

No More Earth Day

The Trumpets of Seven Archangels – Part II

Revelation 8:7-13

Introduction

The online *Earth Day Network* proudly recorded recently that “Earth Day” 2008 was a massive success, raising the awareness of millions of people around the world to the plight of the planet and the need for humankind to save Earth.ⁱ

More and more attention is being given by government and private individual efforts to save the planet. A recent *ABC News* forum increased a growing sense of panic as statements were made like, “We really have less than a decade to start getting this right. If we’re still dragging our feet [ten years from now] it will become almost impossible for the world to avert ... intolerable consequences.” This forum was called, the *ABC News Forum on Surviving the Century*.ⁱⁱ

There is a growing sense of doom in the average person’s thinking related to the tenure of Earth’s resources and the ability to sustain life. There are a number of ways our world is attempting to address this issue and one of the primary ones is teaching children to save the planet.

One particular curriculum for public schools that is growing in popularity is called International Baccalaureate. This curriculum is replacing the learning of facts and objective truth with one-world standardizations. As a side note, it is now affiliated with the United Nations and has a clear appeal to a one-world government. We know from scripture, this will one day come to pass under the leadership of the antichrist.

This curriculum has replaced objective learning with peace studies and environmentalism. It

considers knowledge a theory and truth relative. The irony of this educational curriculum is that it actually undermines the importance of an education.ⁱⁱⁱ

The need to go to school is dismissed by this curriculum. We just need to learn how to do everything we can to serve Mother Nature and save Earth.

Now, frankly, I expect the world to believe it is in the power of their hand to save the Earth. They do not believe in a Creator and therefore, they are subjugated to live in fear of nature.

Mother Nature is ultimately something to be feared. Taking care of her is paramount – in fact, she has become our country’s most politically correct idol.

Even more troubling to me than the fact that the world has assumed sovereign control of the future of our planet, is that the church increasingly is doing the same thing.

One article recently dealt with the fact that many denominations and world religions are joining together over this issue. The headline blazed these words, “Earth Day: Something We Can All Believe In”. It then went on to talk about how all the faith systems of the world are uniting to save the planet. The article also happened to show the president of the National Association of Evangelicals holding the microphone, standing next to a Muslim and a rabbi. All of these faith leader were encouraging pastors and priests of every religion “to sign Earth Day Network’s ‘Global Warming in the Pulpit Pledge’”.

I am actually in favor of this part – I wish it would get warm in the pulpits of our land. There is a

lack of fire and conviction for anything in the pulpits of our land today.

To help pastors and priests, Earth Day Network's Communities of Faith have actually written thousands of sermons for them to use. These sermons have titles like, "Penguins and Polar Bears – and People, Too" and "Passover and the Global Climate Crisis". I pulled up this rabbinical homily, by the way, and was blown away by the way it twisted the elements of Passover to refer to ecology and global warming.^{iv}

One Presbyterian pastor I read of gushed over the progress in this area and the fact that there is now an Earth Day Sunday in April. Among other activities, his church planned for children to go around the church buildings and look for things that harm the Earth and things that help the Earth. As a church they have banned Styrofoam cups, by the way. The children looked for ways the church could save water resources as an example. This pastor said, "Almost everything we have in our hymnals refers to water."

We would think the Baptists would want to use this hymnal.

This pastor went on to complain, "Much of [where] we turn to for wisdom on environmental issues is precisely the same [source] that underlies evolution." And he added, "That's posed a difficulty for some churches."^v

In other words, God did not create the world, have a purpose for the world, sovereignly determine the balance and duration of resources for humanity, as well as determine the length of the planet's existence. These are some of the terrifying byproducts of evolutionism – it *is* all up to mankind.

I read recently about churches in Maryland that are creating an association to, "Establish earth-healing ministries, to revere and cherish the Earth."

Ecology has become so distorted that it has become the latest religion in America, and environmentalists have become the newest priesthood. So the church has jumped on the bandwagon – to establish earth-healing ministries, which cause people to revere and cherish the Earth.

