

PREACHING CURRICULUM

The Judgement of God

Revelation 8:1-9:12

"Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth..."

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

Read Revelation 8:1-5. Why did all of heaven fall silent for half an hour before the judgments of God were unleashed on the earth? What was God doing during this time?

Read Revelation 8:6-9:12. What are the major characteristics of each of the five "trumpet" judgments mentioned in this passage? Who or what are the intended targets of each of these judgments?

Why is it significant that God unleashes a horde of demonic locusts from the Abyss as a judgment against the kingdom of darkness? What does this tell us about the nature of sin and evil?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

Have you ever felt that God has been silent towards you? If so, when have you felt that way, and why? What was your response to God under those circumstances?

Consider this statement: "I could never believe in a God who inflicts such terrible violence upon people. After all, violence never solves anything. My God is a God of love, not violence and war." What is your reaction to this statement? How would you respond if someone said this to you?

What terrible situations have you seen or experienced which have made you long for justice? Have you ever seen the evil and injustice of the world and wondered "Can anybody make this right?" If so, under what circumstances are you most likely to feel this way?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

What are we to do when we feel that God has been silent towards us?

What is the central message that Christians are supposed to take away from today's passage? What is the main message for unbelievers?

Why is it actually good news that God brings judgment against evil people? How does that fact provide us with hope and comfort?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

How should we live in light of God's coming judgment? What would our lives look like if we truly believed that God's judgment is a definite reality that will certainly take place?