

Prayer:

We have a prophetic faith. The ability of God to foretell the future and then bring it to pass is unique to the God of the Bible.

Slide # 1

Isaiah 42:8–9 (NKJV)

8 I am the LORD, that is My name; And **My glory I will not give to another**, Nor My praise to carved images.

9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, And **new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them.**

God’s glory is to tell the future and then bring it to pass.

Yogi Berra (that famous theologian) once said, ***“Prediction is hard, especially when it’s about the future.”***

The only way we know anything certain about the future is if God tells us.

Slide # 2

Amos 3:7 (NKJV)

7 Surely the Lord GOD **does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.**

This is how God typically works! He reveals to the prophets what He is going to do, and then He brings it to pass.

In the OT, God was working with Israel. His Word and His plan were essentially channeled through Israel – His special chosen people – the one chosen nation. God sent the God-Man, the Messiah, to Israel. And then Israel rejected her Messiah (Jesus) when He came. And so God has temporarily set Israel aside and is now building a forever family of both Jews and Gentiles called THE CHURCH. The Church was a brand new thing, not previously revealed, which is called a MYSTERY.

A mystery in the Bible is something previously unknown and is unknowable apart from God revealing it. It is a divine secret that is now made known. The Church and everything about it was previously a mystery, including the truth of the rapture (cf. 1 Cor. 15:51).

The second coming was revealed in many places in the OT, but not the rapture! And that is because the rapture is explicitly a church reality, not previously revealed.

Slide # 3

The Flow of Redemptive History

Israel.... [Church]...Israel

Right now, we are still living in the Church Age, and the next thing on God's prophetic calendar is the Rapture of the Church (that is, the catching up of the church out of the world).

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 (NKJV)

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up together with them** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Following the Rapture, God will resume and complete His program with Israel. The book of Revelation presents a chronological order of how this will happen.

Slide # 4

Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

- “have seen” – Past (Vision of Christ) – **Ch. 1**
- “which are” – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- **“after this” – Future (Post-Church Age)** – Ch. 4-22
 - - Scene in heaven – Ch. 4-5
 - - **Tribulation – Ch. 6-18**
 - - Second Coming – Ch. 19
 - - Kingdom – Ch. 20
 - - Eternal State – Ch. 21-22

Following the Church Age is going to be a 7-year Tribulation Period.

Slide # 5



The Tribulation Period connects with and fulfills the prophecy of Daniel in Daniel 9:27. Daniel is like the mother prophecy, which all further last days' prophecy intersect with and build on. Note these connections...

Slide # 6

Daniel 9:27 – 7 Year Tribulation
 Matthew 24:15 – Spoken of by Daniel
 Revelation 6:17 – Great Day of His Wrath

Slide # 7

Dan. 9:27a – Beginning – 7 Year Covenant
 Dan. 9:27b - Middle – Break Covenant
 Dan. 9:27c - End – Consummation Determined

Matt. 24:8 – Beginning of Sorrows
 Matt. 24:15 – Middle - “abomination of desolation” (Dan. 9:27)
 Matt. 24:27 – End – Coming of the Son of Man

In Revelation 5 Christ takes the scroll representing the title deed of the earth. It has 7 seals representing 7 series of judgments by which He takes back the earth for mankind.

Slide # 8

Revelation 6

- First Four Seals – v. 1-8
 (Corresponds with Matthew 24:1-8)
 (Beginning of Sorrows – Mt. 24:8)
- Seals 5 & 6 Introductory to the Great Tribulation

Revelation 7

- Interlude
(vv. 1-8 – Scene on Earth)
(vv. 9-17 – Scene in Heaven)

Slide # 9

Matthew 24:14 Gospel of the Kingdom preached in all the world – then the end comes.

Revelation 7:9 A great multitude in heaven which no one could number.

Slide # 10

Rev. 13:5-7

- Antichrist given Authority
For 42 months (Great Trib)
- Granted to make war with the saints and overcome them - over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Rev. 7:9-14

- Throng comes out of the great tribulation
- A great multitude in heaven from all nations, tribes, peoples, and Tongues.

