

NOON BIBLE STUDY: REVELATION 8

WHY HASN'T JESUS RETURNED? BECAUSE OF GOD'S MERCY. WE SAW IN THE LAST CHAPTER THAT GOD HAS WITHHELD JUDGMENT ON THE EARTH (SYMBOLIZED BY 4 ANGELS HOLDING BACK THE 4 WINDS OF THE EARTH) UNTIL THE SEALING OF THE "BOND SERVANTS OF GOD (7:3)." ULTIMATELY THE ANSWER TO "WHY HASN'T JESUS RETURNED?" IS TIED TO GOD'S DESIRE TO SAVE PEOPLE. JESUS COMES AND JUDGMENT BEGINS WHEN THE FULL NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT WILL BE SAVED IS REACHED.

IN THE MEANTIME GOD'S PEOPLE WAIT AND SUFFER AND DIE AS GOD'S WORK TO DRAW MEN AND WOMEN BACK TO HIM THROUGH THE GOSPEL CONTINUES. BUT ONCE THAT DAY HAS COME, THE TRUMPETS WILL BEGIN TO SOUND.

WHEREAS THE OPENING OF THE SEALS RELATE TO GENERAL THINGS THAT HAPPEN BEFORE CHRIST COMES BACK, THE TRUMPETS CORRELATE TO SPECIFIC THINGS THAT WILL HAPPEN DIRECTLY BEFORE HIS COMING. WE KNOW THIS BECAUSE THE 7TH AND FINAL TRUMPET SIGNALS HIS RETURN - BUT WE'VE GOT SOME HILLS TO CLIMB BEFORE THEN - THE 7TH TRUMPET DOESN'T SOUND UNTIL REVELATION 11:15.

BUT BEFORE WE MOVE FORWARD, WE MUST LOOK BACKWARDS. CRITICAL TO UNDERSTANDING THE SOUNDING OF THE TRUMPETS AND THE JUDGMENT THAT IS BEGINNING IN REVELATION 8, IS THE STORY OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL'S FINAL DAYS AS SLAVES IN EGYPT AND THE TIME WHEN GOD BROUGHT HIS JUDGMENT UPON EGYPT THROUGH 10 PLAGUES (RECORDED IN EXODUS 7-12). GOD'S PEOPLE HAD BEEN UNJUSTLY ENSLAVED IN EGYPT FOR MANY YEARS AND THROUGH MOSES, GOD WAS GOING TO RESCUE AND REDEEM HIS PEOPLE AND LEAD THEM TO THE PROMISED LAND.

EGYPT'S RULER PHARAOH AND THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND RECEIVING FREE MANUAL LABOR ARE NOT HAPPY ABOUT THIS AND REFUSE TO LET THE ISRAELITES GO. SO THE GOD OF ABRAHAM (YAHWEH) SENDS A SERIES OF PLAGUES TO EGYPT TO JUDGE AND HUMBLE THE NATION, WHICH IN TURN WILL RELEASE THE ISRAELITES. THROUGH THESE PLAGUES, YAHWEH WAS TEACHING EGYPT (AND ISRAEL) WHO HE WAS. HE COULD HAVE SIMPLY DESTROYED THE NATION IN ONE ACT, BUT THROUGH THESE PLAGUES HE NOT ONLY TAUGHT THE NATION WHO HE WAS, BUT WAS SHOWING THEM MERCY.
(SEE CHART ON PLAGUES)

THE JUDGMENT UPON EGYPT WAS GOD'S JUDGMENT ON THE SYSTEM AND WAYS OF HUMANS. EGYPT REPRESENTED THE BEST OF HUMANITY IN ACHIEVEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE AND YET WITH ALL THEIR ADVANCEMENTS THEY CHOSE TO WORSHIP IDOLS AND THE CREATION RATHER THAN THE CREATOR. HUMANITY HAS REPEATED THIS FOOLISHNESS EVER SINCE.