We are passionate about creating heart-healing ministries, so that people revere and cherish the Creator of Earth! This is our mission!

Every day, when the sun rises over Washington, DC, its first rays fall on the eastern side of the city's tallest structure – the 555-foot Washington Monument. The architect wanted these

first rays to catch and reflect off the aluminum capstone where these words are inscribed, "Laus Deo," which is Latin for "Praise be to God". I think it is in Latin so most people cannot read it and sue the state to have it removed.

Imagine – the first thing to catch sunlight in our Capital are words that speak praise to our Creator God. If this capstone were created today, it would probably give praise to the sun itself, or to Mother Nature.

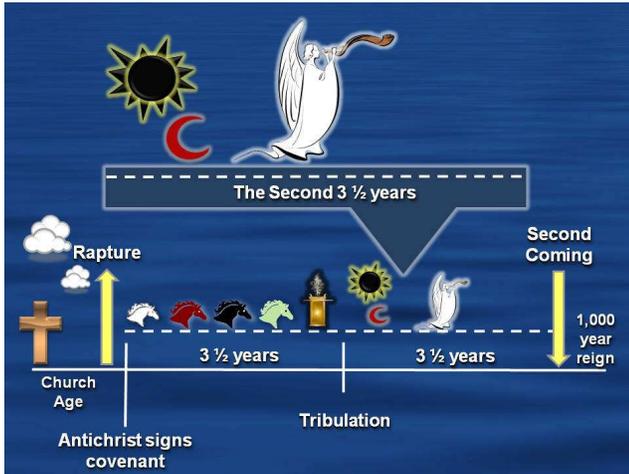
There is no question that fallen man has failed in his God-given responsibilities to steward the Earth, to enjoy the Earth, and to enhance the Earth's beauty and resources. However, and I am not excusing mankind's thoughtless use of Earth's resources, the damage mankind has done to this planet is in no way comparable to the damage that will be done to planet Earth by God Himself. He will destroy:

- more water than man ever polluted;
- more species of animals than man ever preserved;
- more trees than man ever planted;
- most, in fact, of the Earth and the universe, until He ends up destroying all that is left in a ball of fire and then, recreating a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21).

In even greater irony, God will use nature – mankind's chief source of idolatry – to punish mankind.^{vi}

The very thing that man revered will turn and bite him. The very Earth that man placed all of his attention toward will become the weapon of judgment in the hand of creator God.

Mankind has come to revere and cherish the Earth and God will use the idol of Earth to judge the human race. They have worshiped Mother Nature and now, their idol mother will be used by God to destroy them.



The archangels are ready to sound their trumpets in Revelation chapter 8.

The First Trumpet

The first trumpet impacts the Earth's surface. The first archangel raises the shofar – the trumpet made from a ram's horn – to his lips in Revelation 8:7.

The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

Notice that at this time, well into the Tribulation, there are plenty of trees and green grass, which implies that rainfall, water, and the normal water cycles of the planet are in full working order.

Let me make a couple of comments at this point.

There is nothing about the language to cause us to think of these judgments as symbolic. Only one of them is a simile and I will deal with that in a moment.

These judgments are no more symbolic than the plagues that afflicted Egypt.^{vii}

In the Egyptian plagues, there were real frogs, real locusts, real darkness, real water turned to blood, and real death of the firstborn.

As I have studied these angelic trumpet judgments, I have found that many commentators read into Revelation chapter 8 everything from nuclear war to nuclear fallout. There may very well be a nuclear war in the future of the planet, but there is no reason to believe these judgments to be anything other than literal, God-ordained judgments, in which He uses the elements of nature to carry out His judgment.

In fact, the syntax of verse 7 indicates that this blood and hail and fire storm was actually created in heaven and then thrown to the Earth.^{viii}

Notice verse 7 again,

The first [trumpet] sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth . . .

Imagine the terror of this storm hurtling toward Earth – real hail, real fire, and real blood.

. . . and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up . . .