Slide # 11

Rev. 6:1-8 – First four seals (First half of Trib)

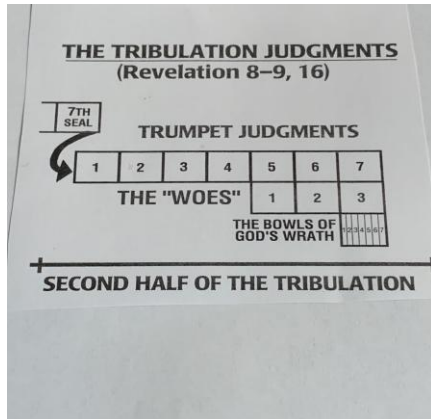
Rev. 6:9-17 - Fifth and Sixth seals (Introductory to Second half of Trib)

Rev. 7 – Interlude (Further background info – Narrative does not move forward)

Rev. 8 – 7th Seal unsealed – looses trumpet judgments (2nd Half of Trib)

And that brings us to Revelation 8 and the unsealing of the 7th and last seal, which unravels all the final judgments. There are 7 seal judgments followed by 7 trumpet judgments followed by the 7 climactic and final bowl judgments. But really, they all flow out of the seal judgments and the 7th seal in particular.

The series of three sevens are really included in the one series of seven, that is, the seven trumpets are included under the seventh seal and the seven bowls are included under the seventh trumpet, so that we have in fact a single series in three movements. ... The seventh seal, accordingly, is important because it actually includes all the events from 8:1 through 19:10. – **C.A. Blanchard**

Slide # 12

In chapter 7:9-10, we saw that heaven was LOUD with the voice of an innumerable number of people from all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues” crying out with a loud voice, saying, '**Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.**'” Thus, heaven LOUDLY celebrates the salvation found in Christ.

But then we come to the opening of the 7th seal...

Revelation 8:1-13 (NKJV)

1 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

This silence in heaven indicates a dramatic pause in which heaven is awestruck. The 7th and final seal is now loosed, which reveals the entire rest of the contents in the scroll, which is a revelation of the remaining judgments that are imminent to come upon the world. It is so overwhelming as to in effect be shocking to all of heaven! Isaiah calls this God’s “strange” or “unusual” work (Isa. 28:21). There is a “holy hush” in heaven before all hell breaks loose on earth. This is the calm before the storm.

To stand in silence before God is a matter of worshipful awe.

Slide # 13

Zephaniah 1:7 (NKJV)

7 Be silent in the presence of the Lord God; For the day of the LORD is at hand, For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests.

Zechariah 2:13 (NKJV)

13 Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!”

This is like the silence when all is QUIET in the courtroom as the JUDGE is about to pronounce judgment!

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

Seven trumpets are given to these angels; thus, they are the trumpets of angels. These seven trumpets of these angels are not to be confused with “**the trumpet of God**” that sounds at the time of the rapture in 1 Thess. 4:16 (cf. 1 Cor. 15:52).

In the OT, trumpets signaled various things, such as summoning the people to worship (Num. 10:23) or as a call to war (Num. 10:9). Here, these trumpets sound the alarm of JUDGMENT.

Slide # 14

Joel 2:1 (NKJV)

1 Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; **For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand:**

3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

The word “another” means “another of the same kind”. So this is an angel similar to those given the seven trumpets in verse 2.

The scene is in heaven, and the imagery here is borrowed from the tabernacle/temple in the OT. The censer (also called a “firepan”) would hold hot coals, which were placed on the golden altar of incense located right in front of the Holy of Holies. Then incense would be poured on the hot coals, resulting in smoke ascending upward, typifying prayer ascending up to God (cf. Ex. 27:3; 30:7-9).

At the very time this was happening, the saints would be bowed in prayer just outside the inner sanctuary (cf. Lk. 1:9-11). This altar of incense, representing the place of ascending prayer, is mentioned 7 times in Revelation (Rev. 6:9; 8:3 [twice]; 8:5; 9:13; 14:18; 16:7; also Rev. 5:8).

