



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Chapter Eight

- **8:1** When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. **2** And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. **3** Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. **4** And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. **5** Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

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- **To refresh our memories – in chapter 5 we saw the Lamb take the scroll from the hand of the One on the throne.**
- **The scroll turned out to be the title deed to the Earth and it was sealed with 7 seals.**
- **Then starting in chapter 6 the Lamb began to break the seals one at a time and they turned out to be ways of sending judgment on sin and the sinners of the Earth.**

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- **Today we come to the seventh seal and when the Lamb breaks this seal there is this a very eerie silence in Heaven for what John describes as ½ hour.**
- **The seventh seal is the last major event in the taking back of the Earth by God – there are no seals left to open, ergo the deed to the Earth is now God's alone.**
- **The judgments yet to come, and there are many and they are severe, all originate from the seventh seal. (there are none left to open)**

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- **As the judgments that come out of the seventh seal unfold we will see that some of them take some time to complete – much like war, famine, and death took lots of time to play out.**
- **What is true of the seventh seal, and the trumpet and bowl judgments that follow, is that they come increasingly fast and they seem to get worse and worse if that is possible.**
- **So why the silence? Perhaps because all of Heaven understands that the seventh seal is the last to open, and the work of taking back the Earth is about to be completed.**

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- Or perhaps those around the throne can now see what is written under the seventh seal, and they are stunned at what is going to come.
- Maybe they see the trumpets and the bowls that are coming, and even though they know all of the judgments are just, it's still going to be that hard to watch.
- Or the flip side of the equation is that they can now see the finality of Christ's exaltation, and that sends a joyous hush over the crowd.

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- **2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.**
- **Notice the article “the” referring to the seven angels – these are not just any 7 of the millions of angels God created.**
- **Their place is also a definite one – they are standing before God and they each have a trumpet. (some call these angels the ‘presence’ angels.)**

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- **Rev 15:5** After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened, 6 and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean and bright, and girded around their chests with golden sashes. 7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever.
- **What about these seven angels? Are they same seven or a different seven? It is hard to know for certain.**
- **However, what we can be certain of is that God will use angels extensively in the judgments of the Great Tribulation.**

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- Trumpets have been used throughout scripture for various reasons – to declare war, to assemble the Israelites in the camp, and a trumpet is used at the Rapture.
- **1st Corinthians 15:52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.
- And here in chapter 8, we are going hear trumpets herald seven judgments.

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- **Rev 8:3** Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. 5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.
- This is very much like the tabernacle and the temple in the Old Testament.
- In those structures the brazen alter was for sacrifice, and the golden alter was for prayers and praise.

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- **Well, we already know that the instructions God gave to Moses were to copy what actually existed in Heaven.**
- **Heb 9:23 Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;**
- **So when Rev 8 speaks of alters in Heaven, we should know what God has in mind.**

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- **Next we see that one angel takes fire from the one alter, and mixes it with the prayers of the Saints, and throws it to the Earth.**
- **Why fire? Perhaps to ignite the prayers through the Holy Spirit in a way that makes them even more alive and powerful? We just don't know.**
- **But again, we do know that when the angel mixes the fire with the prayers of the Saints, that he throws it to the Earth and “sparks fly”. (thunder, lightning, and a great earthquake)**

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- **Notice also in verse #3 this phrase, “much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints.”**
- **So for all of us, and those who came before us, who have prayed for the Lord Jesus to come and set things right, well here is the answer to those prayers.**
- **When it comes to God’s timing in answering our prayers, I can’t help but think of what Peter said about one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years are as one day.**

Chapter Eight

- **6** And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them. **7** The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. **8** The second angel sounded, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood, **9** and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed. **10** The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. **11** The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter. **12** The fourth angel sounded, 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 would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way. **13** Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in mid-heaven, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”

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- **What we read about here is a massive and sudden firestorm of judgment on the earth, the sea, the rivers and lakes, and the sky.**
- **It is an “all of the above” ranging judgment on the eco systems of the Earth.**
- **This will be an environmental disaster far more vast and devastating than any of today’s environmentalists could dream of – remember, our planet is not intended to last forever as it is today.**

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- **6 And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them. 7 The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.**
- **Isaiah 28:2 Behold, the Lord has a strong and mighty agent; as a storm of hail, a tempest of destruction, like a storm of mighty overflowing waters, He has cast it down to the earth with His hand.**
- **Trumpet #1 – 1/3 of the Earth's vegetation is burned up.**

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- **You may recall another time God sent fiery judgment from the sky in the form of judgment for sin.**
- **Gen 19:24 Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven, 25 and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.**
- **And if God judged Sodom and Gomorrah for their sin in such a way, do not think for a moment that He would hesitate to judge sin today in the same manner or worse.**

