

The Voice of Truth # 499

God Granting the Sinner's Desire

When the Lord Jesus Christ opened the seventh seal there at the first of the eighth chapter, there was silence in heaven about half an hour. We can see from our past studies of the first three trumpet judgments why there was silence. When the inhabitants of heaven looked upon that book after the seventh seal was broken by the Lord Jesus Christ and saw the judgments of a sin-avenging God that were about to fall upon a godless, Christless world, they stood in utter silence. It was the pause before the breaking of the storm. My friends, standing under the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, this morning, hidden in Christ, the covert from the tempest, the hiding place from the storm of God's wrath, I tremble, Yes, I do. I stand in fear, and tremble for the religious world, the political world, the educational and the social world that will fall under the judgment of the eternal, omnipotent God during the tribulation period.

As we've already seen, the first angel sounded his trumpet and one-third of all the trees and all the green grass of the earth were burned up. Then the second angel sounded his trumpet, and one-third of the sea was turned into blood, and one-third of all the sea creatures died, and one-third of all the ships were destroyed. When the third angel sounded his trumpet, a star named Wormwood, burning as it were a lamp, fell upon the earth. And one third of all the fresh waters of the earth was turned into intoxicating liquors, thus giving man what he wants. Now we come to the fourth angel sounding his trumpet of judgment. If you have your Bibles, turn to Revelation 8:12, and let's read, listen.

And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars, so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

We see here the sun, moon and stars, as under the sixth seal, now becoming the object of God's visitation. As a result of the previous trumpet judgments, the reign of terror has already begun. But this visitation of God's judgment upon the light bearers of the earth, adds greatly to that terror. The Lord Jesus spoke of it this time in Luke 21:25 in these words, **and there shall be signs in the sun and in the moon and in the stars.** And in Genesis 1:14, we find that God placed the sun and the moon and the stars and the heavens as light bearers to divide the day from the night and for signs and seasons and days and years, but primarily for signs. The sun is the greater light to rule the day and the moon is the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. Originally, God made them to give light upon the earth, but now judgment. In judgment, he uses them to create darkness.

Speaking of that terrible day, the Lord Jesus in Matthew 24 said, **immediately after the tribulation of those days, shall the sun be darkened and the moon shall not give her light and the stars shall fall from heaven and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.** The light of the sun, moon and stars being withheld at this time during the tribulation period is just a foretaste of the great and terrible day of the Lord God Almighty, of which Isaiah says, **behold, darkness and sorrow, and the light is darkened in the heavens thereof.** The prophet Amos foresaw these terrible days and said that God would cause the sun to go down at noon, and I'll darken the earth in the clear days. The weeping prophet Jeremiah said, and the heavens, and they had no light. Also, the prophet Ezekiel saw these terrible days and said, **I will cover the heaven and make the stars thereof dark. I will cover the sun with a cloud and the moon shall not give her light. All the bright lights of heaven will I darken over thee and set darkness upon thy land, saith the Lord God.** Then the prophet Joel said, **the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.**

Can you imagine, friends, this to a drunken world? The sun and the moon and the stars shall be darkened for one third of the day and one third of the night. What a judgment of the Lord God upon this old sin-cursed earth. Now that judgment's coming, my friend. I don't care what you say or think.

Another effect resulting from this judgment of darkness will be the mental distress of the Earth's inhabitants. Just to think with me for a minute, if this

darkness comes in the morning in this part of the Earth, there'll be no light until nearly noon. And if you shut off all light, then you have total darkness. This judgment corresponds to the plague that fell upon Egypt, when there was total darkness for three days and nights, a darkness that could be felt. The devil believes that and trembles. Old Pharaoh believed it, but you infidels won't believe it today. It was so dark that no one dared move. It was as if every individual had been blinded. So it will be in this judgment, one third of the day and one third of the night, that is eight hours out of every 24, will be total darkness. You listen to me, friend. You listen to me, lay down everything there, will you?

No one will be able to see. No one will be able to move about. Can you conceive of anything more appalling, more distressing? You see, my friend, we're just taking the book of Revelation at face value and letting it mean what it says and say what it means. The difficulty so many have with this book today is because they will not let it speak for itself. That's the reason you don't understand the scriptures.