AND AS A RESULT OF HUMANITY'S REBELLION, JUDGMENT IS COMING. FOR THOSE WHO TURN TO CHRIST, THE JUDGMENT OF GOD HAS ALREADY BEEN METED OUT ON THEIR BEHALF ON THE CROSS. JESUS DIED TO PAY FOR OUR SIN, SO THAT WE DO NOT HAVE TO. BUT IF YOU HAVE NOT TURNED TO CHRIST IN FAITH, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO PAY THE PENALTY OF YOUR SIN WHICH IS ULTIMATELY DEATH. AND SO BEFORE THE END OF THIS AGE, JUDGMENT IS COMING UPON THE EARTH. BEFORE ~~THE~~ DAY, OR BEFORE OUR FINAL DAY, MAY WE FIND THE MERCY OF GOD AND BE "PASSED OVER" WHEN JUDGMENT COMES.

WHAT WE SAW IN EXODUS IS PARALLELED IN REVELATION THROUGH THE SOUNDING OF THE TRUMPETS IN THESE CHAPTER. JUDGMENT IS COMING. AND YET EVEN IN JUDGMENT, THERE IS MERCY.

THE END GOAL OF THE PLAGUES IN EGYPT IS DESCRIBED BELOW. THE END GOAL OF THE SOUNDING OF THE TRUMPETS IS NOT FAR OFF THIS EITHER:

EXODUS 7:4-5 (NLT) - EVEN THEN PHARAOH WILL REFUSE TO LISTEN TO YOU. SO I WILL BRING DOWN MY FIST ON EGYPT. THEN I WILL RESCUE MY FORCES-- MY PEOPLE, THE ISRAELITES-- FROM THE LAND OF EGYPT WITH GREAT ACTS OF JUDGMENT. 5 WHEN I RAISE MY POWERFUL HAND AND BRING OUT THE ISRAELITES, THE EGYPTIANS WILL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD."

REVELATION 8:1-2 - THE SEVENTH SEAL IS BROKEN

WE'RE LOOKING AT AN EXTENSION OF THE SAME VISION THAT WE STARTED WITH IN REVELATION 4. THE HEAVENLY SCENE OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE FOLLOWED BY THE LAMENT THAT NO ONE WAS WORTHY TO OPEN THE SEALS ON THE GREAT SCROLL, FOLLOWED BY THE CELEBRATION OF THE LAMB BEING FOUND WORTHY FOLLOWED BY THE OPENING OF THE SEALS (1-6) IN CHAPTER 6. NOW THE 7TH AND FINAL SEAL IS OPENED AND ALONG WITH SILENCE, SEVEN ANGELS ARE SEEN WITH SEVEN TRUMPETS. REVELATION 8 WILL BEGIN TO DESCRIBE THE SOUNDING OF THESE SEVEN TRUMPETS AND WHAT HAPPENS AS A RESULT OF EACH.

SILENCE? INTERESTING TWIST. MAYBE TO CONTRAST THE SOUND THAT IS GOING TO BE MADE. SOMETIMES YELLING "HEY!" GETS EVERYONE'S ATTENTION, SOMETIMES BEING QUIET DOES TOO.

ZECHARIAH 2:13 - "BE SILENT, ALL FLESH, BEFORE THE LORD; FOR HE IS AROUSED FROM HIS HOLY HABITATION."

ZEPHANIAH 1:7 (NET) - BE SILENT BEFORE THE LORD GOD, FOR THE LORD'S DAY OF JUDGMENT IS ALMOST HERE. THE LORD HAS PREPARED A SACRIFICIAL MEAL; HE HAS RITUALLY PURIFIED HIS GUESTS.

REVELATION 8:3-5 - ANGELS, ALTARS & EARTHQUAKES

BEFORE THE FIRST ANGEL SOUNDS ITS TRUMPET, WE ARE BROUGHT BACK TO THE HEAVENLY ALTAR WHICH APPEARED IN REVELATION 6:9-11. IT WAS AT THIS ALTAR WE SAW THE FAITHFUL SAINTS ASK *"HOW LONG WILL YOU REFRAIN FROM JUDGING AND AVENGING OUR BLOOD ON THOSE WHO DWELL ON THE EARTH."*

THIS ALTAR SEEMS TO REPRESENT THE PLACE WHERE GOD MEETS WITH HIS PEOPLE. THIS IS WHERE QUESTIONS ARE ASKED OF HIM AND PRAYERS ASCEND TO HIM. AT THIS MOMENT, AS PRAYERS ASCEND TO GOD ON THE THRONE, THE ANGEL ADDS "MUCH INCENSE" TO THE PRAYERS.

