

The 7<sup>th</sup> Seal reveals the 7 Trumpets!

Revelation 8:1-12

Today, Sunday, has been called The Lord's Day. In the Old Testament the prophets speak of the Day of the Lord. They were not speaking of Sunday's. The prophets speak of this approaching day with words of warning and pleas to be ready.

Isaiah 13:6, "Wail, for the day of the Lord is near!"

In the New Testament it is called a "day of wrath" and later in Revelation John calls it "the great day of God almighty." Today is that day! With the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal the day of the Lord begins.

In our outline we move to letter:

h. The 7<sup>th</sup> Seal: The 7 Trumpet Judgements Revelation 8:1-11:19

(i) The 7<sup>th</sup> Seal 8:1-5

The 7<sup>th</sup> seal is the 7 trumpet judgements. Later when we get to the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, we will see that it is the 7 bowl judgements.

Revelation 8:1, "When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour."

All we have seen to this point in heaven is singing and praise and worship and prayers. 100 million singing angels. A great multitude declaring praise. The martyrs are calling out for justice. The 24 elders and the 4 living creatures falling down in worship. Heaven, to this point, is not quite!

Now, silence, stunned silence.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and final seal is broken and heaven is silent for 30 minutes. If we were to be silent right now for 30 seconds you and I would all begin feeling uneasy, anxious.

The seal is broken and silence. The great and terrible day of the Lord has just begun. And remember, up to this point in the seal judgements 2.7 Billion people have died.

Revelation 8:2-5, "And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

3 Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to

offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. 4 The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand. 5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake."

The trumpets are revealed, an angel throws a censer to earth. There is thunder & lightning and an earthquake. Wait a minute, the 1<sup>st</sup> trumpet hasn't even been blown yet and we get the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 4 great earthquakes. This is starting out pretty bad and the trumpet judgements haven't even started yet.

So, the silence is broken in almost a ceremony style. 7 angels are each given a trumpet. An 8<sup>th</sup> angel brings the censer forward which is the prayers of the God's people and places it on the altar. The smoke and incense rises up to God. The ceremony closes with the 8<sup>th</sup> angel filling the censer with coals and throwing it upon the earth. Is this an answer to the prayers of the saints?

There was a reason for the silence! What is beginning to take place is horrible for the earth. The wrath that

has been held back is beginning to pour out on the earth.

What is about to happen to the earth in the next 4 judgements is an ecological disaster the world has never seen. The irony of this judgement upon the earth can be seen in how those who worship "mother earth" and seek its preservation by placing earth over God have missed the priority of God and in that failure assure the complete destruction of earth. Do you see the irony?

The first 3 trumpet judgements wreak havoc with earth and the 4<sup>th</sup> with the sky.

(ii) 1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet Judgement 8:6-7

Revelations 8:6-7, "Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.

7 The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up."

**Sound the trumpet!**

The sound of the trumpet i"Scripture has always been associated with the call to repentance. So, even in these judgements God is demonstrating His mercy in the call to repentance that continues to be offered.

The pt trumpet brings hail & fire mixed with blood. John MacArthur in his commentary on Revelation speculates that the fire may be a result of the seismic activity associated with the earthquake resulting in lava ejections which in turn look like blood.

No matter what it is the result is 1/3 of the earth being burnt, 1/3 of trees and all green grass being burnt. It's important to notice that it is the green grass that is burnt because later in Revelation we will see more grass being burnt. Due to seasons, there are parts of the world where grass is dormant when other areas the grass is green.

(iii) 2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet Judgement 8:8-9

Revelation 8:8-9, "The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, 9 a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed."

So, just as the pt trumpet affected 1/3 of the land the 2<sup>nd</sup> trumpet effects 1/3 of the sea.

Notice John's words here, "something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea." It's like a mountain and all ablaze. What would you call something like a mountain, all ablaze that is thrown into the sea? Does this sound like a meteor to you?

I doubt John could quite comprehend what he was seeing. He didn't have a streaming service where he could have watched "Deep Impact" or "Armageddon" in screaming technicolor. After seeing those movies, I think we might be able to comprehend this disaster a little better than John. But this isn't a disaster movie, this is the **2<sup>nd</sup>trumpet.j +.**

Currently there are about 50,000 ships on the oceans. That means that about 17,000 ships would be destroyed today if it happened now.

But this isn't the only damage done by this object. The resulting tsunamis will destroy any costal city in its path.

(iv) 3<sup>rd</sup> Trumpet Judgement 8:10-11

Revelation 8:10-11, "The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water- 11the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter."

The thing like a mountain that was thrown into the sea affected 1/3 of the world's oceans because it will hit one of the oceans and its effects will be there. Now we see a great star, blazing. We know this isn't a star, but more likely another meteor.

This object is given the name "wormwood", and this word only appears once in the New Testament. But the word appears 8 times in the Old Testament and refers to a shrub whose leaves are used to make a liqueur so toxic it is banned in many countries. It is always associated with bitterness, poison and death.

The object affects the rivers and springs on 1/3 of the earth. If this is a meteor it is speculated that it breaks up as it enters our atmosphere, and its particles end up in rivers and springs in some part of the world.

It's an interesting fact that the United States hosts more than 1/2 of the waterways in the entire world. Could we be the target of wormwood?

These first 3 trumpet judgements affects the natural world we know. The next judgement affects the sky!

(v) 4<sup>th</sup> Trumpet Judgement 8:12

Revelation 8:12, "The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night."

OK, this one is so weird I don't even have an idea what could cause an 8 hour eclipse every day. That said, we might not think of this as being too devastating. What can darkness do? Well, think about it. Shorter days for us in Minnesota means colder days. If the entire earth has 1/3 less sunlight how cold will it get everywhere? How will it affect crops? How about the rainforests?

How long will it last? We know the cold won't last long as we will see later in Revelation the disastrous effects of heat. If it went dark for 4 hours, just 4 hours today, how would you feel? Total darkness for

8 hours per day, every day, would that get your attention?

We don't know how many will die during these first 4 trumpet judgements. Some might even say at this point that they would rather die than continue living in this mess, but that attitude is coming.

Next week we will pick up at verse 13, but let me read it now:

Revelation 8:13, "As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"

The next 3 trumpet judgements are known as the 3 woes.

Why is this book of Scripture so important? Why is a blessing attached to reading it?

We love to emphasize the love of God and we should of course, but His love doesn't negate His justice. It doesn't negate His holiness. And it certainly doesn't diminish the wrath He feels when humanity dismisses the work of His Son and the power of His Holy Spirit.

Humanity, from the very beginning, has rejected God and His holy standard. Despite all He has done to build a bridge back to Himself much of humanity will reject Him every step of the way.

This isn't ok, they may be good people, but being good doesn't save them. Being good doesn't get you into heaven. Only accepting Jesus as personal savior can do that. Just like Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3, you must be born again, born of the Spirit.

If you don't know Jesus as savior, will you trust Him today?

Do you know someone that needs Jesus? If you know someone, would you stand in testimony and pray with me for them?