Christ made in the New Testament in Luke 21:20 that matches this.

Luke 21:20 *But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.*
21) *Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her.*
22) *For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.*
23) *But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people.*
24) *And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. (NKJV)*

We have this comment about the times of the Gentiles. To understand this context of what's being said and the significance of this, we have to put this in the context of world history in general. If you look back at world history in general, even going back to the 1500's, that's the point where your Israelite descended nations—who came out of captivity and migrated to Europe—they started colonizing the rest of the planet. Over the next several hundred years they literally colonized the majority of the rest of the planet. They became very dominant on the world scene and have been in one way or another, a dominant force through geopolitical and the world scene picture ever since. Through the British Empire, today through the United States—just major players on the world scene. You could call that the time of the Israelites. What we are going to see is, before the events of the Day of the Lord take place, things are obviously going to shift. We're going to go from seeing your Israelite nations being dominant on the world scene, to them not being significant players and the Gentile nations being more dominant and more prominent. We tend to look at that from a perspective of being militarily conquered. The beast power, the armies come in and just take over and that's how we lose prominence. Here's another way to look at that that fits what the Bible says. In Deuteronomy 28, which is one of the "blessings and cursing's" chapters and what I want you to notice is what it describes as one of the curses for disobedience. It goes through all of the great blessings that Israel would receive for faithfully obeying God and then in the latter half of this chapter it goes through what happens if you disobey Me and you

won't follow what I say, Here are all the bad things that are going to happen to you. If we pick up in verse 43:

Deuteronomy 28:43 *The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower.*

44) *He shall lend to you, but you shall not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you shall be the tail.* (NKJV)

Basically, what he is saying is, internally your own nations, the balance of power would shift over and the non-Israelite—the stranger living among you—will wind up being dominant. You will wind up being the tail and they will be the head. That is taking place, if you look at your Israelite nations today. Forces are already at work to bring this about. If you look at the nations of Europe—I covered this in a sermon a couple years ago. They just, through falling birth rates and massive immigration, particularly moving into the Israelite nations of Western Europe, just give them a number of years and what's going happen is the demographics are going to switch. The non-Israelites are going to wind up being the dominant force in those nations and given the whole different religious and philosophical perspectives of those who are moving in, the culture they had will wind up being conquered as well. Just give that some time and it's going to shift.

If you look at what's been happening in the United States in terms of a demographic switch, we are not anywhere near as far along as Europe is in terms of how Europe is, in terms of how the numbers will switch. But just look at what's been happening this year in the emphasis in our culture. So much of what has been happening with the riots and the other events that have been taking place, notice there is an underlying theme in all of this. You hear the direct statements made today that white people are the ones who are racist; only whites can be racist and non-whites are somehow immune to that. The very definition of racism is viewing one group by skin color and nationality as inferior to others. The very statement is racist by itself and yet it's accepted and tolerated in our culture. The whole viewpoint is, if you have an Israelite background, you should feel guilty and ashamed of that background because you're white and this makes you inherently bad. There is a whole shift that is going to an anti-white racism that is being accepted in our nation. Look at all the unrest, the rioting, the other problems that are tearing society apart. If you look at this movement you can see what is taking place as a shift in our culture. If you watch the news much at all you've probably seen a lot of talk about a group called Black Lives Matter. It's not my intention to pick on any particular group but that name is kind of deceptive. It comes across as trying to prevent violence against African Americans and discrimination and mis-treating them. Of course, everybody would be in favor of that; of protecting people from discrimination and not being subject to police brutality and things of that nature. But if you really look into what this movement is all about, it's way more sinister than that. It's not just something that is about wanting to treat everybody fairly and not having people discriminated against—that's easy to agree with, everybody would go along with that. Let me show you what's really behind a lot of this movement.

I want to quote to you from an article, from the dailywire.com and it was posted on June 2, 2020 and the title of the article is Ben Carson on Painting Black Lives Matter on Street. What if somebody painted a Confederate flag on a public street? You might know who Ben Carson is, he's a retired neurosurgeon. He was the most predominant neurosurgeon in the country when he retired from healthcare and is African American himself and now works for the Trump administration. He was interviewed about this subject and let me just quote from this article.

Dr. Ben Carson, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, questioned how those painting "Black Lives Matter" on public streets would respond if someone were to paint a Confederate flag on a public street. Carson, who made the remarks during an interview on Fox News with anchor Martha MacCallum, noted that there is a difference between "black lives matter," which is a statement of support for the black community, and Black Lives Matter, which is a Marxist-driven organization." Carson said that Black Lives Matter espouses things like taking down the model of western family structure, talking about defunding the police, and the host of things on their websites, the Marxist influence." Talking about defunding the police, the host of things on their website, the Marxist influence. These are things that are antithetical to the American model and to patriotism in this country," Carson continued. So I think there are a lot of innocent and good people who think black lives matter just means we should be taking care of our black citizens and making sure they are not discriminated against, and that is noble and laudable. But we have an organization that is taking advantage of the fact that people don't really know what's behind a Marxist-driven organization."