You might want to circle the words, “a third” in your text. This phrase will appear several times in this chapter; in fact, in nearly every verse. In:

- verse 7 referring to the Earth and trees;
- verse 8 referring to the sea;
- verse 9 referring to the creatures that swim in the sea and the ships;
- verse 10 referring to the rivers and springs;
- verse 11 referring to the waters of the rivers and springs;
- verse 12 referring to the sun and moon and stars.

The repeated use of this phrase clearly communicates to us that these results are not random natural events, but carefully designed divine judgments meted out for specific results.^{ix}

This first trumpet will signal a terrifying storm that will destroy a third of every green thing – from trees down to grass.

There will no doubt be seminars, conferences, emergency sessions of the United Nations – if it is not defunct by then, news documentaries, and people desperately trying to cope with the incredible damage to Earth's ecosystems.^x

And this is just the beginning of the archangel's trumpets. While this first trumpet brings devastation to the green foliage of planet Earth, the second trumpet brings further terror.

The Second Trumpet

The second trumpet impacts the oceans of our world. Notice Revelation 8:8-9.

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,

and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Verse 8 contains the only simile John uses in this passage. This was again, something being thrown from heaven. Notice John writes that it was,

. . . like a great mountain burning with fire [that] was thrown into the sea [literally, the ocean] . . .

This is a reasonable description by the apostle John of an asteroid, which scientists identify as a mountain-sized chunk of rock hurtling through space.

One author explained, “If such a rock came toward the Earth, the friction of the Earth’s atmosphere would cause it to burn. Astronomers are even today, calculating the orbits of known asteroids to see if any of them would come close enough to strike the Earth. If one happened to land in the ocean, it could ‘easily produce tidal waves a thousand feet high’.”^{xi}

The mega tsunamis created by the impact of this asteroid will create incredible devastation.

The greatest devastation that John had probably ever witnessed or heard of during his lifetime was the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79, which literally buried Pompeii and destroyed ships anchored offshore in the Gulf of Naples.^{xii}

In addition, what John records in this verse is both a natural disaster and a divine miracle. The water, he writes, turns to blood. The Greek word for “blood” is “haima” (αἷμα), from which we get our root word “hema,” as in “hematology,” which is the study of blood.

This is reminiscent of the plague of Egypt in which God turned the water of the Nile into blood (Exodus 7).

One can hardly imagine the staggering deaths of sea creatures as one-third of the oceans of the world are affected.

John specifically adds at the end of verse 9 that,

. . . a third of the ships were destroyed.

In addition to water turning to blood, not only will the putrid smell of death cover much of the ocean, but the ensuing tsunamis created by the impact of the asteroid will capsize ships and freighters and ocean vessels of all kinds, as well as wash entire coastal cities away.

The naval fleets of every major country will be severely crippled. Seafood will be severely rationed and coastal regions depending on fishing will

experience difficulty – as food is rationed, people will lose their source of income and their livelihood will be lost.^{xiii}

God has just scorched the Earth, leveling trees and foliage and burning up crops and grass. That which man not only enjoyed, but worshiped, will be wiped out.

Now the very object that mankind believed was the womb of life – believing life evolved from the depths of the ocean; the ocean, which mankind long revered as part of Mother Nature, will now turn and bring about death and putrid, corrupt decay, with dead fish, dead whales, and shipwrecked vessels drifting up on shore. The value of real estate on the coasts of our world will plummet and people will run from the shores.

Think about this – the place to live, or at least to vacation, is at the beach or on some coast. The place to live during the Tribulation will be in the middle of a desert – where no trees can fall on you, no foliage or grass can burn your house down, and no tsunami can drown you.

You might say, “Well, I won’t buy property near the ocean, I’ll find a nice river or pond somewhere inland.”

However, let us look at the effects of the third trumpet.

The Third Trumpet

The third trumpet impacts rivers and lakes. They are not safe either, as the third archangel steps forward to blast away on his trumpet. Notice Revelation 8:10-11.

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 waters.

The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.

Now, a third of the lakes, rivers, and natural springs are poisoned.

A star falls from heaven. There is no reason to take this any other way than literally. In fact, the ancient world used this word “lampas,” or “torch,” to signify the burning of a meteor as it streaked through the Earth’s atmosphere. John uses the same word in verse 10.