BURNING INCENSE WOULD RESULT IN PLEASANT SMELLS. THE PRAYERS AND THE SMOKE OF THE INCENSE JOIN TOGETHER AS THEY RISE TO GOD - INDICATING THAT THE PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS ARE PLEASING TO GOD.

THE NEXT THING THAT JOHN SEES AFTER THE INCENSE LADEN PRAYERS ARISE TO GOD IS THAT FIRE IS THROWN DOWN FROM THIS ALTAR TO THE EARTH. COULD IT BE THAT THE JUDGMENT UPON THE EARTH IS BEGINNING IN RESPONSE TO THE PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS?

THE SAINTS ASKED: HOW LONG TILL THE JUDGMENT COMES? AND AS THEIR PRAYERS ARISE, AT LAST IT IS TIME. AND WITH THIS FIREWORKS DISPLAY, THE FIRST ANGEL IS ABOUT TO BLOW HIS TRUMPET.

A COUPLE THINGS TO PAY ATTENTION TO BEFORE WE HEAR THE TRUMPETS:

1 - WHY TRUMPETS? TRUMPETS WERE AT TIMES USED IN PRAISE AND TO SIGNAL NATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS, BUT PRIMARILY TRUMPETS WERE BLOWN TO SIGNAL WARNINGS AND ALERTS. IN THE OLD TESTAMENT THEY WERE ASSOCIATED WITH JUDGMENT. THE FIRST USAGE OF "TRUMPET" IS WHEN GOD APPEARED IN SMOKE AND THUNDER ON MT. SINAI. THE PRIESTS WERE TO BLOW TRUMPETS DURING WAR (NUMBERS 10:9). CONSIDER THIS WELL KNOWN PASSAGE FROM JOEL:

JOEL 2:1-2 - BLOW A TRUMPET IN ZION, AND SOUND AN ALARM ON MY HOLY MOUNTAIN! LET ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAND TREMBLE, FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD IS COMING; SURELY IT IS NEAR, 2 A DAY OF DARKNESS AND GLOOM, A DAY OF CLOUDS AND THICK DARKNESS. AS THE DAWN IS SPREAD OVER THE MOUNTAINS, SO THERE IS A GREAT AND MIGHTY PEOPLE; THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT, NOR WILL THERE BE AGAIN AFTER IT TO THE YEARS OF MANY GENERATIONS.

2 - ALL OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPEN BECAUSE OF THE TRUMPETS EMANATE FROM THE CREATOR THROUGH HIS CREATION. THESE ARE NOT WARS AMONG PEOPLE OR ETHNIC STRIFE - IT WILL BE CLEAR THAT THESE THINGS ARE COMING FROM HEAVEN, MEANING JUDGMENT FROM GOD AND NOT A RESULT OF SOMETHING HUMANS ARE DOING - THESE EVENTS DESCRIBE THINGS FALLING FROM THE SKIES AND BOILING UP FROM BENEATH THE EARTH.

REVELATION 8:6-7 - THE FIRST TRUMPET SOUNDS

HAIL AND FIRE, MIXED WITH BLOOD - AS A RESULT OF THE HAIL AND FIRE, A THIRD OF THE EARTH WAS BURNED UP, A THIRD OF THE TREES, AND ALL GREEN GRASS WAS BURNED.

EXODUS 9:23-25 - 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. 24 SO THERE WAS HAIL, AND FIRE FLASHING CONTINUALLY IN THE MIDST OF THE HAIL, VERY SEVERE, SUCH AS HAD NOT BEEN IN ALL THE LAND OF EGYPT SINCE IT BECAME A NATION. 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.

REVELATION 8:8-9 - THE SECOND TRUMPET SOUNDS

SOMETHING LIKE A GREAT MOUNTAIN BURNING WITH FIRE WAS THROWN INTO THE SEA. A THIRD OF THE SEA BECAME BLOOD AND A THIRD OF THE CREATURES OF THE SEA DIED AND A THIRD OF THE SHIPS WERE DESTROYED. PERHAPS THIS IS DESCRIBING A VOLCANIC EVENT.