Now the question arises in our mind, why does God darken the sun and the moon and the stars? The first and the foremost reason is that America, now you hold your seat there now, you listen. The foremost reason is that America, like the other nations of the world, are worshippers of the luminaries. This has been true of every nation from the earliest records of history. They've had their sun, moon, and star worshippers in one form or the other. Take for example the actors and actresses in the movie world. They're called stars. Now why? It's because the average one of them lives his or her life according to what they call the signs of the zodiac. Their whole lives are governed by the influence of the star they were born under. and they're constantly in search of mediums to read their fortunes and interpret their destinies, to advise them in each move they contemplate according to their so-called horoscope, or position of the stars or luminaries of the heavens. You didn't know that, did you? This is nothing but pagan worship. What is the result? Sin of fornication, idolatry, sodomy, homosexuality, the dedication of one's body on the altar of lust. Now that's what every pagan worshiper does. Listen, the city of New Orleans alone has thousands of fortune tellers, of all kinds and descriptions, who claim to have the power to read your future. This is called demon worship, and they're kept very busy all the time with

a trade that, and this may surprise you, includes many high religious figures. This is a generation that has no fellowship with the Lord God of heaven, and it's growing worse as we're coming to the end time. And like King Saul, through disobedience and love of this present world, they have turned away from the Lord God of Heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ, and are consulting the Witch of Endor in their perplexity about the future. Let me go a step further. Listen, we have it on good authority that the wives of high officials, members of Congress, and many government officials, consult astrologers, clairvoyants, fortune tellers, fakers, and such like. No wonder our country is in the condition it is. We have become a nation that's forgotten God and has turned to the worship of the luminaries. We're also told on good authority that some legislators and high officials make no move without consulting their favorite astrologer. These lawmakers seek advice from the spirits, the stars, before they make any move as legislators. I'll go a step further. The average church member today has turned to these astrologers, palmists, and miracle mongers for their contact with the spirit world. It's worldwide, it's everywhere. Listen to God, listen again. My friend, here's your answer; For the wholesale worldwide revolt against God and His Christ, against the Bible and its authority, with the resulting lawlessness, increased crime wave, political perplexity, and religious emptiness, seeking advice from the devil. What will it be during the tribulation period? The worship of the sun, moon, and stars is idolatry to the nth degree.

Satan is spoken of in the scriptures as an angel of light. Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light and as such He's leading millions on the earth to worship the luminaries. Satan works by imitation. He seeks to imitate Christ, the light of the world. In the realm of religious experience, Satan gives the worshipers a vision of light that lifts them into a state of a static rapture, which gives them a feeling of security and exaltation. This is something tangible they can look to or hold to, and it's real to them. Let me give you an illustration; when Constantine in 300 A.D. was converted to Christianity, history records that he saw a cross flung across the sun in a vision - Satan's sun worship coupled with a symbol of Christianity. What a trick of Satan to deceive poor, blinded humanity. The vast majority of what passes today for Christianity is nothing more than satanic worship, the basis of which is the sun worship. We might call it a mental

illumination, a satanic light, because back of sun worship or star worship is Satan imitating Christ as the light. Isn't that astounding?

Let me make another observation. The vast majority of our government officials today throughout the world are moon worshippers. How do you know? All the efforts on the part of man to reach the moon are prompted by the fact, consciously or unconsciously, they are moon worshippers. Turn with me to Genesis 1:28, and we find when God created man and placed him in the Garden of Eden, he blessed them and God said to them, **be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the fowl of the air, over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.** Nowhere has God ever given man the right to subdue any other planet. This present-day craze for reaching the moon is inspired by Satan and it is utter rebellion against the Word of God, against the Lord Jesus Christ, and it is leading especially our own nation into utter bankruptcy at this present hour. Read Isaiah 14:12-15. Let me remind you that when Nimrod rebelled against the worship of Jehovah and set up his idol worship, which was the worship of the sun, he conceived the idea of building the tower unto the sun in a rebellion against the known word of God. God came down and confused their language, thus wrecking all their plans, and setting aside all their counsel. The tower of Babel was a temple built to the sun god. And we fools today, do you, not me, celebrate Christmas as the birthday of Christ. That's a misnomer. Every time you celebrate Christmas, you celebrate the birthday of the sun god by Nimrod. God help us in this hour.

Let me remind you that here in this fourth trumpet judgment, we find God's answer to all the worshipers of the sun, moon, and stars of this universe when he hangs a curtain of darkness around this earth for eight hours a day, shutting out all light of the luminaries and shrouding the earth with total darkness one third of each day. When he did that under the rod of Moses for three days and nights, the darkness in Egypt was so intense, it could be felt. Men had to sit down. No artificial light could penetrate it. Surely during the tribulation period, for eight hours out of every 24, darkness will be so intense, so dense, that no artificial light will be able to penetrate it. All the factories, all farming, all shipping, everything will be at a standstill. Can you imagine that, my friend? The whole earth at a standstill for eight hours a day? All the wheels of industry will be stopped, all

farming will cease, all traffic on the highways stopped, all trains halted, all planes grounded. And where then are your sun worshippers and stargazers, and moon prognosticators going to be? Where are they going to be? God has shut out your gods, hasn't he? All of this is God breaking the dominion of sin over the hearts of individuals and showing the inhabitants of the earth that he is God and beside him there is none other.