In the previous trumpet judgment, a solid object fell into the ocean. In this trumpet judgment, the

language indicates that this falling object disintegrated like sparks from a torch as it passed through Earth's atmosphere. This object literally spewed fiery, poisonous debris, which fell into Earth's rivers as it swept over the face of the Earth.

Someone might say, "There's no way one object could poison one-third of the Earth's rivers."

I found it interesting, however, that the *National Geographic Society* – we know this society so well for promoting creationism and praise to God – records that there are only about one hundred principal rivers in the world. They range in length from the Amazon, which is 4,000 miles long, to the Rio de la Plata, which is 150 miles long.^{xiv}

These principal rivers supply the fresh water network of the world. In other words, this falling star could, by poisoning only a few of these principal rivers, easily affect one-third of the Earth's fresh water supply.

Notice, in verse 11, the falling star happens to have a name – "Wormwood," or "apsinthos" (αψιθωος), a word for a plant that grew in Palestine that had a bitter taste.^{xv}

Throughout the scriptures, wormwood is used to speak of the bitterness of God's judgment and punishment. Several times, for example, the prophet Jeremiah refers to people eating and drinking wormwood as a symbol of eating and drinking the judgment of God.

Can you image through this scene?

There are oceans reeking with blood and death, coastlines littered with carcasses and ruined ships, one-third of the Earth's surface scorched by raging forest fires, and clean water is nearly impossible to find as rivers, lakes, and private wells yield the bitter taste of wormwood.

I know one thing – there will be no more Earth Day. This will spell the end of Earth Day.

There will be no happy banners praising Mother Earth. There will be no more seminars on how we need to cherish and revere the planet. There is not much left to cherish! Earth has become a scorched idol.

No one will be preaching Earth Day sermons. Using Styrofoam cups will no longer be an issue. The primary issue will be to simply have something in the cup to actually drink.

Saving nature and the animal kingdom and the planet will no longer be the mission of mankind as

men and women and their children simply try to survive the planet.

Ladies and gentlemen, the human heart was created to worship. It will either worship God or something less worthy, which, according to Romans, will subjugate the worshiper. The human heart was created to crave, so if it does not crave God, it will crave something less fulfilling, if not self-destructing.

It is a fact that whatever we worship, we serve. If we worship:

- money, we will give our life to making it;
- sexual immorality, we will become the slaves of our passions;
- nature, we will become the servants of nature;
- the animal kingdom, we will not have it to rightfully enjoy, but instead, it will become our master and we will live to simply take care of it – we will not own the animals and take care of them because we enjoy them, but because we are now obligated to serve them; in fact, it will become our duty to make our pet happy, and if we have a cat, tough luck because no one can make a cat happy – ever.

Imagine dedicating your life to the belief that Earth is a living being and Mother Nature really did produce life on Earth – and then living through this horror.

These miracles, along with natural disasters, will add to the seals that have already brought terrifying recognition that God, who sits upon the throne, has unleashed the terror of the Lamb. However, it only grows worse.

The first trumpet impacted Earth's surface; the second trumpet impacted oceans; the third trumpet impacted rivers and lakes. Now, there is a fourth trumpet in quick succession with the first three.

The Fourth Trumpet

The fourth trumpet impacts the sun, moon, and stars. Notice Revelation 8:12.

The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way.

Noticing this verse carefully, we realize that John is not saying one-third of the sun is blocked out, or of the moon and stars. He is actually saying that they will only operate one-third less. In fact, if the sun

lost one-third of its power, the Earth would freeze solid.

I believe John is recording that God will only allow the celestial bodies that provide light for the planet to operate at a diminished rate.

Again, reminiscent of the plagues of Egypt, God gives mankind his wish. Mankind longs for the darkness of night because his deeds are evil, so God gives him his wish – darkness. The human race will go from the normal cycles of light and darkness to only having around eight hours of light each day.

