

Revelation 8 – The Trumpet Judgments

By Holly Effiom

V1

- What happened when the seventh seal was opened?
- How was this different from when the other seals were broken?
- What does the silence portend?
- How does the “silence” make you feel? What do you think it means?

LESSON: After the events of chapters 6 and 7, this time of silence, to me, is like a short season of rest – the calm before the storm.

VV2-6

- What were the seven angels who stood before God holding?
- Who is the “God” that they are standing before? Rev 5
- Where else have we read about trumpets?
- From our study of the Feasts of the Lord, what is the purpose of a trumpet?
- What was an eighth angel holding?
- What does a censor represent?
- Are your prayers forgotten by God?
- Were the prayers answered immediately?
- What did the angel do with the censor?
- What did placing fire from the altar symbolize? Consider: Isa 6.
- Why does God highlight the prayers of the saints so much? He even made it a point to include them in the holy of holies. Lev 6:12; and it was the prayers of the saints that saved the lives of the children of Israel in Num 16:14.
- How important are the prayers of the saints to God?

LESSON: The Prayers of the Saints

Rev 8 opens with the 7 angels preparing for the 7 Trumpet Judgment; however, God is taking a moment to focus on the prayers of the saints – the prayers of the saints are precious to Him. God directed me to Ex 28:38 when I was trying to understand why this was so. This particular section of scripture is dealing with the initiation of the priesthood and consecration of the priest. In particular Ex 28:38 is talking about Aaron’s crown and the words inscribed on it – “Holiness to the Lord” was an outward sign to the children of Israel that their offerings, hallowed to the Lord, are always accepted.

This passage is the physical manifestation of the spiritual concept that we have the privilege to live out today: Jesus has made us a kingdom of priests, serving the world, and the righteous prayers of His priests are always accepted, i.e., answered.

When God hears us humbling ourselves to ask His help, it is a burnt offering, a sweet savor to Him. Our prayers are so precious to Him that the incense altar was placed within the holy of holies, next to the ark of the testimony, above which was the mercy seat. Incense was to burn continually on it.

I believe Rev 8, is God saying to those saints under the altar in Rev 6:9-11 and all the saints, the time has come to avenge them – their prayers were now going to be answered. The angel mixing in the fire from the altar lets the saints know that God’s will coincides with these prayers; and his casting the censor into the earth is the fulfillment of the prayer “...Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven...” Hallelujah!

V7 – The first trumpet sounds

- What fell from Heaven?
- How was the earth affected?
- If a third of the trees were burned up, how would this affect mankind?
- If a third of the grass was burned up, how would this affect man?
- Which horse would be riding in this disaster?

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LESSON: There was a time that I believed that these signs were emblematic of things that have been taking place since Jesus's death, but God has had me reading Ezekiel while doing this study. Who knows, when the toll is taken from these worldwide forest fires that have been occurring the last few years, we might find that one-third of the world's trees and all the green grass has been burnt up.

VV8-9 – The second trumpet sounds

- What happened when the second trumpet sounded?
- What does a great mountain burning with fire look like?
- What happened when it was cast in the sea?
- Do you think the third part of the sea irreversibly becomes blood?
- Who dies as a result?
- Who is affected when a third of the ships are destroyed?
- Which horseman is riding when this disaster takes place?

VV10-11 – The Third Trumpet Sounds

- What happens when the third angel sounds?
- What is it that falls from heaven?
- What is affected when this star falls?
- How is this different from when the second angel sounds his trumpet?
- What happened to the waters?
- What do we know about Wormwood?
- What's the consequences to mean when Wormwood falls?
- Which horseman or horsemen are riding in this instance?

V12 – The Fourth Trumpet Sounds

- What happens when the fourth angel sounds?
- What is affected by the sun, moon, and stars being darkened?
- What would be affected when the day is cut by one-third, or the night, cut by one-third?

LESSON: Unlike the 7 Seals Judgments, the trumpet judgments are not activities that are under the control of man. Where man can control his desire to conquer others; handling contentions peacefully, killing and going to war, or not; and famines; man cannot control hail, fire, and blood falling from heaven. Nor can he control a great burning mountain falling into the sea or a star falling from heaven, and poisoning the lakes and rivers. Notice that when the trumpets sound that all the things noted that are affected were created in the first 5 days of creation. The death of men is collateral to the poisoning of the waters. Is this significant?

My first thought was to blame the fact that all of creation bears the brunt of bad decisions, made and not made during the breaking of the first 7 seals, on man. But God reminded me of the errant angels who have been out to usurp man's power in the earth, his estate, forever. Mankind has been a victim of these greedy angels. No doubt there are some of mankind who knowingly align themselves with the rebellious angels, but for the most part, man has been under attack by these hostile forces and have ended up being collateral damage, *in their own estate no less!*

I believe that this is why Jesus taught and teaches us to turn the other cheek and to be merciful toward one another – we don't know what our brother is going through or has gone through, but we do *know* his/her spirit is *under attack*.

V13

- What did John see after the first four trumpets sounded?
- What was the angel saying?
- What does "Woe" mean? Is it a word spoken in good times?
- What is the angel's message to the people here?

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Was it a message of peace and good will toward men?

Was the announcement that things will be better with each of the next 3 trumpet sounds?

LESSON: These times described in chapters 8 and 9 are going to be very hard to deal with, and I can understand people's fear of reading Revelation; however, the Christian keeping perspective is very important. Just like God had to remind me to not be so hard on my fellow man earlier, we must also remember that the tribulation is not to destroy the wheat, but rather *root out* the tares from among the wheat. The only ones who should *really* fear the end times are the tares.

When the saints of the Most High (the wheat) choose to allow God to be their "revenge"; when they pray "...Thy will be done..." this is what it looks like at the end, and worse for a time. There's an angel flying through the air, pronouncing Woe! Woe! Woe! One for each of the last 3 trumpet sounds. What does Woe mean?

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