Slide # 15**Psalm 141:2 (NKJV)**

2 Let my **prayer** be set before You as **incense**, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

The idea here is that this angel is formally presenting to God the prayers of the saints, and in context, the prayers of the Tribulation saints praying for vindication is thought to be in view (cf. Rev. 6:9-11; 8:4-5; 9:13; 14:18; 16:7).

Not only martyrs under the heavenly altar (6:9-10) but also suffering saints on earth cry out for justice. – ***ESV Study Bible***

God works through prayer! We see that here. God is about to bring the ultimate climactic judgments on the world, but it happens in conjunction with prayer!

The interaction between the sovereignty of God and the prayers of His people is part of the ultimate mystery of existence.

– ***Robert Thomas***

Note the connection between the altar (the place of prayer) and the THRONE. They go together. The THRONE represents the God of all power who moves and acts, but it is on the basis of PRAYER that He does so. This denotes the awesome and mysterious reality of prayer.

It is often said: “The purpose of prayer is not to get man’s will done in heaven but to get God’s will done on earth.” That is true here – even when it involves judgment!

It is vital to realize that the golden altar, much incense, and a golden censer remind one of the Old Testament worship, another proof that attention is centered on Israel’s (not the church’s) age.

– ***Liberty Bible Commentary***

5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

The same censer (firepan) connected to the prayers of God’s people is now connected to the fiery introduction of judgment that is about to be poured out on the earth.

This action represents a precursor to answered prayer for judgment that is on its way. This action from heaven is directed towards earth. The fire of wrathful judgment is headed toward earth with the affirmative noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

“After prayer ascends, judgment descends (v. 5).” – **Charles Ryrie**

“The prayers of the saints return to the earth in wrath.” – **H.B. Swete**

This LOUD reaction denotes the angry response of God, which breaks the silence of heaven. “Thus the seven trumpet judgments are introduced with violent disturbances of nature.” – **William MacDonald**

6 So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

The remainder of the chapter deals with the first four trumpet judgments. They all deal with the realm of nature, with strong overtures to the plagues that God sent on Egypt at the time of the Exodus.

The first four trumpet judgments set in motion destructive forces of nature. God here uses the world of “nature” to mankind.

Again, we note that these judgments are unleashed on the world in the second half of the tribulation period building in frequency and intensity until the final finale of the bowl judgments.

Slide # 16

Revelation 10:7 (NKJV)

7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel [the 7th trumpet], when he is about to sound, the **mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.**

Revelation 11:15 (NKJV)

15 Then the **seventh angel sounded**: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

This clearly shows that the 7th trumpet judgment comes right near the end as it ushers in the concluding cluster of the climactic bowl judgments.

Slide # 17

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.

It hasn't been pretty up to this point, but it's about to get really ugly. This introduces an unparalleled time of trouble as prophesied in Daniel 12:1; the great, unparalleled time of Jacob's trouble as prophesied in Jeremiah 30:7; and the great, unparalleled time of tribulation as prophesied by Jesus in Matthew 24:21.

People try to explain this away naturally, but the point is this is a supernatural judgment.

Slide 18

Joel 2:30 (NKJV)

30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: **Blood and fire** and pillars of smoke.

This judgment of FIRE is going to be exceedingly destructive! This is not just a localized storm, but a world storm involving all manner of lightning that will cause FIRES all over the world. A third of the trees will be burned up and all green grass will be burned up. The world will literally be on fire.

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.

Note the language "something like" a great mountain burning. This is a HUGE mountain fireball. Many commentators think this is probably a giant meteorite or asteroid that comes in HOT as it crashes into the sea. The result is so devastating that one-third of the sea became blood, perhaps caused by massive loss of life in the sea or supernaturally.