This fits perfectly with the prophecy of Amos, who wrote of this judgment,

“It will come about in that day,” declares the Lord God, “that I make the sun go down at noon and make the earth dark in broad daylight.” (Amos 8:9)

This judgment strikes at the heart of mankind’s idolatry.

For centuries mankind has supposedly gathered direction from the stars. The stars and planets have not only been studied, which is Astronomy, they have been and are worshiped, revered, and sought after for wisdom, which is the basis of Astrology.

Astronomy is a wonderful science of discovering the far reaches of the universe and the pattern of created order. Astrology is the belief that someone’s star determines their fate.

The horoscopes of astrologists have never been more popular than in our day. Millions of people consult their horoscope every single day. Leaders in our own country have arranged their calendar and key meetings with world leaders according to the movements of the stars.

Astrology goes all the way back to Babylon. Consult any book on astrology to learn that the Chaldeans, or Babylonians, were the first to develop the zodiac. They created the zodiac by dividing the sky into sections and then giving meanings to each section based on the stars within that section. A person’s destiny is said to be determined by whatever section or sign he is born under.^{xvi}

Someone might say, “Stephen, even God said that that stars were created for signs in the heavens.”

This is true. God said this in Genesis 1:14. However, the word “signs” does not mean sources of direction or wisdom. It means they symbolize something else.

The same word was used for the plagues of Egypt when Moses called them “signs”

(Deuteronomy 29:3). Why? Not because they provided wisdom all by themselves, but because they symbolized judgment from God.

The stars are signs in that they point to the glory of God; they tell the glory of God (Psalm 19:1). The sun and moon are visual reminders of the power and majesty of God (Romans 1:20).

However, what has mankind done with the sun and moon and stars? He has worshiped and revered *them*, as if they communicated direction and wisdom for life.

This goes all the way back to Nimrod, and then the Babylonians. It was perfected by the Egyptians in their application of the zodiac.

The Egyptian pyramids, in fact, were constructed with certain mathematical relationships to the stars. Archeologists have discovered that the Sphinx was constructed to preach an astrological message.

It has the head of a woman, representing Virgo, and the body of a lion, representing Leo. Virgo is the first sign of the zodiac and Leo is the last sign of the zodiac. In other words, the Sphinx represented the beginning and the end – the alpha and omega – of the zodiac.

The word “Sphinx,” simply means “joining”. It was viewed as the meeting point of the zodiac, indicating that the Egyptian priests and people believed the starting point of all of life on Earth began in Egypt on the banks of the Nile.^{xvii}

Believe this if you would like.

I, however, believe the words of this Revelation as it comes to a close and Jesus Christ says,

I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. (Revelation 21:13)

In other words, “I am the starting point of life, which is not on the banks of the Nile, but in the power and wisdom of triune God.”

. . . God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

The worship of the stars and planets will one day collapse. The horoscopes will one day be rubbish to millions who try to follow them. However, now the light from them will be interrupted. Joel prophesied of this day,

. . . the sun and the moon grow dark and the stars lose their brightness. (Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15)

Mankind has pursued every avenue within nature for wisdom and direction except the Creator of nature – our Lord Jesus Christ.

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth . . . (Colossians 1:16a)

. . . if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God . . . (James 1:5)

Mankind will seek wisdom from created things rather than the Creator. And one day, in this coming day, God will dim the lights and cause mankind to scramble, confused in the darkness of His judgment.

Mankind has cherished and,

. . . worshiped . . . the creature rather than the Creator . . . (Romans 1:25)

Now mankind's environmental idols, along with all their ecological sermons and green resolutions and their idolatry of Mother Nature – yes, idolatry, because nature and Earth replaced true worship of the Creator, will be turned against them with horrifying effects by the Creator in this day.

There will be no Earth Day this year. And there probably never will be again.

Warning from God

The chapter ends with the appearance of an eagle. My text reads in Revelation 8:13,

Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound."

In other words, God in His mercy informs mankind that three more judgments are coming. So, get ready – get right with God.

Some say this cannot be an eagle because it is speaking. I believe God can pull this off. He made a donkey speak to the prophet Balaam in Numbers 22.

