



## God's Patient, Long Suffering Discipline

By Johnny Caruso on November 2, 2022

### TODAY'S READING: Revelation 8

When my oldest daughter was a toddler I remember the first time I had to discipline her. I do not remember exactly what it was about, but I remember she did not listen to my commands of, "No, don't do that." That was not the last time that "No don't do that," and then harsher punishment happened in her life. I do remember when she became an adult (at whatever that age is?) all the things we did not know she and her younger sister did that they got away with as older children and teenagers. Truth be told, my girls did not get enough spankings. Similarly, in Revelation 8 the seals, trumpets and bowls are measured discipline from the Lord designed to wake up mankind to repentance. In Revelation 8 and 9, the trumpet judgments, we repeatedly see that the Lord is carrying out a detailed discipline plan. Each trumpet shows that God is holding back and just giving out enough as a wake up call to get people's attention in hopes they come to repentance. Only a third of the sea, and third of the ships, and third of the sun, a third of the moon and a third of the stars are destroyed. The locusts are given limits to their destructive force. They are told not to harm the grass of the earth or the plant or the tree (Revelation 9:3-4).

God has a specific plan designed to bring people on the earth to repentance. Sadly, after the trumpet judgments, many still do not repent of their demon and idol worship. But the trumpet judgments are not the end of God's discipline plan. There is more judgment to come in the Book of Revelation, judgment that is carefully planned out and designed for repentance.

I am thankful for my salvation and God's patience, loving-kindness, and His mercy. God is holding back. 2 Peter 3:9 says, *"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with us, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."*

**PRAYER:** Father, help us live lives that honor You no matter where we are, or what we are doing. Thank You that You have a plan and are always at work to bring those without Christ to repentance.

### TOMORROW'S READING: Revelation 9

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