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

Realize that oceans cover about three-fourths of the Earth's surface. So, the extent of this damage will be catastrophic. A third of the living creatures in the sea will die, and a third of all ships will be destroyed. That is a lot of death and destruction in one hit! Can you imagine the stench! It boggles the mind. No wonder unbelievers flat out reject this, but the Bible is clear that unimaginable judgment is coming to the planet and when it hits fear and terror will prevail with no escape or relief (1 Thess. 5:3).

Luke 21:26 (NKJV)

26 men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

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.

One-third of the seas were affected in verse 8. Now, one-third of the rivers and freshwater springs are also affected. Houston, we have a WATER problem!

There are about 100 principal rivers in the world with the longest being the Amazon which is about 4000 miles long. The longest river in the United States is the mighty Mississippi with is about 3700 miles long. One third of all rivers and springs will be contaminated.

The great star that fell from heaven is apparently a literal star, a meteor, or a comet. Drinkable water is going to become very precious in a hurry.

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.

Wormwood means "bitter". There are various kinds of "wormwood," but it is consistently bitter and in the OT is synonymous with calamity and sorrow (cf. Jer. 9:15; 23:15; Lam. 3:15, 19; Amos 5:7; Prov. 5:4).

"Many species of wormwood grow in Palestine.... All species have a strong, bitter taste, leading to the use of the plant as a symbol of bitterness, sorrow, and calamity." – **Charles Ryrie**

“Wormwood is a bitter desert plant mentioned only here in the NT. It is mentioned 7 times in the OT where it represents sorrow and bitter judgment (Deut. 29:18, Prov. 5:4, Jer. 9:15, 23:15, Lam. 3:15, 19, Amos 5:7). – ***The Bible Knowledge Commentary***

In this case, not only is the water made bitter, but also poisonous, and many people will die.

This paints a very bleak picture for life on planet Earth at this point. The food supply will be drastically reduced, the distribution of goods severely curtailed, and the water supply dramatically limited.

The whole world is feeling the squeeze and it is getting so bad that as Jesus said, “***unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved***” (Matt. 24:22).

Slide # 19

Isaiah 24:6 (NKJV)

6 Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, And those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, **And few men are left.**

And the worst is yet to come...

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.

Darkness is often a symbol of judgment (cf. Ex. 10:21-29; Amos 8:9; Joel 2:2;).

Slide # 20

Amos 5:18 (NKJV)

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? **It will be darkness**, and not light.

Joel 2:10 (NKJV)

10 The earth quakes before them, The heavens tremble; **The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars diminish their brightness.**

“Of the fifteen items affected by the plagues of the first four trumpets, one- third receives injury or destruction in twelve instances (8:7, 10, 11 being the exceptions). God uses the world of nature to punish mankind.” – **Robert Thomas**

Note: While the trumpet judgments here relate to 1/3 of the earth, the bowl judgments will be even broader in scope, relating more so to the entire world (cf. 9:1-12; 9:13-21; 11:15-19; chp. 16).

Slide # 21

1. Rain of Fire – Vegetation Destroyed – Trumpet 1.
2. Fireball Mountain – Oceans Polluted – Trumpet 2.
3. Falling Star – Fresh Waters are Polluted – Trumpet 3.
4. Sun Darkened – Air Pollution – Trumpet 4.

When the supply of viable vegetation, water, and air is drastically curtailed, things become terrifyingly desperate!

But even worse things are coming!

Judgments revealed by the first four trumpets harm the same spheres that will be destroyed when the first four bowls are poured out (16:1-9): earth, sea, rivers and springs, sky. The damage done with the trumpets is limited to “a third”: God restrains his wrath, while giving foretastes of total destruction to come if rebels ignore his warnings.

