

Study Notes – Revelation 8

The 7th Seal and 7 Trumpets

“The first 4 Trumpets all deal directly with the earth. They do not symbolize political, social, or economic judgement, those types of judgements come later in Revelation. Nor do they describe any judgement that has ever happened in history in some locale or region. The trumpet judgements are actual, literal, physical events that will affect the whole earth.” John MacArthur

Rev 8.1 ¹ Now when the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

- ✓ When - **Now that the 144,000 servants of God are sealed for protection, Yeshua can open the 7th Seal.** The 7th Seal contains the 7 trumpet judgements, and the 7th trumpet contains the 7 bowls of judgement.
- ✓ silence in heaven – In the Jewish Temple musical instruments and singing were heard during the whole time of the offering of sacrifices which formed the first part of the service. However, at the offering of incense, solemn silence was kept.
 - What caused every mouth in Heaven to be silent?
 - Scripture itself does not specify the reason but there are some possibilities:
 - A sign of deep respect and awe in the presence of the Judge of all the earth. Earthly courtrooms demand silence when a judge is presiding. Zep 1:7, Hab 2:20
 - Somber reflection on what has just been revealed as the scroll with the breaking of the 7th seal is now fully unrolled revealing dreadful judgements to come upon the earth. Job 40:4
 - The severity and foreboding of the actions of Yeshua is about to begin. These judgements are more terrible than anything the world will have ever seen. Mark 13:19-20, Zech 2:13
 - With the opening of the 7th Seal comes a climax in “the Day of the Lord”. Evil has had its’ day, now the Lord will have His. Everyone understands what that means.

8.2 ² Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

- ✓ seven angels – a separate group.
 - Within the pages of the Holy Spirit inspired scripture, God has chosen to reveal the names of the 3 most powerful Angels: Lucifer (Isa 14:12), Gabriel (Dan 8:16, 9:21, Luke 1:19, and Michael (Dan 10:13, 12:1, Jude 1:9, Rev 12:7)
 - In 1 Enoch 20:2-8, seven angels who stand before the Throne of God are named: Uriel, Raphael, Raguel, Michael, Saraqael, Gabriel and Remiel.
 - Angels have different rankings and distinction. Col 1:16, Dan 10:13, 1 Th 4:6, Jude 1:9, Job 1:6, Matt 18:10.
- ✓ who stand before God – These are a special high-ranking group of Angels, loyal servants of God. They stand permanently before God waiting for His command – Heaven’s elite.
- ✓ seven trumpets were given to them – none of these trumpets is used to call the “church” home in the rapture. **These are judgement trumpets** the 7 Angels will blow one after the other.
 - Zephaniah associated trumpets sounding an alarm with the Day of the Lord. Zep 1:14-18
 - The 7 trumpets which ultimately lead to the fall of the city of Babylon. (Rev 18) are typified by the 7 ram’s horns used to overthrow Jericho in the days of Joshua. (Jos 6:4-5)

- ✓ seven trumpets were given to them (continued)
 - The Trumpet Judgements are divided into 2 groups:
 - Trumpets 1 – 4 affect the natural systems of the earth (Rev 8:7-12) and the last 3 are the “woes”.
 - Trumpets 5-7 separated from the first 4 trumpets by the voice of an Eagle are going to affect humanity. Rev 9:1-13, 11:15-18

8.3 ³ Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden incense burner. He was given much incense to offer up along with the prayers of all the kedoshim upon the golden altar before the throne.

- ✓ Another angel came – allos: another of the same kind (of angel), as like 8.2
 - Stood at the golden alter (in Heaven) by the throne of God.
 - Holding a golden incense burner
 - He was given much incense to offer upon the alter.
 - Along with the prayers of the kedoshim.

Note: The writer of Hebrews tells us that the earthly temple was a model / shadow of the temple in Heaven. Heb 9:11, 24.

- ✓ at the altar – There are two alters in the temple.
 - A large alter of burnt offering (sacrifice) outside the Holy Place.
 - A smaller alter of incense within the Holy Place near the Holy of Holies.
 - **The angel offered incense on the Alter of the Incense.**
- ✓ offer up along with the prayers of all the kedoshim – to God.
 - On the day of atonement, Aaron was instructed to take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the alter and put the incense on the fire which would form a cloud that would cover the Mercy Seat where the Lord’s presence was.
 - **In the Millennial Kingdom, incense will be offered to God worldwide** (Mal 1:11).
 - When He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense—which are the prayers of the kedoshim. Rev 5:8
 - The Prayers and God’s wrath (judgement) are connected. It is upon the alter of incense in the heavenly temple that the prayers are offered. Luke 1:11, Exo 30:1, Psa 141:2, 2 Chr 30:27, Acts 10:4

8.5 ⁵ Then the angel took the incense burner and filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there were clashes of thunder and rumblings and flashes of lightning and earthquakes.

