



“The Futility of the Creature’s Ascent”

Revelation 8:7-13

October 4, 2026

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: [Rev 8:7-13]

INTRODUCTION:

"1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in **His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, **through whom also He made the world**. 3 And **He is the radiance of His glory** and the exact representation of His nature, **and upholds all things by the word of His power**. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high," [Heb 1:1-3 NASB95]

Main point: Mankind’s global rebellion cannot create anything outside of our Creator’s material world nor can they uphold the material world if our Lord Jesus Christ in judgment decides not to uphold it by the word of His power.

1. John’s vision reports God’s sovereign rule from heaven over the time of _____.

1. The 1st Trumpet sounds the burning of a third of the earths _____ [8:7]

"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." [Rev 8:7 NASB95]

1. The 3 1/2 half year mark _____ the beginning of the Great Tribulation with the 1st trumpet.

"16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for **the great day of their wrath has come**, and who is able to stand?" [Rev 6:16-17 NASB95]

2. The type of judgment at the _____ of the nation signifies the antitype at Israel’s _____.

"23 Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, and **the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth**. And the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt. ... 25 The hail struck all that was in the field through all the land of Egypt, both man and beast; the hail also struck every plant of the field and shattered every tree of the field." [Exo 9:23, 25 NASB95]

3. God provides the _____ of vegetation for rebellious mankind.

"29 Moses said to him, "As soon as I go out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the LORD; the thunder will cease and there will be hail no longer, that you may know that **the earth is the LORD’S**." [Exo 9:29 NASB95]

4. God’s regular provision will be cut off during this time of _____.

"45 ...your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." [Mat 5:45 ESV]

Observation 1: The tribulation judgments prove the futility of mankind’s attempts to be like God because we cannot create eternal life and we cannot sustain physical life.

Observation 2: Be a Christian _____ because God’s disdain for attempts at global unity in rebellion is made clear at both the tower of Babel and in the prophesied Tribulation period.

2. The 2nd Trumpet sounds and a third of the salt water _____ is wasted. [8:8-9]

"8 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 creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed." [Rev 8:8-9 NASB95]

1. A great mountain burning may be a volcano but the term “_____” could mean something different.

2. A _____ of the sea will be ruined, sea creatures will be dead, and ships will be destroyed.

3. The 3rd Trumpet sounds and a third of the _____ is made bitter. [8:10-11]

"10 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. 11 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." [Rev 8:10-11 NASB95]

1. A third of the rivers and springs become bitter because of _____. [*Ἄψινθος*]
2. A third of men die because subterranean springs like the _____ Aquifer and rivers are bitter.
3. Any significantly sized _____ that hits the earth at 130,000 mph could do catastrophic damage.

4. The 4th Trumpet sounds and a third part of the _____ are darkened. [8:12]

"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." [Rev 8:12 NASB95]

1. A third of the sun, moon, and stars cease to shine at full _____.
2. There will be ____ hours of daylight and ____ hours of darkness.
3. The disruption of light reminds us that God is _____ and His absence brings darkness.
4. The climate conditions and lessor sunlight will affect vegetation and _____.

Observation: J B Smith comments in regard to the 1st four trumpet judgments: It is of considerable interest to note the progress — one third of the green trees and grass, one third of marine life and shipping, one third of the waters, and one third of the heavenly bodies. Food is destroyed; distribution is crippled; water supply is limited; production is hampered.

2. The four trumpet judgments are warnings of the grief to come with the final three _____.

"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!" [Rev 8:13 NASB95]

1. The last three trumpets are three woes that finish _____ mankind.

"20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent of the works of their hands**, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; 21 and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts." [Rev 9:20-21 NASB95]

1. Woe is an _____ of grief.
It is translated oh!:—ah, alas, ho, O, woe in Hebrew [הוי אוי] and alas, woe from Greek [οὐαί]

2. Isaiah used the word woe _____ times . Woe - interjection alas! Oh! An expression of grief.

"20 **Woe** to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!" [Isa 5:20 NASB95]

3. Jesus pronounced woes on Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum.

"20 Then He began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent. 21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, **they would have repented** long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 "Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in [the] day of judgment than for you. 23 "And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, **it would have remained** to this day. 24 "Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in [the] day of judgment, than for you." [Mat 11:20-24 NASB95]

“The Futility of the Creature’s Ascent”

Revelation 8:7-13

October 4, 2026

Observation: The word of Jesus power provides the stability that the natural God-given laws provide for our daily lives.

2. What we will notice about the three prophesied woes is mankind's lack of _____.
[God] "4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." [1Ti 2:4]

They did not repent...

1. ...of their _____.

"20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent of the works of their hands**, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; Rev 9:20 NASB95]

2. ...of their _____, _____, _____, nor their _____.

21 and **they did not repent of their murders** nor of their **sorceries** nor of their **immorality** nor of their **thefts**." [Rev 9:21 NASB95]

3. ...of their _____.

"11 and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and **they did not repent of their deeds**." [Rev 16:11 NASB95]

4. ...to give God His _____.

"9 Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and **they did not repent so as to give Him glory**." [Rev 16:9 NASB95]

Observation 1: God’s goal in judgment is perfectly balanced with the attribute that “God is love” as is evidenced by His desire that none should perish and that the goal of His long withheld justice is that men would repent.

Observation 2: The beauty of repentance is that if we turn from the evil God will withhold the distressful misery of the consequences of our sins.

"7 "At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy [it;] 8 if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it." [Jer 18:7-8 NASB95]

Main point: Mankind’s global rebellion cannot create anything outside of our Creator’s material world nor can they uphold the material world if our Lord Jesus Christ in judgment decides not to uphold it by the word of His power.

3. All of mankind’s prideful attempts to _____ into heaven are futile.

1. The attempt at the Tower of _____.

"4 They said, "Come, **let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top [will reach] into heaven**, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.'" [Gen 11:4 NASB95]

2. Every attempt made by _____ of nations by means of conquest.

30 The king reflected and said, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?' **31** While the word was in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, saying, 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you, **32** and you will be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place will be with the beasts of the field. You will be given grass to eat like cattle, and seven periods of time will pass over you until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind and bestows it on whomever He wishes.'

3. The attempt that will be made by the _____.

3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, **4** who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

4. Every attempt in the angelic realm that are made by _____ will be futile as well

"12 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! 13 "But you said in your heart, '**I will ascend to heaven;** I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will make myself like the Most High.**'" [Isa 14:12-14 NASB95]

Transhumanism — was popularized by evolutionary biologist Julian Huxley in 1957, who described it as the idea that **humanity can transcend itself** by realizing new possibilities of its nature. The contemporary movement developed mainly from the 1980s–1990s onward

Cryonic preservation — Alcor Life Extension Foundation is a nonprofit cryonics organization based in Scottsdale, Arizona. It preserves legally dead members at very low temperature in the hope that future medicine might someday repair the damage and restore them. It does not claim it can revive anyone now.

World Community — **We deplore the division of humankind on nationalistic grounds.** We have reached a turning point in human history where **the best option is to transcend the limits of national sovereignty and to move toward the building of a world community** in which all sectors of the human family can participate. Thus we look to the development of a system of world law and a world order based upon transnational federal government.

CONCLUSION:

"13 "No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. 14 "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; 15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life." [Jhn 3:13-15 NASB95]