

## Revelation 8

### I. The Opening of the Seventh Seal – vs. 1-6

#### a. Silence in Heaven – vs. 1

As noted previously, the first 5 seals unfolded events relating to the actions of man. Now the “great day of divine wrath” is to really break upon the earth. – Rev 6:17

Some commentators see this silence as a natural division in the Tribulation, with the seals describing events in the first half of the Tribulation, the trumpets and vials dealing with the second half.

- Division shown in Dan 9:27
- It seems from Rev 10:7; 11:15 that the trumpet judgments occur close to the second coming of Christ.
- Immediately prior to the collapse of Jericho, seven trumpets were blown – Josh 6:4

#### b. Seven Angels of Judgment with Seven Trumpets – vs. 2

In Scripture, the trumpet was to announce something important.

- A summons to worship – Num 10:3, 7; 23:15-24; Lev 23:15-24; I Chron 16:42
- An alarm, signaling danger – Jer 4:19; Num 10:5-9; Judg 3:27, 30; Neh 4:9-20
- The anointing of a king – I Kings 1:34

Each of these examples are seen in the seven trumpet judgments of the Revelation.

#### c. The Angel at the Altar – vs. 3

This angel is associated with the worship of God by the people of God.

The altar is mentioned 7 times in the Book of Revelation – 6:9; 8:3; 9:13; 14:18; 16:7. It appears this altar is associated with the prayers of God’s people, thus it would correspond to the altar of incense in the Mosaic Tabernacle.

In the earthly tabernacle, the golden censer was used to carry fire from the altar into the Holy of Holies, where incense was added. – Ex 37:25-28; Heb 9:4

In the Tabernacle, the incense spoke of the perfections of Christ. – Eph 5:2

Our stammering prayers are made beautiful and worshipful as they are mixed with the perfections of Christ.

#### d. The Effectiveness of Prayer – vs. 4

The prayers in question here would be those of the Tribulation saints – Rev 6:9-10.

The prayer which has been upon the lips of all God’s children, “...Thy kingdom come...” (Matt 6:10) is now about to be answered.

#### e. The Signal for Angelic Action – vs. 5

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As the angel casts the censer to the earth, the fire which today speaks of God's love in Christ now speaks of God's terrible vengeance. Read Hebrews 10:26-31 in the light of this verse.

The 144,000 have been sealed, the multitude of Tribulation believers are either resting or facing martyrdom – perhaps there is no more mercy!!

f. The Trumpets are Sounded – vs. 6

II. The Sounding of the First Trumpet – vs. 7

Literal Hail, Fire, and Blood – God as already done this literally – Exodus 9:23-26

Devastation upon the Earth's Vegetation – This is God's "scorched earth" policy!

III. The Sounding of the Second Trumpet – vs. 8-9

a. The Great Mountain – vs. 8

This is NOT a literal mountain, because the Bible uses the words, "...as it were..."

Two possibilities:

The mountain symbolizes an earthly kingdom.

This is not unreasonable, because in Scripture (particularly prophecy) a mountain does symbolize a kingdom. – Dan 2:35; Is 2:2-4; Micah 4:1-2.

The mountain is in fact a large celestial body.

This is most probable, for all the trumpet judgments in Revelation 8 have objects falling from heaven to earth, or celestial activity of some kind. – Joel 2:30-32

b. The Sea

Usually, whenever such a term is used, it refers to the Mediterranean Sea. This will be the center of world activity during the rule of the Antichrist.

The 'ships of Tarshish' (Is 2:16) refers to the trading and commercial fleets.

c. The Devastation of this Divine Judgment – vs. 9

The sea turned to blood – God has already done this in Egypt – Ex 7:19-21

Sea-life decimated – See Hosea 4:3; Zeph 1:3

Maritime and Commercial services disrupted – This is God's "Pearl Harbour"

IV. The Sounding of the Third Trumpet – vs. 10-11

a. A Great Burning Star – vs. 10

This is another celestial body that falls under Divine direction to earth.

Called "Wormwood" – 'bitterness'

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The opposite of the waters of Marah, the tree cast in made the bitter water sweet (A picture of salvation through the cross). Here, in judgment, the object cast in makes the sweet bitter.

Jer 9:14-15; 23:15 alludes to this judgment, which is upon idolatrous Israel.

- b. The Devastation caused by this falling Star.  
The infecting of rivers and subterranean waters.  
The deaths of many  
What it means to reject the Water of Life! – John 4:14

### V. The Sounding of the Fourth Trumpet – vs. 12-13

- a. The Dimming of Heavenly Lights – vs. 12
- b. The Announcement of Three Woes – vs. 13  
As with the 7 Seals, there seems to be an apparent grouping of 4 trumpets / 3 trumpets.

- i. First 4 Seals – Judgment through human agency
- ii. Last 3 Seals – Judgment through divine agency
- iii. First 4 Trumpet – Judgment upon the earth  
These Judgments are upon those which man depends and so often takes for granted, thanklessly.  
Food supply cut short – vs. 7-9  
Means of distribution crippled – vs. 9  
Water supply poisoned – vs. 11  
Means of production dimmed – vs. 12

- iv. Last 3 Trumpets – Judgment upon human beings

We also note similarities here with the plagues upon Egypt prior to the Exodus. There, God's judgments fell upon human life itself.

A contest between Jehovah and Pharaoh was but a foretaste of this great and final contest between the Lamb and a godless world, led by the Antichrist.