- ✓ Then the angel took the incense burner and filled it with fire – the same angle as in verse 4.
 - Fire is a judgement. Matt 3:11-12, Luke 12:49, Eze 10:2
- ✓ threw it – the fire to the earth (judgement) – worldwide.
 - Clashes of Thunder
 - Rumblings
 - Lightning
 - Earthquakes

- ✓ **There is a direct cause & effect (relationship) between the prayers of the Kedoshim mingled in the censor and the impending judgement on the earth.**

8.6 ⁶ Then the seven angels holding the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.

- ✓ Then the seven angels holding the seven trumpets – verse 2
 - **The judgements will be more severe than the judgements of the Seals** and they prepare themselves.
 - In the Bible trumpets are used as the symbol for God’s intervention: an alarm, a fanfare to announce royalty, **a summons to battle – this is the kind of Trumpet they will blow.**
Exo 19:16,19, Isa 27:13, Joel 2:1, Zeph 1:16, Zec 9:14, Matt 24:31, 1 Cor 15: 52-53, 1 Th 4:16

8.7 ⁷ **The first trumpeted**, and there was hail and fire mixed with blood, and they were thrown upon the earth. A third of the earth burned up, a third of the trees burned up, and all the green grass burned up.

- ✓ Hail – chalaza: to let loose, let fall. Is always used as an instrument of divine judgement.
 - Hail sent by God in judgement is often of great size causing severe damage. Jos 10:11, Eze 13:11 Hag 2:17, Rev 16:21
 - Hail is taken from God’s treasury of hail – reserved for the day of battle and war. Job 38:22
 - The 7th plague God sent upon Egyptians on behalf of Israel was Hail & Fire mingled with the hail. Ex 9:22-23
- ✓ Fire – pur: fiery fire; of the judgements of God at the close of the “present age” previous to the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom.
 - The earth dwellers get their first taste of God’s judgement fire. Matt 3:12
- ✓ mixed with blood – aima: literally blood, as in the Egyptian judgements.
- ✓ they were thrown – ballo: to throw in various applications more or less violent or intense. The perfect tense indicates an inseparable mix was thrown. Joel 2:30
- ✓ A third – tritos: a third part, partial. Note: 100% comes with the bowls judgements.
- ✓ Burned – kata kaio: to burn down to the ground, which is consume wholly.
- ✓ Trees – dendron: literally a tree.
 - This judgement is literal, just as was the similar judgements in Egypt (Ps 105: 32-33). This would include fruit bearing trees contributing to the ongoing famine from the 3rd seal – Black Horse (Rev 6: 5-6) where food is in short supply.
- ✓ all the green grass – chloros: describes the color, pale, green of the horse of the 4th seal (Rev 6:8); chortos: pasture, herbage, grass, hay, stalks of grain in their early grass like stage of growth.
 - **This judgement brings environmental destruction, destroys grain production, and contributes to famine of humans & animals.** Joel 1: 15-20
 - Remember when grass is burned in a fire the roots remaining will regrow grass blades. Grass reappears in Rev 9:4.
 - Grass in some parts of the world is not green year around, but seasonal and in dormancy.

8.8 ⁸ The **second angel trumpeted**, and something like a huge mountain ablaze with fire was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood,

- ✓ something like a huge mountain – not a mountain, probably a large asteroid or meteor burning upon entry into earth’s atmosphere – having impact upon the earth’s sea when it smashes into it.
 - Scripture doesn’t say who threw the mountain.
- ✓ into the sea – Thalassa: literally the sea.
- ✓ A third of the sea turned into blood – haima: literally blood
 - When Aaron in Egypt extended his rod, all the waters became blood – a literal judgement. Exo 7:19, Psa 78:44

8.9 ⁹ a third of the creatures living in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

- ✓ 1/3 of the creatures in the sea died – ktisma: created thing, creature. Apothnesko: to die off, be dead, perish, slain.
- ✓ a third of the ships were destroyed – ploion: a vessel, ship.
 - When Isaiah prophesied of this time he mentioned that ships would be among those things which God destroyed as He brought down man's pride. Isa 2:16
 - Huge tsunamis will probably be what God uses to destroy the ships on the ocean and swamping seaports. Disrupting commerce and transportation will contribute to economic chaos.

