

Covenant Bible Study

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Revelation 8

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Revelation 4 and 5 Review

- In this second vision, Christ escorts John into heaven.
- We enter into some sort of court in heaven, with the thrones representing God's majesty.
- We meet 12 elders with God in the throne room, but we really do not know who they are.
- God is holding a scroll that must contain an account of the end times.
- The scroll is sealed with seven seals – John weeps that seemingly no one is there who can open the scroll.
- Only Christ (the lamb) is worthy to open the scroll.
- The throne room and all the earth erupt in to praise once Christ is revealed as the worthy Lamb.

John 5:21-22, 27

21 "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. 22 "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, 27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. NASB

Revelation 6 Review

- As each seal on the scroll is broken, a **judgment** is poured out on earth.
- The first seal judgment is **False Peace**.
- The second seal judgment is **War**.
- The third seal judgment is **Famine**.
- The fourth seal judgment is widespread **Death**.
- The fifth seal judgment is **Persecution** and **Martyrdom**.
- The sixth seal judgment is **Fear** and **Destruction**.
- The seventh seal judgment (Chapter 8) is the introduction of the seven **Trumpet** Judgments.
- Revelation Chapter 7 is a **break** for the reader that reminds us of God's **grace**.

Habakkuk 3:2

*2 LORD, I have heard the report about Thee and I fear.
O LORD, revive Thy work in the midst of the years,
In the midst of the years make it known;
In wrath remember mercy.*

- God seals (protects) 144,000 Jews and countless Gentile believers.
- Revelation Chapter 7 answers the **question** presented in Revelation 6:17:

Revelation 6:17

17 for the great day of their wrath has come; and who is able to stand? "

Revelation 8:1-13

1 And when He 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 And another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints upon 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 And the angel took the censer; and he 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.

6 And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.

7 And 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 And 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 And 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 and 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 And the fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were smitten, so that a third of them might be darkened and the day might not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way.

13 And I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, 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!"

NASB

How do you get the world's attention when they refuse to listen – that is what the book is about
We are stubborn

As parents – we must ultimately result to judgment – punishment/parents.

We WILL one day submit to God in every area of our lives

Chapter 8 – Context in the Letter

Judgments come in 3 clusters

Seal, Trumpet, Bowl

Seventh Seal is the introduction of the seven trumpet judgments

Ch 8 begin the 2nd cluster – trumpets

Blowing of the last trumpet – introduces the bowl judgments

Then the battle of Armageddon

We are in the middle – seventh seal is the unfolding of the trumpet judgements...

Silence for 30 minutes – what stopped?

Sounds and Peals of Thunder (4:5)

The Living Creatures Chanting “Holy Holy Holy” (4:8)

The Praises of the 24 Elders (4:11)

The Praises of All (ch5)

Cries of the Martyrs (6:9-10)

Habakkuk 2:20

20 "But the LORD is in His holy temple.

Let all the earth be silent before Him."

Psalms 76:8-9

8 Thou didst cause judgment to be heard from heaven;

The earth feared, and was still,
9 When God arose to judgment,
To save all the humble of the earth.
Selah.

Zephaniah 1:7

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is near,

For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
He has consecrated His guests.

Zechariah 2:13

13 "Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD; for He is aroused from His holy habitation."

2 And I saw **the seven angels** who stand before God; and seven trumpets were given to them.

The Seven Angels

- Not just 7 angels that happen to be nearby
- Referred to as The Presence Angels or The Waiting Angels
- They are “waiting” on God – ready to **serve**.
- Stand is in the perfect tense. Have been standing and are still standing. Waiting on God – Exist to serve...
- Gabriel and **Michael** are each presumed to one of these seven....

Trumpet Judgments

The seven judgments are extended through Ch 8-11

These are the long battle trumpets or bugles without valves – long single horn – not music, but a call or announcement.

3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints upon 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 And the angel took the censer; and he 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.

Preparation for Judgment

- This angel breaks the **silence**
- A censer is a **fire pan** that priests used to take the fiery coals to the incense altar in Old Testament Times.
- The incense (smoke) would rise to heaven from the altar symbolic of the **prayers** of the saints.

Exodus 30:1-8

1 "Moreover, you shall make an altar as a place for burning incense; you shall make it of acacia wood. 6 And you shall put this altar in front of the veil that is near the ark of the testimony, in front of the mercy seat that is over the ark of the testimony, where I will meet with you. 7 And Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it every morning when he trims the lamps. 8 And when Aaron trims the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense. There shall be perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations. NASB

- Prayers of the saints are most likely very **specific** at this time. – step into the day – no longer prayers for picking the right girlfriend, right job, or a financial decision.

Revelation 6:10

10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" NASB

- God is **answering** the prayers of His people!

Must have stunned John – to see the censer used in such a manner – linked with the prayers – now wrath! What does the angel do – throws it down to earth – followed by flashes of thunder and an earthquake... Repent! Turn towards me..

6 And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.

7 And 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 And 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.

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13 And I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, 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!"

Trumpet Judgments

1. Fire and Hail into a third of the earth.
2. Fire into a third of the sea.
3. Fire into a third of fresh water bodies.

Wormwood

Reference to bitterness and poisonous

No longer acceptable for consumption - contaminated

4. An effect on the stars and moon.
5. Plague of Locust Demons
6. A Third of Humans Killed
7. Introduction of the Bowl Judgments

Revelation 9:20-22

20 And the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; 21 and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

We are warned about end times...

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

2 practical lessons

1. God values and responds to the prayers of His people – Don't stop praying
2. God does not quit until his plan runs its course. (Good will win over evil)

An Outline of Revelation

Revelation 1:19

19 "Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things.

Chapter One: The Things You Have Seen
Chapters Two and Three: The Things That Are (Seven Churches)
Chapters Four - Twenty Two: The Things That Will Take Place

Prologue

- Promises of Blessing for Reading, Hearing, and Keeping the Words of the Book (*Revelation 1:1-8*)

Things You Have Seen

- Vision of the Glorified Christ (*Revelation 1:9-20*)

Things Which Are

- Christ's Messages to the Seven Churches (*Revelation 2:1 – 3:22*)
 - Ephesus (2:1-7)
 - Smyrna (2:8-11)
 - Pergamum (2:12-17)
 - Thyatira (2:18-29)
 - Sardis (3:1-6)
 - Philadelphia (3:7-13)
 - Laodicea (3:14-22)

Things That Will Take Place

- Vision of Heavenly Throne Room, Where John Witnesses the Worship of God the Father & Jesus Christ (*Revelation 4:1 – 5:14*)
- Vision of Judgments Upon the Earth that Increase in Magnitude While God in His Mercy Continues to Call Humankind to Repentance (*Revelation 6:1 – 18:24*)
 - Judgment of the Seven Seals (6:1 – 8:1)
 - Judgment of the Seven Trumpets (8:2 – 11:19)
 - Vision of the Dragon, Woman, and Beasts (12:1 – 14:20)
 - Judgment of the Seven Bowls (15:1 – 16:21)
 - Judgment of Babylon (17:1 – 18:24)
- Return of Christ and the Battle of Armageddon (*Revelation 19:1-21*)
- Reign of Christ and His Resurrected Saints Over the Earth (*Revelation 20:1-6*)
- Final Destruction of Satan, Evil, and Death (*Revelation 20:7-15*)
- Ultimate Eternal Peace and Perfection (*Revelation 21:1 – 22:5*)

Epilogue

- Final Promises of Blessing for Reading, Hearing, and Keeping the Words of the Book (*Revelation 22:6-21*)