This eagle will speak at God's bidding as well. Perhaps by satellite TV the world will hear it say, "Woe to earth dwellers – more judgment is coming."

Ladies and gentlemen, the wrath of God is unstoppable; your appointment with God is unavoidable. Be warned by this description of judgment to come – mankind cannot avoid the Creator of life, and neither will you and I.

Are you ready?

A physicist wrote the following in the commentary section of a recent *Wall Street Journal*,

One of the hottest topics being debated in D.C. is an exit strategy from Iraq. . . . But no matter how difficult this may be, physicists are struggling with an even greater exit strategy....

The latest data from space satellites are unmistakable: The universe will eventually die in a Big Freeze. ... [Galaxies are being pushed apart.] Some day, when looking heavenward, we will be quite lonely, with other galaxies too far to be observed. Worse, it will be deathly cold. As the universe accelerates, temperatures will plunge throughout the universe. Billions . . . of years from now, the stars will have exhausted their nuclear fuel, the oceans will freeze, the sky will become totally dark, and the universe will consist of dead neutron stars, black holes, and nuclear debris....

Is all intelligent life on earth doomed to die when the universe itself perishes? It seems as if the iron laws of physics have issued a death warrant. But there is still one possible exit strategy: to leave the universe itself. ...

Do the laws of physics allow for the creation of "wormholes" connecting our universe to a younger, more hospitable universe? ... In 2012, a new space probe, LISA (Laser Interferometer Space Antenna) will be launched which may be able to prove or disprove these conjectures. ... Can a gateway be built to connect our universe with another?

For intelligent life, there is no choice. Either we leave for [another] universe, or we die in the [old] one. ...^{xviii}

He is right – make plans to leave this universe for another one.

Can a gateway be found to the new heaven and new earth? Yes!

Is there an exit strategy from this scorched, judged, blood-soaked, troubled planet? Yes!

The exit strategy is the Savior, Jesus Christ, who said, "I am the way . . . I am the truth . . . I am the life" (John 14:6).

"I am the starting point of life . . . I am the source of life."

"I am the Alpha and Omega; I had the first word and I will have the last word. Follow Me and live forever in My coming new heaven and new earth."

This manuscript is from a sermon preached on 10/19/2008 by Stephen Davey.

© Copyright 2008 Stephen Davey

All rights reserved.

ⁱ <http://earthday.net>.

ⁱⁱ Sarah Namias, "Scientists From Around the Globe Join ABC News in a Forum on Surviving the Century," Jun. 12, 2008), <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/Story?id=5045549&page=1>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Gene Edward Veith, "One-World Education," World Magazine (Jan. 13, 2007).

^{iv} "Earth Day: Something We Can All Believe In," <http://www.earthday.net/node/73>.

^v Tom Howell Jr., "Christian Churches to Celebrate 'Earth Day Sunday'," (Apr. 21, 2006), <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,192661,00.html>.

^{vi} Robert L. Thomas, Revelation: Volume 2 (Moody Press, 1995), p. 13.

^{vii} David Jeremiah, Escape the Coming Night: Volume 2 (Turning Point, 1994), p. 84.

^{viii} Cleon Rogers Jr. and Cleon Rogers III, The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament (Zondervan, 1998), p. 630.

^{ix} John MacArthur, Revelation: Volume 2 (Moody Press, 1999), p. 249.

^x Ibid., p. 250.

^{xi} Stewart Custer, From Patmos to Paradise (BJU Press, 2004), p. 99.

^{xii} Edward Hindson, Revelation: Unlocking the Future (AMG Publishers, 2002), p. 102.

^{xiii} Sam Gordon, Revelation: Worthy is the Lamb (Ambassador, 2000), p. 196.

^{xiv} Ibid., p. 198.

^{xv} Thomas, p. 21.

^{xvi} James Montgomery Boice, Genesis: Volume 1 (Zondervan, 1982), p. 341.

^{xvii} Ibid., p. 341.

^{xviii} "Huddled up with LISA," The Wall Street Journal Online (Jan. 20, 2005).