EXODUS 7:19-21 - THEN THE LORD SAID TO MOSES, "SAY TO AARON, 'TAKE YOUR STAFF AND STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND OVER THE WATERS OF EGYPT, OVER THEIR RIVERS, OVER THEIR STREAMS, AND OVER THEIR POOLS, AND OVER ALL THEIR RESERVOIRS OF WATER, THAT THEY MAY BECOME BLOOD; AND THERE WILL BE BLOOD THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND OF EGYPT, BOTH IN VESSELS OF WOOD AND IN VESSELS OF STONE.'" 20 SO MOSES AND AARON DID EVEN AS THE LORD HAD COMMANDED. AND HE LIFTED UP THE STAFF AND STRUCK THE WATER THAT WAS IN THE NILE, IN THE SIGHT OF PHARAOH AND IN THE SIGHT OF HIS SERVANTS, AND ALL THE WATER THAT WAS IN THE NILE WAS TURNED TO BLOOD. 21 THE FISH THAT WERE IN THE NILE DIED, AND THE NILE BECAME FOUL, SO THAT THE EGYPTIANS COULD NOT DRINK WATER FROM THE NILE. AND THE BLOOD WAS THROUGH ALL THE LAND OF EGYPT.

REVELATION 8:10-11 - THE THIRD TRUMPET SOUNDS

A GREAT STAR FALLS FROM HEAVEN (BURNING LIKE A TORCH) AND IT FELL ON A THIRD OF THE RIVERS AND ON SPRINGS OF WATERS, RESULTING IN BITTER WATER WHICH CAUSES MANY PEOPLE TO DIE. PERHAPS THIS IS DESCRIBING A METEORITE. A RESULT OF THIS CRASHING OBJECT FROM HEAVEN IS THE WATERS BECOMING UNDRINKABLE AND PEOPLE DYING AS A RESULT. WATER IS SUCH AN INTEGRAL PART OF LIFE AND FLOURISHING.

DURING THE PLAGUE OF BLOOD IN EGYPT, BESIDES THE WILDLIFE DYING, THE WATERS BECAME UNDRINKABLE.

WORMWOOD IS A PLANT FOUND IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA WHICH IS "MODERATELY POISONOUS". WEB MD SAYS THAT "ITS OIL CONTAINS THE CHEMICAL THUJONE, WHICH MAY BE POISONOUS. THE THUJONE IN WORMWOOD OIL EXCITES THE CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM AND CAN CAUSE SEIZURES AND OTHER ADVERSE EFFECTS. OTHER CHEMICALS IN WORMWOOD MIGHT DECREASE SWELLING (SOURCE: WEBMD.COM/VITAMINS/AI/INGREDIENTMONO-729/WORMWOOD)."

REVELATION 8:12 - THE FOURTH TRUMPET SOUNDS

A THIRD OF THE SUN, MOON AND STARS ARE STRUCK SO THAT THERE IS DARKNESS (DURING DAY AND NIGHT).

EXODUS 10:21-23 - THEN THE LORD SAID TO MOSES, "STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND TOWARD THE SKY, THAT THERE MAY BE DARKNESS OVER THE LAND OF EGYPT, EVEN A DARKNESS WHICH MAY BE FELT." 22 SO MOSES STRETCHED OUT HIS HAND TOWARD THE SKY, AND THERE WAS THICK DARKNESS IN ALL THE LAND OF EGYPT FOR THREE DAYS. 23 THEY DID NOT SEE ONE ANOTHER, NOR DID ANYONE RISE FROM HIS PLACE FOR THREE DAYS, BUT ALL THE SONS OF ISRAEL HAD LIGHT IN THEIR DWELLINGS.

THROUGH THE FIRST 4 TRUMPETS, ALL REALMS OF THE EARTH ARE AFFECTED: THE LAND/TREES, THE SEA, THE RIVERS AND THE SKY. THE JUDGMENT OF GOD IS PERVASIVE.

