

# Revelation 8:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

## Analysis

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**And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three a...** This verse from Revelation's vision of seventh seal and first four trumpets - escalating judgments, angelic ministry employs apocalyptic imagery rich with Old Testament allusions and symbolic meaning. The Greek text uses vivid apocalyptic language characteristic of Jewish prophetic literature, drawing heavily from Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Zechariah.

The symbolism must be interpreted within its first-century context while recognizing timeless spiritual realities. The imagery would resonate powerfully with persecuted believers facing Roman imperial cult worship, providing hope that despite present suffering, Christ reigns sovereign and will consummate His kingdom. The apocalyptic genre uses symbolic numbers (seven, twelve, 144,000), colors, beasts, and cosmic imagery to convey theological truth rather than photographic descriptions.

Christologically, Revelation consistently exalts Jesus as the victorious Lamb, the faithful witness, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Every vision ultimately points to Christ's supremacy, His finished redemptive work, and His certain return to judge the living and dead and establish the new creation.

## Historical Context

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John received this revelation circa AD 95 during Domitian's persecution, exiled on Patmos for his testimony. The seven churches of Asia Minor faced increasing pressure to participate in emperor worship and pagan religious practices. Refusal meant economic hardship, social ostracism, and potential martyrdom. Understanding this context illuminates Revelation's encouragement to faithful endurance.

The apocalyptic genre was familiar to first-century Jewish and Christian readers. Rather than newspaper-style predictions, apocalyptic literature uses symbolic imagery to reveal spiritual realities behind earthly events, encourage the faithful, warn the unfaithful, and assert God's ultimate sovereignty over history. Parallels with Daniel, Ezekiel, and intertestamental apocalyptic writings would help original readers decode the symbols.

Rome's imperial cult demanded worship of Caesar as divine, placing Christians in impossible situations—compromise their faith or face persecution. Revelation identifies Rome as "Babylon" and assures believers that despite appearances, the Lamb conquered through His death and resurrection, and all earthly kingdoms will submit to His reign.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does Revelation 8:13 reveal God's character, particularly His sovereignty, holiness, and justice?
2. What specific encouragement or warning does this verse offer for maintaining faithful Christian witness amid cultural pressure?

3. How does this passage point to Christ's victory and the hope of new creation, and how should that shape your present priorities?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	εἶδον	καὶ	ἤκουσα	ἐνὸς	ἀγγέλων	πετωμένου	ἐν
<b>And</b>	<b>I beheld</b>	<b>And</b>	<b>heard</b>	<b>an</b>	<b>angel</b>	<b>flying</b>	<b>through</b>
G2532	G1492	G2532	G191	G1520	G32	G4072	G1722
μεσουρανῆματι	λέγοντος	φωνῶν	μεγάλη	οὐαὶ	οὐαὶ	οὐαὶ	
<b>the midst of heaven</b>	<b>saying</b>	<b>voice</b>	<b>with a loud</b>	<b>Woe</b>	<b>Woe</b>	<b>Woe</b>	
G3321	G3004	G5456	G3173	G3759	G3759	G3759	
τῶν	κατοικοῦσιν	ἐπὶ	τῶν	γῆς	ἐκ	τῶν	λοιπῶν
<b>which</b>	<b>to the inhabitants</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>the earth</b>	<b>by reason of</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>the other</b>
G3588	G2730	G1909	G3588	G1093	G1537	G3588	G3062
φωνῶν	τῶν	σάλπιγγος	τῶν	τριῶν	ἀγγέλων	τῶν	
<b>voice</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>of the trumpet</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>of the three</b>	<b>angel</b>	<b>which</b>	
G5456	G3588	G4536	G3588	G5140	G32	G3588	
μελλόντων	σαλπίζειν						
<b>are yet</b>	<b>to sound</b>						
G3195	G4537						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 11:14** (Parallel theme): The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

**Revelation 9:12** (Parallel theme): One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

**Revelation 14:6** (Parallel theme): And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

**Revelation 19:17** (Parallel theme): And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

**Revelation 9:1** (Parallel theme): And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

**Ezekiel 2:10** (Parallel theme): And he spread it before me; and it was written within and without: and there was written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe.

**Hebrews 1:14** (Parallel theme): Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

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