

(1) What is your greatest struggle with the book of Revelation? Let each person express their opinion. In the sermon I suggested that beyond all other problems we face in interpreting Revelation, the most pressing issue is the relentless display of divine wrath against an unbelieving world. Define God's "wrath". What does it mean? If we think the judgments in Revelation are extreme or beyond what is reasonable, what does this tell us about our view of both human sin and divine glory?

(2) On several occasions I've argued that what we read in Revelation is not reserved or applicable only for the end of the age but also applies to the entire course of church history from the first coming of Christ to the second coming. Discuss the analogy I used of multiple camera angles at a football game. Does this make sense?

(3) Take some time and discuss whether or not the imagery in the trumpet judgments should be interpreted in a physically literal sense or in a metaphorical or figurative way. To what, specifically, do these judgments point? What are they describing?

(4) The fifth trumpet appears to describe the release on earth of a massive demonic army that torments unbelievers. What does this tell you about how we view our world and the rampant sin that we see? How does this trumpet judgment affect your understanding of wickedness in the earth and the behavior of mankind?

(5) Of what significance is there in the fact that the "locusts/demons" are not permitted to harm or torment those who have the seal of God on their foreheads? Who are the latter people? What does this tell us about the spiritual security of God's people?