

末世預言進階課程 Prophecy Course Level 2

第四課：最後七年：大災難 (2) – 七號

Lesson 5: The 7-year period: the Great Tribulation (2) – 7 trumpets

課前預備 Lesson Preparation

經文：啟示錄第 8-9 章

Passage: Rev 8-9

怎樣預備 How to study

1. 研讀上述經文，嘗試了解關於啟示錄第 8-9 章的重點。不要放過任何你認為有趣或不解的細節。寫下所有你發現的問題。
Study the above passages. Try to figure out the main points concerning Revelation 8-9. Don't let go any details you find interesting or confusing. Write down all the questions you have.
2. 閱讀並思想「一頁聖經研究」，看看它有否解答你寫下的問題。閱讀後，你可能有更多的問題，也把它們寫下來。
Read the One Page Bible Summary and ponder on it. See if it answers your questions written. Write down any additional questions you have after your reading.
3. 找出在下面「思考問題」的答案。若你認為有些問題太過困難，可以跳過不答。
Answer the Questions to Ponder below. If you find some of them too difficult, you can skip them.
4. 若你發現這段經文不易理解，或是下面的問題不容易回答，不要沮喪。你可以把你的問題帶到課堂時詢問，你也可以在課堂之前，以電郵詢問你的問題。
If you find that the passage/ questions are not easy, don't feel frustrated. You can ask your questions/ what you do not understanding during the lesson. You can also ask your questions via email before the lesson if you wish.

[Note to leaders: The following are the first draft of the answers. There may be some supplementary notes from Dr. Seto. If there are any amendments, we may send you the materials ASAP.]

思考問題 Questions to Ponder

1. 你認為神安排七號的目的為何？
What is the purpose of the seven trumpets?

They are to announce the direct execution of God's judgement, probably a response to the saints' prayers to God for retribution. (v3-5, cf. 6:10-11)

2. 號筒吹響前的半小時靜默，對你作為神的兒女有甚麼意義？對那些未接受基督為救主的人又有甚麼意義？

What does the ½ hour silence before the trumpets mean to you as a son of God and to people not yet committed to Christ as Savior?

It is the silence after the worship in Chapter 7 and before the great disasters that are to come. The disasters will be so great that all can do nothing but wait to be astonished. To unbelievers, they should be aware of the horrific judgement that will come on them and repent. To us, we should fear God and try our best to snatch some unbelievers out of the fire by evangelizing them. (We will be with Christ at that time and will be in worship to anticipate His great actions.)

3. 金香爐收集了在神面前的香和禱告，也把火倒在地上 (8:3-5)。這香爐作為服侍神的工具，我們能從它學到甚麼？

The censor collects incense and prayer before God and also pour fire onto the earth (8:3-5). What can we learn from this censor being a tool to serve God?

The tool that serves God can both serve God and others and, on the other hand, judge the unbelievers. The same tool used by God can be a blessing to ones but a disaster to others, depending on one's relationship with/ attitudes towards God.

4. 有哪四種自然力量造成了頭四號中那些災害？我們從這些災害能學到甚麼，來過我們今天的生活？

What are the 4 natural forces that inflict destruction in the first four trumpets? And what can we learn about God from these destructions when we spend our present days?

(1) The destructive forces of weather (v7), (2) the destructive forces of earthquake (v8), (3) the destructive forces of space, and (4) the damaging forces of darkness (v12). All these are under God's sovereign control, and can be used by Him for His own purposes. The destruction can be so great that men have no way to avoid it. Today we should be humble and prudent, knowing that we are only helpless creatures when facing natural disasters. And we should also fear God since He is mighty and just. We are always being protected by God from the ultimate of these forces.

5. 第五號吹響之後，會有鬼魔如蝗蟲從無底坑中上來。這怎樣影響你理解現今這個被撒但統治的世界的屬靈狀況？

Demons as locust will come out from the bottomless pit after blowing the 5th trumpet. How does this affect your understanding of the spiritual side of this world where Satan reigns and how will you live as a follower of Christ in this world?

Though the world is under the reign of Satan, today is not the worst of the time because demons are still restrained by God, not to be allowed to hurt people. However, we should acknowledge that (1) God is greater than demons and He loves us whilst demons want to bring us to hell together with them for eternal sufferings, (2) demons are waiting to come out to harm us. Stay guarded and always get prepared, putting on the full armour to fight against them.

6. 9 章 20 節表明就算在嚴重的災害後，仍有人不悔改。當你知道這些人必要受永恆的審判時，你對神有甚麼認識？
In 9:20, there are still people unwilling to repent even after such devastating damages. What do you learn about God in knowing that they will certainly face eternal judgement?

God is gracious and merciful as He gives sufficient time and chances for people to repent, not send them to eternal judgement at the time they rebel. However, if one does not repent, the judgement will be eternal.

7. 你認為聖經為何記載了這許多末世事情的細節？
Why are there so many details on what will happen in the end days in the Scripture?
- 1) To understand God and His ways to deal with us and the world;
 - 2) To observe signs that stimulate us to prepare well before meeting our Lord, knowing that He will be coming soon;
 - 3) To give us hope in the midst of adversities, knowing that God will finally make all things right in His time;
 - 4) To show to the world that His plan will go as He plans and people should repent;
 - 5) Any other reasonable answers
8. 今次查考預言，你對神和祂的計劃多了甚麼認識？這對你今天的生活有甚麼影響？寫下兩個你在今次查經想到的應用。
What do you know more about God and His Plan in this study? How would this affect your life? Write two applications of your Bible Study.

Any application in line with the truth in the Scripture

[Some suggestions:

God fully control the forces of nature and nothing can happen without first getting His permission (e.g. 9:14-15 – all prepared for the precise time). God is so gracious that even in the midst of judgments, He still try to give our warnings and call for repentance (8:13).

Applications:

1. Let God work out His ways in judging those who violate His glory – He is in full control. Just plead with Him and wait for God to work it out in judgment.
2. For those unbelievers who will suffer in pain and yet no death (v: This is God's way and do all I can to plead with them to repent.
3. Live and tell people around us about God's love and good news on salvation so that at the end if they go to hell, they won't blame you for not informing them such great gift of our Heavenly Father which has been, is and will be always available to those who are willing to listen and receive.]