8.10 ¹⁰ The third angel trumpeted, and a great star fell from the heavens, burning like a torch. It fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.

- ✓ a great star – aster: literally a star, meteor, asteroid, comet.
- ✓ from the heavens – Ouranos: the sky, air, heaven, a natural phenomenon.
- ✓ burning like a torch – lampas: which was used in ancient times to describe meteors and comets.
- ✓ a third of the rivers – potamus: fresh (drinkable) running water, stream, river.
- ✓ springs of water – pegas: fountain, well, supply of water.
 - Humans depend on life giving water. Without it we perish. There is an intentional contrast between “Earth Dwellers” who are dependent upon these water supplies and those in the previous chapter coming out of the Great Tribulation who are led by the Lamb to the living fountains (pegas) of waters, who will never thirst again.
 - **God is destroying the sources of drinking water to demonstrate the dependence of all life upon Him.**

8.11 ¹¹ Now the name of the star is Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the waters that were made bitter.

- ✓ the name of the star is Wormwood – apsinthos: “Artemisia Absinthium” derived from absinthe; a bitter, dark green oil made from certain strong-smelling plants with white or yellow flowers, alcoholic in effect called wormwood from its use as a medicine to kill intestinal worms. *Analytical Lexicon of Greek New Testament*



In the Old Testament it is (la anah) a very unpleasant substance to consume which may make one sick, either a root herb, leafy plant oil, or liver-bile, wormwood, i.e. a dark green bitter oil used in absinthe. *Dictionary of Biblical Language with Semantic Domains: Hebrew (Old Testament)*.

- ✚ Wormwood appears 8 times in the Old Testament, each time associated with bitterness, poison and death. It will make the waters undrinkable, poisonous.
- ✚ Humans can only survive a few days without water. The inhabitants of the affected areas will be so desperately thirsty they will drink the poisoned water, causing the death of thousands, maybe millions of people. Deut 29:17-18, Pro 5:4, Lam 3:15, 19, Psa 69:21, Matt 27:34
- ✚ God describes idolatry as “a root bearing bitterness of wormwood.” (Deut 29:27) Idolatry is a prevalent sin of the Earth Dwellers. (Rev 9:20, 13:15-16) So God judges their bitterness of wormwood by giving them wormwood to drink. This is the same judgement God gave Israel when she rejected Him and pursued false gods. Jer 8:14, 9:14-16, 23:15
- ✓ many people died – wormwood is poisonous.

Note: So far; destruction of 1/3 of trees, sea, living creatures in the sea, ships, poisoned drinking water and all the green grasses.

8.12 ¹²The fourth angel trumpeted, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day would not shine, as well as a third of the night.

- ✓ a third of the sun – helios: means of natural light and heat.
- ✓ Moon – selene: brightness, yareach (heb): wandering & lebanah: white
- ✓ Stars – aster: a star

Note: Isaiah prophesied the darkening of all three of these sources of light during “the Day of the Lord”. Isa 13:9-10

- ✓ a third of them were darkened – skotizo: to obscure, to deprive of light.
- ✓ A third of the day
 - The Sun became dark as sackcloth as a result of the opening of the 6th Seal judgement.
- ✓ A third of the night

Note: The implication here is a possible eclipse or natural phenomenon where all light from the Sun, Moon & Stars is blocked for 1/3 of the time. This is a partial judgement when the Bowls are dumped out it will be 100% of God's wrath. The first 4 judgements involve the earth.

8.13 ¹³Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying out with a loud voice as it flew high in the sky, saying, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpets the three angels are about to sound!"

- ✓ I heard an eagle – an eagle or vulture. There are 8 species in Israel.
 - Aetos: the eagle face of one of the Living Creatures.
 - Some texts say angel instead of eagle.
 - God has given animals the ability to speak. Gen 3:1-5, Num 22:28-30
- ✓ flew high in the sky – describe the atmospheric heavens where birds fly. Rev 19:17
- ✓ "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth – the 3 woes – the last 3 trumpets
 - Woe – ouai: grief, anguish, affliction, great calamity.
 - Katoikountas: Earth Dwellers, inhabitants
 - remaining blasts of the trumpets the three angels are about to sound! – The next horrific demonic judgements unleashed on mankind! Heb 3:8-13

Heb 3:12-13 ¹² Take care, brothers and sisters, that none of you has an evil heart of unbelief that falls away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another day by day—as long as it is called "Today"—so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.