Let's look at this judgment from another angle. I've often been asked the question, does God hear the prayer of sinners? Does he give men what they want, and what they ask for? In our last study we saw man's cry today is for liquor and dope, and for the lust of the flesh, and we saw that God will hear and answer that request of the unsaved human race during the tribulation by turning one third of all fresh water of the earth into intoxicating liquor and wine of gall. Another thing man longs for is darkness. **Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.** Yes, the sinner waits for the darkness of the night. The criminal hides under the cloak of night to give vent to the manifestation of wickedness, brutality, and sadism of his wicked heart. Yes, it's under the shade of night that the criminal makes his attack and the rapist does his dirty work. The cry everywhere today is, from the unsaved heart is, more time for leisure, pleasure, and the opportunity to feed upon the corruption of his heart and mind. This is the reason folks are clamoring everywhere for shorter work periods, not realizing that labor is a blessing. My old dad used to say, an idle mind is the devil's workshop. I don't mean that men and women should be made slaves, but work to the limit of man's ability is one of the greatest blessings that God can bestow upon humanity. So, God is going to answer that prayer for darkness and give men eight hours out of every 24 of intense darkness, darkness in which they won't be able to work. Darkness! They won't be able to indulge their lust. They won't be able to communicate with each other. Darkness so intense that multitudes will lose their minds. Darkness that will cause them to go insane and turn into raving maniacs. As a rule, it is only a true child of God, one who knows the Lord Jesus Christ experimentally, who is able to endure such sufferings. Can you imagine such judgment? One third of the world drunk as a result of the third trumpet judgment. And now under this fourth terrific trumpet judgment of a sin-avenging God upon a Christless, godless world, being taken over by Satan, the whole earth at a complete standstill. Eight hours out of every 24, because it's clothed with a

shroud of thick darkness. What screaming and crying and groaning of a demon-possessed race. It is a judgment of darkness that even the demons can't stand, but they must stand it. This will be a foretaste of the darkness of the pit of hell, that outer darkness in which every lost soul must spend eternity. That outer darkness - there'll be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Christ is the light of the world. Oh, that men would turn to him now and cry for mercy, because then you may cry, but there'll be no more mercy. It'll be judgment without mercy. But instead of crying for mercy, you laugh at me, you make fun of me and others who are preaching God's word saying, "*ah, no such judgments as you're talking about will ever come upon this old earth*". So old Noah was made fun of, but the judgment of the flood came. Oh, my friend, sin has a voice that is heard in heaven. Although God's sentence against an evil work may not be executed speedily, it shall be executed. The Jezebels may flourish in their iniquity for many a year, cruel rulers like Ahab may put over their damnable plots, but finally the dogs of Jezreel will gnaw Jezebel's bones, and the judgment of God will surely fall upon the Ahabs. Yes they will. God's judgment's gonna fall. God's judgment's gonna fall. Fall upon the wicked rulers of this world.

Long was the Antediluvian world, left in its sin and crimes, while they jeered at Noah building the ark, and flung their defiance in the face of God. But just as surely as God's on the throne, the floods came and swept them away. And just as surely as God's on the throne today, this old earth will break down beneath the feet of impenitent sinners and their lifeless bodies will be dashed upon each other amid the waves of fiery judgment of a holy God. My friend, you can't reject Christ. You can't turn down God's Word and escape the judgments of God. You can't do it. Remember one thing, friend, the trampled law of God will assert its rightful honor, and the Lord Jesus Christ will not endure the smiting taunts and the wrongs of Pilate's hall forever. When once these judgment trumpets sound forth their call, the vibrations will run throughout the entire universe and everything that has been created for the blessing of humanity shall be turned into a source of disaster to them who know not God and will not obey the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is Christ, or judgment. It is Christ, or hell. Which will it be? Make your choice. My friend, there's mercy now, but there's coming a day of judgment when there will be no mercy. And then we hear it once, at the close of this judgment, an angel, flying through the heavens crying, woe! Woe! Woe! For the other three

judgments that's coming, the other three angels that's going to blow their trumpet; trumpets of judgment. And then read the 9th and 10th and 11th chapters of Revelation before we get to it and see, my friend, the vivid picture of what it means to go under the judgment of a sin-avenging God, when there'll be a literal hell here on earth. That ninth chapter makes my blood chill as I read it, as I meditate upon it in preparation for the next Sunday's message.

Yes, there is, there is mercy now. There is mercy now. Listen, will you? My friend, there's mercy now. Will you turn, while there's mercy? God pronounces doom now, and before this judgment falls he's giving you a chance, now, to be saved. My friend, it's judgment or mercy. It's Christ or hell, which will it be? You have said, I will not have Christ Jesus to rule over me. There's only one thing left for you, and that's an eternal hell. The Bible teaches it, I know it. My friend, when I was under Holy Spirit conviction, I knew there was a hell. I know there's a hell now. And every believer knows there's a hell. Every individual under Holy Spirit conviction knows there's a hell. Which will it be? Are you going to flaunt yourself in the face of a sin avenging God? Don't do it.