– **ESV Study Bible**

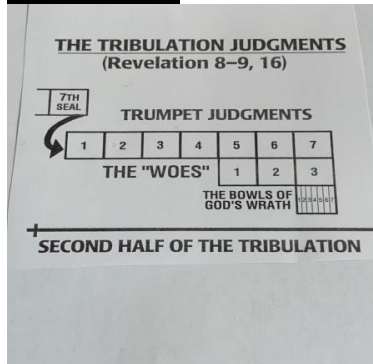
13 And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”

The word “angel” in the older manuscripts is “eagle”. Some take issue with God using an eagle to communicate, but back in the OT He used a donkey to communicate with Balaam (cf. Num. 22). So God can supernaturally do it however He wants to. However, some suggest that perhaps the fourth living creature (a category of angel) is in view. In Revelation 4:7 we see this fourth living creature “was like a flying eagle.”

This message is communicated LOUD and clear!

Here we have the first usage of “woe” in the book. Woe in the Bible is often a prophetic pronouncement of doom (Isa. 6:5). It relates to the sufferings of judgment. The remaining three trumpets, being especially severe, are called “Woes”. When something is stated three times in the Bible, it is stated in the superlative sense involving the most intensity (cf. Isa. 6:3).

Slide # 22



These three WOES are addressed ***“to the inhabitants of the earth.”***

God’s people are not the objects of the trumpet judgments, but rather they are directed toward a world bent on hostility to the Lordship of God.

This phrase, ***“inhabitants of the earth,”*** and others like it, such as ***“earth dwellers”*** are technical terms referring to those who are unbelievers.

“They comprise only the wicked according to regular usage in Revelation (cf. 3:10; 9:4, 20). From this point on, their future is especially bleak.” – ***Robert Thomas***

There is a meme showing a man and his wife out in the desert on camels. The man says to his wife: ***“Stop asking if we’re almost there. We’re NOMADS for crying out loud.”***

By way of application, we as believers are spiritual NOMADS. As we wander through this life, we have no permanent or fixed home here in this world. The Bible says, we are just “sojourners and pilgrims” just passing through (1 Pet. 2:11). Hebrews 11:13 says the people of faith confessed “that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” This world (as we know it) is not our home.

“The phrase “inhabitants of the earth” (or them that dwell on the earth) is found 12 times in Rev. (3:10, 6:10; 8:13; 11:10 [twice] 12:12, 13:8, 12, 14, 14:6; 17:2; 8.

It means much more than “people who live on the earth” for that is where all living people reside. Instead, it refers to a kind of people: those who live for the earth and the things of earth. These are just the opposite of people who have their citizenship in heaven (Phil. 3:18-21). John describes this worldly sort well in his first epistle (1 Jn. 2:15-17). – **Warren Wiersbe**

According to Jesus in Matthew 24 what is going to trigger the great tribulation is the “abomination of desolation” spoken of by Daniel the prophet in Daniel 9:27. (cf. Matt. 24:15, 21). This is when at the midpoint of the Tribulation Period Antichrist goes into the rebuilt Jewish temple and declares himself to be God (cf. 2 Thess. 2:4).

Then the Antichrist will be allowed to exercise authority over all the world of people (cf. Rev. 13:5-8). However, God remains sovereign over all world as seen in His control of nature. As these judgments are coming on the world they will realize that this is the hand of God on the throne (cf. Rev. 6:17; 11:13; 16:9, 11).

As noted, the first four trumpet judgments relate to God’s disaster coming upon the world of nature. We saw in Revelation 4 and 5 two great emphases related to worship. The emphasis in Revelation 4 is on God being worshiped as CREATOR, while in chapter 5 the emphasis is on Him being worshiped as REDEEMER. The first relates to natural revelation as seen in creation, the second relates to special revelation as found in the Bible.

As seen in our study, the first 4 Trumpet Judgments relate to judgment in the REALM OF NATURE. And as has been noted that there are many similarities between the Exodus judgments on Egypt (as found in Exodus 7-12) and these Trumpet judgments.

The purpose of the plagues in Exodus was to show the powerlessness of the false Egyptian gods in contrast to the true God of Israel. Many of these false gods were related to the **forces of nature**. In these plagues, God was showing that He alone controlled nature. He is the sovereign God who controls all.