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- **And so verse 7 says, "Hail and fire mixed with blood, and they were all thrown to the earth."**
- **"It is possible that worldwide volcanic explosions would be a normal consequence of a worldwide violent earthquake. The masses of water vapor blown skyward might well condense in the intense updraft as hailstones and showers of burning lava might well be cast upon the earth. The blood of entrapped men and animals might be mingled with them, or possibly showers of liquid water drops might be so contaminated with dust and gases as to appear blood red." Henry Morris**

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- **Whatever the explanation, be it scientific or supernatural, the bible is clear that when the first trumpet blows 1/3 of the Earth's vegetation will be burned up.**
- **You may have heard a term called, “scorched Earth” – it was used by Joseph Stalin during the 2nd World War when Germany invaded Russia.**
- **The strategy is to destroy the food and water supply of an entire area making it harder to pass through, but also making it hard on a country's own citizens in the area.**

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- When an area, the world in this case, loses 1/3 of it's vegetation resulting in starvation, floods, and all that goes with it you have a literal scorched Earth effect.
- Imagine the effect in your own area of losing 1/3 of plants and trees.
- Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

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- 8 The second angel sounded, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood, 9 and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.
- The second trumpet blows and more fire comes raining down from above.
- 2nd Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and *the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.*

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- **When the scriptures say “something like a great mountain”, given what we know now from science, it seems pretty obvious to me that the object is a meteorite or asteroid.**
- **Every so often we read of scientist's concerns about a coming asteroid or meteorite that will one day hit the Earth and be our doom.**
- **This is not an irrational fear because we are bombarded daily with small ones, and there are lots of continent sized ones out there in space that could hit us.**

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- **And if some giant sized asteroid or meteorite were to zero in on the Earth, part of it's descent through our atmosphere would be friction and burning resulting in a large fiery ball.**
- **So where does it land? It lands in the sea resulting in massive loss of sea life, and ships – enough so that the sea at least appears to be 1/3 blood.**
- **Of course an event like this would also mean the largest tidal wave ever seen by man with the devastation that comes with it.**

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- **"The ability to turn water into blood either by filling it with the actual blood of dead animals, or more likely by transforming it chemically or biochemically into blood-red water, poisoned by multitudes of dead micro organisms as in the well known red tides which occur infrequently in modern oceans, made such an impression on ancient Israel that it was recounted in their songs, such as Psalm 78, Psalm 105. The impression made on the world's inhabitants in this great future day when suddenly fully a third of the world's oceans become as blood, can well be imagined."** Dr. Henry Morris

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- **10 The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. 11 The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.**
- **More fire from Heaven – there is a theme here that confirms it is God behind all of these calamities; fire.**
- **This object from Heaven even has a name – Wormwood.**

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- **Jer 9:13** The Lord said, “Because they have forsaken My law which I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice nor walked according to it, 14 but have walked after the stubbornness of their heart and after the Baals, as their fathers taught them,” 15 therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, “*behold, I will feed them, this people, with wormwood and give them poisoned water to drink.*”
- So at this point, the trumpets have killed 1/3 of the Earth’s vegetation, killed 1/3 of sea life, and now is poisoning the fresh water of the world. (land, sea water, and fresh water)

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- **12 The fourth angel sounded, 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 would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way.**
- **So after striking the land, the salt water, and the fresh water of the world, the 4th trumpet is aimed at the heavens.**
- **The sun, moon, and stars are all darkened – so every natural thing man has always been able to count on for consistency is disrupted and rendered shaky.**

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- **We do know that this judgment is a temporary one because in Chapter 16 the sun is going to be brighter and hotter than ever as it scorches the peoples of the Earth.**
- **For now, as you can pretty much imagine, the effect of this judgment is sever cold and darkness on the Earth.**
- **Luke 21:25 “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26 men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”**

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- **13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in mid-heaven, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”**
- **It took just 7 verses to describe the first 4 trumpet judgments, but it will take 50 to describe the last 3.**
- **An old theologian from the 19th century, Joseph Augustus Seiss, had this to say**

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- **"Though sentenced against an evil work be not executed speedily, it will be executed at last. Jezebel may flourish in her iniquities for many years, but finally the horses trample her body in the streets and the dogs gnaw and crunch her royal bones. Long was the old world left to drive its crimes, jeer at Noah, fling defiance in the face of God, but soon the earth breaks down beneath their feet and their lifeless bodies are dashed upon each other amid the waves of a world ocean. The trampled law of God will assert its rightful honor and Christ will not endure the smittings, taunts and wrongs of Pilate's Hall forever. And when these trumpets once give their blast, the vibration will run through the universe and everything created for human blessedness shall turn into a source of disaster to them who know not God and obey not the gospel of Christ,"**

Questions