I saw an interview on the internet recently, it was one of three different women that together, cofounded this organization and one of them was being interviewed and being asked what was the leadership training and the philosophical backing of the movement, and what qualifies you to do this. The exact quote of her response was,

"We are well-trained Marxists."

That's the same philosophy behind communism and totalitarian government that tears apart society; that is literally what she is espousing. Let me read you a couple of quotes off their website for what this organization espouses. Understand, I'm not reading from their critics and those that want to paint them negatively, these are quotes from their website as to what they're about.

"We call for a national defunding of police. We demand investment in our communities and the resources to ensure that black people not only survive but thrive."

If you've been paying attention to the news in recent months, you'll notice a number of major cities have embraced this philosophy on cutting back policing and what has happened? Crime has greatly escalated, particularly violent crime, in those cities. It

hasn't helped anybody; it has created mayhem and it's created problems. If this organization really cared about black lives and making the black community better, they would know that a lot of predominantly black communities tend to have a higher crime rate. You would want more policing to protect the innocent, law abiding good people from the gangs that are terrorizing them. Instead, they want to defund the police and what is that going to result in? It's creating mayhem and tearing society apart.

Notice another quote from their website; this is under the heading, "What We Believe."

We disrupt the Western prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and villages that collectively care for one another. Especially for children to the degree that mothers, parents and children are comfortable.

Again, the later part of this can sound positive, saying we are just supporting single parent homes and trying to help them succeed and that's certainly a positive thing. But notice they start off with, *they disrupt the Western prescribed nuclear family structure*. The biggest problem amongst the black community is quite frankly, the total breakdown of the family structure. That can be true regardless of race or nationality—doesn't matter the color of skin. Take any population and have them have a 75% illegitimacy rate and the family structure is destroyed and you are going to see very negative results. It doesn't matter what the race or skin color is, you just break down the fabric of society and the results are going to be bad. That's what is naturally going to take place. This is what they are espousing.

Notice another quote they say.

We foster a queer affirming network. When we gather, we do so with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking or rather, the belief that all in the world are heterosexual.

In other words, they want to destroy the basic gender roles; the basic idea that God created man and woman—male and female—and that they together make a family. That mom and dad should get married before they have children and raise the children together; basic structure of society, doesn't matter what your nationality or skin color is, this is just the right way to function. What are they wanting to do? Normalize tearing all that apart. This would be more accurately described as a domestic terror organization rather than an organization that is supporting equal rights and trying to protect the vulnerable, they are using race as a smoke screen to create mayhem and tear society apart. In the process, what they are doing is demonizing. If you're white and you come from a white background, then you should feel guilty about that and you're responsible for all of society's problems. Minorities are somehow immune to racism—no, everybody has the carnal human nature. Anybody that hates someone else because of their skin color and nationality, that's racism. Doesn't matter what your color is, doesn't matter what your background is, if you do that, it's inherently bad. They are trying to redefine everything to spin it into a political agenda. This is why you hear the term racial justice

and social justice. If you're putting another word in front of justice, you are perverting the definition of justice. If you want to understand what justice is, read Ezekiel 18. I'm not going to take the time to go through that chapter but it basically tells you that the soul that sins, it shall die. Everyone gets judged by the same set of standards, we all stand or fall on our own choices and what we individually do in our own lives and it's the same standard. Just like in Israel, there is one law for the Israelite and the stranger; it's the same standards we're all judged by. Every individual is judged by their own choices. It's not you're guilty because of what your ancestors did or didn't do; no, it's what you do today and you're judged upon that—that's fair. We have to understand that this is how it works.

Let me share with you a similar organization putting this same philosophy across. What I'm going to tell you about is an organization called the National Museum of African American History and Culture. You may not be familiar with that particular name but let me just read to you a quote from their website, describing them so you can understand who this is.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history and culture. It was established by act of Congress in 2003, following decades of efforts to promote and highlight the contributions of African Americans. To date the museum has collected more than 36,000 artifacts and nearly 100,000 individuals have become members. The museum opened to the public on September 24, 2016 and as the nineteenth and newest museum of the Smithsonian Institution.

This all sounds very positive; to have an organization that wants to highlight the accomplishments of the African American community, what could be wrong with that? It's always good to highlight history and the accomplishments of any group. What I want you to understand when you look at this is, that this is an organization funded by our tax dollars, established by Congress and connected with the Smithsonian Institute.

