

## Revelation 8

This chapter opens with the opening of the final seal, i.e., the Seventh Seal. There had been an interlude between the opening of the Sixth and Seventh seal. It is certainly possible that this interlude was allowed in order to give the inhabitants of the earth to repent although this is nowhere explicitly stated.

It would appear that the first four judgments send a clear message that God has power over nature and all its elements. God will use nature as a means to punish humanity for their sins.

Chapter Eight opens with the opening of the Seventh Seal and its mysterious silence.

<sup>1</sup>And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

“Silence in heaven about...half an hour.”

“Signifies a very brief period of time.” Robbins, p. 117

Robbins states that this brief period of time was to assure the saints that their prayers would be heard and that they could “participate in God’s purposes and actions.”

In ancient Hebrew there is an idiom of an hour that meant a period of time, thus the half hour would represent a very brief period of time.

<sup>2</sup>And I saw the seven angels, which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets

“Seven angels” = Complete messenger force of God, i.e., all the angelic hosts were represented in their participation of the sounding of God’s judgments.

“Seven trumpets” = symbolized the complete “truth of divine visitation.” –ibid.  
p. 119

. <sup>3</sup>And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

“Another angel came and stood before the altar...”

Here we have another angel. No identity is given to the angel but the function that the angel appears to be carrying out is that of a priestly nature. As Robbins points out, the point of all this is to highlight the importance of the saints prayers, not necessarily the angel itself.

<sup>4</sup>And the smoke of the incense, *which came* with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel’s hand.

This is an image that God will hear and receive the prayers of his saints.

<sup>5</sup>And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast *it* into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

“And cast it into the earth...”

The silence that had been is now broken by the resumption of God’s divine judgment. The voices (sounds), thunderings, etc., are images of God’s judgment.

<sup>6</sup>And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

Note that the angels prepared to blow. Again, it would appear that before the resumption of divine judgment upon humanity that people are given the opportunity to repent. Even after each trumpet is blown, there would appear to be the same opportunity. But as the Scripture states: “Men love darkness rather than the Light for their deeds were evil.”

<sup>7</sup>The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

The First angel sounds = 1/3 of all trees is destroyed and all grass.

The 1/3 represents God’s mercy, as well as, his judgment upon sin. God desires that all men repent everywhere. Thus while God is clearly pouring out His judgment upon humanities sin and rebellion, He yet leaves room for them to repent.

“Hail and fire” are symbols of God’s judgment. (Cf. Exodus 9:13-25; Job 38:22-23; Ps. 11:6; Ezek. 38:22)

Think about the economic effect this will have upon commerce. Food shortages will be the order of the day and think about the outrageous prices for those who can afford to pay for produce and fruit.

<sup>8</sup>And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; <sup>9</sup>And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

The Second Angel sounds = 1/3 Ocean life and ships destroyed. 1/3 of the Oceans water turned to blood.

Think about the impact this will have upon commercial fishermen, the environment, etc. It would appear that this “great mountain” will most likely be an asteroid or large meteor. It will obviously impact somewhere in one of the world’s oceans. The impact will be so catastrophic that it will undoubtedly result in tsunamis (Giant Tidal Waves). These will doubtlessly overwhelm 1/3 of the ocean going ships.

<sup>10</sup>And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; <sup>11</sup>And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

The Third Angel sounds = 1/3 of the world’s fresh water supplies will be destroyed.

The star that fell from heaven was called “Wormwood.” There are several references to wormwood in the O.T. Namely, Duet. 29:18; Prov. 5:4; Jer. 9:15;23:15; Lam 3:15 and Amos 5:7; 6:12. “In three of those uses, wormwood is connected with poisoned water.” (MacArthur, Rev. 1-11, p. 249). There is actually a plant called wormwood. It is pungent.

The burning as it were a lamp most likely means that it was a comet or meteorite that burned up in the atmosphere and depositing poisonous residue upon 1/3 of the fresh water supply.

“Star” (Grk. *Aster*) can mean any celestial body other than the sun or moon.

<sup>12</sup>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.

The Fourth Angel sounds = 1/3 of the celestial bodies will be destroyed or effected. That is, the Sun, Moon and stars.

Daylight will be shortened by 1/3. Moon light likewise, as well as, the stars.

Think about the effects this would have on growing crops, the oceans tides, etc.

Cf. Isa. 13:9-10; Ezek 32:7-8; Joel 2:10,31, 3:15; Amos 8:9; Luke 21:25

<sup>13</sup>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!

Notice that there is another interlude between the fourth angel blowing his trumpet and the remaining three trumpets.

After these first four judgments there is an angel (eagle) that soars above the earth announcing to all its inhabitants that there are more judgments coming.

MacArthur states that the announcement of three woes represents the remaining three trumpet judgments that are yet to be unleashed. Just when people think it can't get any worse, it will.

Dr. Bill R. Scott, pastor  
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