REVELATION 8:13 - AN EAGLE'S ANNOUNCEMENT

THE FIRST 4 TRUMPETS ARE SOUNDED AND THERE'S A BRIEF PAUSE AND THE APPEARANCE OF A FLYING EAGLE WITH A LOUD VOICE. THIS EAGLE ANNOUNCES TO THE EARTH A WARNING OF "WOE" BECAUSE OF "THE REMAINING BLASTS OF THE TRUMPETS". THE NEXT TWO TRUMPETS WILL HAVE A MORE PRECISE FOCUS ON KILLING HUMANS ON THE EARTH RATHER THAN GENERAL NATURAL CALAMITY. IN OTHER WORDS, THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET WORSE AND SO A WARNING ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE.

AS FOR THE APPEARANCE OF AN EAGLE, SOME COMMENTATORS HAVE NOTED THAT THE GREEK WORD FOR "EAGLE" IS THE SAME WORD FOR "VULTURE". AS WE KNOW VULTURES CIRCLE WHEN DEATH IS IMMINENT. NEVERTHELESS, WHETHER EAGLE OR VULTURE, A STRONG AND WIDE WINGED BIRD IS DESCRIBED, ABLE TO FLY ABOUT TO DECLARE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT.

CLOSING POINTS : ONE COMMON PATTERN IS SEEN THROUGH THESE FIRST 4 TRUMPETS AND IT IS THE REPEATING OF "ONE THIRD" OF VARIOUS THINGS BEING AFFECTED AFTER A TRUMPET IS SOUNDED. WHY ONLY A THIRD? MERCY. WE READ THESE THINGS AND THINK "HOW TERRIBLE! A THIRD OF THE TREES ARE BURNED!" BUT IS IT NOT TRUE THAT $\frac{2}{3}$ OF THE TREES ARE NOT BURNED? AND THOSE WHO ARE SEEING THESE THINGS UNFOLD WOULD DO WELL TO HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND TAKE STOCK OF THEIR LIVES WHICH WILL HAVE BEEN REVEALED AS SO FRAGILE?

WHEN YAHWEH BROUGHT HIS PLAGUES UPON EGYPT, HE USED SMALL ELEMENTS OF HIS CREATION TO HUMBLE THE GREATEST NATION OF ITS TIME. THEIR GODS WERE EXPOSED AS WEAK AND HELPLESS AGAINST YAHWEH'S POWER. IT WAS YAHWEH'S WAY OF DECLARING TO EGYPT THAT HE ALONE IS GOD. THEY WORSHIPED THE SUN GOD, AND YET YAHWEH CAUSED THICK DARKNESS UPON ALL OF EGYPT EXCEPT WHERE HIS PEOPLE LIVED. THEY WORSHIPED GODS OF THE NILE RIVER AND YAHWEH WAS ABLE TO TURN THE GREAT RIVER INTO BLOOD.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU SEE THE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE TRUSTED IN AND RELIED ON FALL AND CRUMBLE? YOU CAN DIG IN AND SHAKE YOUR FIST ANGRILY AT HEAVEN OR YOU CAN HUMBLE YOURSELF UNDER THE MIGHTY HAND OF GOD. SO AS THESE FIRST TRUMPETS SOUND AND BRING THE FIRST WAVE OF JUDGMENT UPON THE EARTH, WHAT WILL THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE TRUE GOD CHOOSE TO DO? COMPLAIN THAT A THIRD OF THE TREES ARE GONE OR BE GRATEFUL THAT THEY WERE NOT DESTROYED ALL TOGETHER.

2 PETER 3:9 (NLT) - THE LORD ISN'T REALLY BEING SLOW ABOUT HIS PROMISE, AS SOME PEOPLE THINK. NO, HE IS BEING PATIENT FOR YOUR SAKE. HE DOES NOT WANT ANYONE TO BE DESTROYED, BUT WANTS EVERYONE TO REPENT.

SO HOW DOES THE DESCRIPTION OF THESE EVENTS, LIKELY STILL TO HAPPEN IN OUR FUTURE, BRING HELP OR HOPE TO THE FIRST CENTURY CHRISTIANS READING THIS? THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION WHICH LIKELY HAS MUCH DEPTH TO EXPLORE.

BUT ONE THING CAN BE TAKEN AWAY FOR THEM, AND FOR US. THIS CHAPTER DESCRIBES GOD'S COMING JUDGMENT UPON THE PEOPLE AND SYSTEMS OF THIS EVIL AGE. THE FIRST CENTURY CHRISTIANS WERE LIVING IN A TIME OF PERSECUTION AND SUFFERING WITH REAL AND PRESSING CHALLENGES. THEY LONGED TO BE RESCUED AND AVENGED. THEY ASKED AND WONDERED "HOW LONG O LORD..." WHILE THEY ENDURED AND KEPT THE FAITH.