Now let me share with you some of what they are espousing and pushing and some of their philosophy in their own pamphlets. You'll see again this is anti-white racism and you'll see a bias against basic Judeo-Christian values. The values the Bible espouses that any group of people who, regardless of skin color, nationality or whatever, if you want to have a successful life, you follow. This is an article from the dailywire.com and it was posted on July 15, 2020. The title is National Museum of African American History: Valuing 'Hard Work', Being 'Polite', 'Objectivity' All 'Aspects' of 'Whiteness'

Literature from the National Museum of African American History & Culture says concepts like valuing hard work and time, and being polite and objective are all aspects of whiteness or white culture in the United States. The National Museum of African American History & Culture wants to make you aware of certain signs of whiteness: Individualism, hard work, objectivity, the nuclear

family, progress, respect for authority, delayed gratification, more,” reporter Byron York posted Wednesday.

Aspects & Assumptions of Whiteness & White Culture in the United States,” reads the title to an online-accessible pamphlet for the museum. White dominant culture, or whiteness, refers to the ways white people and their traditions, attitudes and ways of life have been normalized over time and are now considered standard practices in the United States,” the pamphlet explains. And since white people hold most of the institutional power in America, we have all internalized some aspects of white culture – including people of color.” Below is a list of eight of the 13 categories outlined in the museum literature, with some of their corresponding aspects & assumptions of whiteness & white culture” in the U.S.

I'll read to you a few of these and this is formatted as bullet points. What I want you to see is that what they are listing are just basic Judeo-Christian values, regardless of anyone's skin color or nationality, they are just good principles and a good way of living; it's the basic ideas that the Bible would espouse and they are painting this in a negative light and it's somehow whiteness and somehow bad. Let me read to you the bullet points.

Rugged Individualism:

- *Self-reliance*
- *Independence & autonomy highly valued + rewarded*

Family Structure:

- *The nuclear family: father, mother, 2.3 children is the ideal social unit*
- *Husband is breadwinner and head of household*
- *Wife is homemaker and subordinate to the husband*
- *Children should have own rooms, be independent*

Emphasis on Scientific Method:

- *Objective, rational linear thinking*
- *Cause and effect relationships*
- *Quantitative emphasis*

Protestant Work Ethic:

- *Hard work is the key to success*
- *Work before play*
- *If you didn't meet your goals, you didn't work hard enough”*

Status, Wealth and Authority:

- *Wealth = worth*
- *Respect authority*

Time:

- *Follow rigid time schedules*

- *Time viewed as a commodity*

The museum also directs white people to read a book called White Fragility by author Dr. Robin DiAngelo, a white female. “If you identify as white, acknowledging your white racial identity and its privileges is a crucial step to help end racism,” the museum says under a section captioned “Confronting Whiteness.”

Notice this is an organization sponsored by our tax dollars and our government and what they are pushing is an anti-white racism. But even more dangerous than that, what they are characterizing as whiteness and somehow bad, is just basic fundamental values that the Bible would espouse and encourage everyone to do. Regardless of what their nationality and their background is, prioritizing hard work, having an intact family structure, putting off immediate gratification for the long haul, linear thinking and being analytical; these are just a good basic way of living. These are just the basic principles the Bible would espouse.

What you are seeing here is a culture that is shifting against us, saying everything that is the history of your Israelite-descended people is bad and we need to get rid of that; demonizing that. In the process they are taking basic, fundamental good values and painting them as negative. You can see where this is headed. Not only is the structure of culture going to where Israelite dependent people will be become the tail and the Gentiles will become the head. It's also pushing away basic Godly biblical values. What is this ultimately going to result in? A society that despises good, that looks at basic fundamental principles that the Bible espouses and looks at them in a negative light and paints them as a bad thing. What does that result in? A society that despises good.

I personally think that the Day of the Lord is a number of years off—that's one person's opinion; I don't know when that's going to be and I don't think anybody else does. Just looking at the shift that needs to happen, I think we are seeing it fulfilled before our eyes. I think prophecy is taking place right before our eyes and we are seeing these events start to take place. Do I expect this to happen in the next couple of years? Probably not but we are definitely headed in that direction.

As we keep this day of the Feast of Trumpets, looking forward to the Day of the Lord, keep in mind that it ultimately ends well; it does end with the return of Christ and God the Father to the earth and the setting up of the millennium. But a lot of horrific events have to take place before that can happen. I think this day could be described with the old saying, *things are going to get worse before they get better*—the Day of the Lord and the Feast of Trumpets is going to be things getting a whole lot worse before they get better. The good news is, once all of this is done and God takes care of a generation that despises good, He can then move on to set up a very positive environment and establish the millennium and go on with the plan of God. So, as we keep this day, let's look forward to the ultimate fulfillment and the good that this will result in, in the long run.