

Revelation 8

Silence In Heaven (8:1-2)

And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

In verse 1 of chapter 8, there is silence in heaven for about a half an hour. In verse 2 seven angels are provided with trumpets in order to announce the trumpet and the vial judgements which are about to happen.

Prayers of the Saints Go Up before God (8:3-4)

3 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. 4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

Some take the incense here to be the prayers *of* the saints, as in Revelation 5:8 **And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.**¹

Others take it that, since the incense was given to this angel, the incense is mingled with the prayers *of* the saints. 2 The angel shows that the prayers must come before God by way *of* the altar. Therefore, the cloud *of* sweet-smelling smoke that arises when the angel pours the incense *on* the altar symbolizes God's acceptance of the prayers. Jesus, *of* course, made this acceptance possible, *for* He "loved us, and hath given himself *for* us an offering and a sacrifice to God *for* a sweet smelling savor" (Ephesians 5:2). Now these prayers *of* all the saints, prayers which may have been stored up throughout the Church Age, are about to be fulfilled. God has not forgotten them.

Not only does the heavenly temple have a throne and a laver, *or* sea, but it also has a "golden altar" of incense before the throne. It reminds us that the earthly tabernacle was built according to a heavenly pattern, shown to Moses by God on Mount Sinai (Exodus 25:9). In Hebrews 9:3-4 recognizes, "the holiest of all" ("Most Holy Place"-NIV), that is, the inner sanctuary, contained the golden altar of incense, and even though it was seemingly in the Holy Place of both the tabernacle and temple, it was at the entrance *of*, and thus belonged to, the "Most Holy Place."

In heaven John sees what the earthly tabernacle was a mere type *of*; that is, he sees its reality.

Rev. 8:5 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. 6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. 7 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.

Note: Rev. 8:7 – This is judgment because Trees & grass gives oxygen and oxygen gives us life.

Rev. 8:8-9 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; 9 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.

Note: I see this possibly as a volcanic mountain in which has fallen into the sea. Lava of course looks like blood. This has an impact on the worlds food supply, i.e. 1/3 of sea life dies.

The Third Trumpet: A Star Falls on Rivers (8:10-11)

Rev. 8:10-11 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; 11 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 sounding of the third trumpet is the signal for a great star to fall from heaven. It too is burning, having the appearance of a torch streaming through the sky. It apparently does not affect the land but poisons natural, fresh water sources (e.g., rivers and springs).

The Greek word for "star" can also be translated "planet," "meteor," or any other heavenly body "Wormwood," the name given to the star or meteor, is taken from the name of a plant with very bitter juice. The term is used in the Old Testament to represent the bitter results of sin (Proverbs 5:3-4; Jeremiah 9: 15), sometimes in conjunction with "gall" (Deuteronomy 29:18; Lamentations 3:19-KJV).

The star is given this name because it makes the earth's sources of fresh water as bitter as wormwood. Ordinary wormwood from the plants known by that name does not usually cause death. But this verse indicates that the drinking of the water is the source of death for the many who die. Therefore, the star do not make the water merely bitter, but poisonous.

The Fourth Trumpet: Partial Darkness (8:12)

12 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 first three trumpets have affected the earth. The fourth trumpet brings a mighty blow that strikes the sun, moon, and stars so that they are darkened. This is not merely a lessening of their light, however, for in a third part of the day the sun does not shine at all, and in a third part of the night the moon and stars give no light at all. This is to be temporary situation because later, the heat of the sun is increased.

The Bible does not say anything here about the effects of the darkness on the earth. It would undoubtedly cause a drop in the earth's temperature and upset the ordinary course of the winds and the weather.

God's purpose here, as before, is to let people on earth know that this is not happening by chance and there is still an opportunity to repent. Though a holy God must judge, He does not will for any to perish (2 Peter 3:9).

Woe! Woe! Woe! (8:13)

13 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!

The threefold repetition of "Woe!" God wants the world to know that though the first four trumpet judgments were bad, what follows will be worse - demonic.