THIS CHAPTER BEGINS, WITH VIVID DETAIL, TO DESCRIBE THE COMING JUDGMENT UPON THE EARTH. AND SO WHILE THE SPECIFIC ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF "WHEN" OR WHAT IS THE "DAY OR HOUR" OF THE COMING OF CHRIST IS NOT GIVEN - THE CHURCH WOULD BE COMFORTED THAT THE DAY WILL COME. JUDGMENT AND VENGEANCE ON GOD'S ENEMIES IS APPOINTED AND GOD IS FAITHFUL TO HIS WORD, EVEN TO HIS WORD TO BRING JUDGMENT.

AND SO THE FIRST AUDIENCE WOULD READ JOHN'S DESCRIPTION AND KNOW THAT THEY CAN STAY HOLD FAST BECAUSE THE END IS COMING. WHETHER IT CAME IN THEIR LIFETIME OR NOT WAS NOT THEIR CONCERN. IT WAS GOD'S PLACE TO BRING JUDGMENT, NOT THEIRS. AND AS WE READ THIS VISION TODAY, WE CAN HOLD FAST BECAUSE THE END IS COMING. WHETHER IT COMES IN OUR LIFETIME OR NOT IS NOT OUR CONCERN. IT IS GOD'S PLACE TO BRING JUDGMENT, NOT OURS.

DEUTERONOMY 32:35 (NLT) - I WILL TAKE REVENGE; I WILL PAY THEM BACK. IN DUE TIME THEIR FEET WILL SLIP. THEIR DAY OF DISASTER WILL ARRIVE, AND THEIR DESTINY WILL OVERTAKE THEM.'

2 THESSALONIANS 1:3-12 (NLT) - DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WE CAN'T HELP BUT THANK GOD FOR YOU, BECAUSE YOUR FAITH IS FLOURISHING AND YOUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER IS GROWING. 4 WE PROUDLY TELL GOD'S OTHER CHURCHES ABOUT YOUR ENDURANCE AND FAITHFULNESS IN ALL THE PERSECUTIONS AND HARDSHIPS YOU ARE SUFFERING. 5 AND GOD WILL USE THIS PERSECUTION TO SHOW HIS JUSTICE AND TO MAKE YOU WORTHY OF HIS KINGDOM, FOR WHICH YOU ARE SUFFERING. 6 IN HIS JUSTICE HE WILL PAY BACK THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU. 7 AND GOD WILL PROVIDE REST FOR YOU WHO ARE BEING PERSECUTED AND ALSO FOR US WHEN THE LORD JESUS APPEARS FROM HEAVEN. HE WILL COME WITH HIS MIGHTY ANGELS, 8 IN FLAMING FIRE, BRINGING JUDGMENT ON THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW GOD AND ON THOSE WHO REFUSE TO OBEY

THE GOOD NEWS OF OUR LORD JESUS. 9 THEY WILL BE PUNISHED WITH ETERNAL DESTRUCTION, FOREVER SEPARATED FROM THE LORD AND FROM HIS GLORIOUS POWER. 10 WHEN HE COMES ON THAT DAY, HE WILL RECEIVE GLORY FROM HIS HOLY PEOPLE-- PRAISE FROM ALL WHO BELIEVE. AND THIS INCLUDES YOU, FOR YOU BELIEVED WHAT WE TOLD YOU ABOUT HIM. 11 SO WE KEEP ON PRAYING FOR YOU, ASKING OUR GOD TO ENABLE YOU TO LIVE A LIFE WORTHY OF HIS CALL. MAY HE GIVE YOU THE POWER TO ACCOMPLISH ALL THE GOOD THINGS YOUR FAITH PROMPTS YOU TO DO. 12 THEN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS WILL BE HONORED BECAUSE OF THE WAY YOU LIVE, AND YOU WILL BE HONORED ALONG WITH HIM. THIS IS ALL MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE GRACE OF OUR GOD AND LORD, JESUS CHRIST.