A repeated phrase in Exodus is: “***By this you shall know that I am the LORD***” (Ex. 7:17, etc.). This was a total LORDSHIP emphasis, as are the trumpet judgments in Revelation 8. This is the Day of the Lord and the great emphasis throughout is on His Lordship!

One of the MAJOR ways God shows His Lordship authority is in the arena of NATURE! God alone controls the forces of nature!

Everybody complains about the weather, but nobody does anything about it. – *Mark Twain*

This is funny because we all know that no one can really control the weather except for God. Mankind likes to think he is in control and can even change the climate, but in truth, he is puny and totally inept. The world talks in terms of “Mother Nature” oblivious to the reality of “Father God” Who controls it.

The Bible is clear that God ALONE sovereignly controls nature. And as sovereign Lord God has promised that as long as the earth remains, we will always have the four seasons (Gen. 8:22). In Acts 14:17, Paul said that God has not left “Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons...”

Slide # 23

Psalm 107:25 (NKJV)

25 For **He commands** and raises the stormy wind, Which lifts up the waves of the sea.

Psalm 147:16–17 (NKJV)

16 **He gives** snow like wool; **He scatters** the frost like ashes;

17 **He casts** out His hail like morsels; Who can stand before **His cold?**

If you study the miracles of Christ, you will find that there are three basic categories of miracles.

Jesus...

1. Did all manner of physical healings – including raising the dead.
2. Cast out demons.
3. Uniquely did miracles of nature – such as multiplying the loaves and fishes, walking on water, and calming the storm.

Christ granted the apostles to also do sign miracles related to physical healing and casting out demons, but they never did miracles over nature. This is God’s territory! This is a Lordship issue! This is unique to God with very rare exceptions.

I call Psalm 29 “The Storm Psalm.” Here David presents the power of the storm and the glory of God behind it.

As he describes the sheer awesome power of the storm he then says in Psalm 29:9, “And in His temple everyone says, ‘Glory!’”

Until recently when a storm would roll through and cause great destruction it would commonly be called “An Act of God!” The laws of nature demand a sovereign lawmaker. This is the God of the Bible – the One true God.

Nature itself testifies to His reality as seen in Romans 1 (cf. Rom. 1:20). Design speaks of intelligence – intelligent design. And intelligent design testifies to a sovereign designer.

In Revelation 8, it is the DAY OF THE LORD, and his LORDSHIP is on display in the first four Trumpet judgments as seen in the realm of NATURE!

The goal in all these catastrophic judgments of nature is to bring people to repentance.

Slide # 24

Revelation 9:20–21 (NKJV)

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.

God, at this point in history, is pulling out all the stops to bring as many people as possible to repentance. And God out of love warns people. Right now He in love is warning the world of coming judgment if they don’t repent.

Acts 17:30–31 (NKJV)

30 Truly, these times of ignorance **God** overlooked, but **now** **commands all men everywhere to repent,**

31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

The world needs to be warned. It is a key reason Jesus has given the book of Revelation to the Church.

“Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one--the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts,...” — **C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters**

“Though it is difficult in this day of grace to imagine such catastrophic judgments, the Word of God is plain, and men are called everywhere to avail themselves of grace before it is too late.” – **John Walvoord**

We have been warned: One day God will speak to the world in wrath through the realm of nature (cf. Nah. 1:3-7). But for now, He is speaking to the world in GRACE. The door of GRACE is still open!

2 Corinthians 6:1–2 (NKJV)

1 We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

2 For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

It is said that every time Alexander the Great besieged an enemy city, he placed a burning torch in the ground before the gate of the city. This meant that everyone who came out while the torch was burning obtained mercy and lived. But when the torch went out, everyone who remained in the city was subject to being killed.

The torch of God’s light is still shining... the door of GRACE is still open, we are still in the age of grace, but for how long?

Matthew 24:42–44 (NKJV)

42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

The Bible is clear that the day of the Lord’s judgment will come upon the world as a thief in the night! (1 Thess. 5:3).

Be warned, be watching, be ready!