

The Seventh Seal and the Trumpet Judgments

Revelation 8:1-11:19

Revelation chapters 8 & 9 = The seventh scroll seal opened.

1. 8:1) When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.
 - The Lamb = Jesus, began to open the scroll, seal by seal, in 6:1. The interval vision of the 144,000 in chapter 7 segues to the opening of the seventh seal.
 - Silence in heaven for ½ hour = the longest silence every experienced in heaven – the lull before the storm.
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2. 8:2-5) Then I saw the seven angels who stand in the presence of God; seven trumpets were given to them. Another angel, with a golden incense burner, came and stood at the altar. He was given a large amount of incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar in front of the throne. The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up in the presence of God from the angel's hand. 5) The angel took the incense burner, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it to the earth; there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.
 - Seven angels, each with a trumpet
 - An eighth angel with an incense burner = the prayers of all the saints (*hagion*) – the set apart ones. Used 67 times in the New Testament. All Christians are considered to be saints and are called to be saints.
 - The silent pause for the prayers of the saints = the living and the dead. (6:10) – “*How long until you judge those who live on the earth and avenge our blood?*” The answer = the seven trumpets.
3. 8:6 – 9:21) Sounding of six trumpets
 - Increasing intensity.
 - Echo the Exodus plagues upon Egypt.
 - The fifth trumpet = the fallen star, given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. Fallen star = Satan. Luke 10:18 – Jesus encouraged the 72 witnesses as they returned from their evangelistic ventures: “*I watched Satan fall from heaven like lightning.*” Jude 6 & 2 Peter 2:4 – “*the angels who did not keep their own position but abandoned their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains in the deep darkness for the judgment on the great day.*”
 - 9:11 – Abaddon (Hebrew for *destroyer*) & Apollyon (Greek for *one with authority*)
 - 9:12 – the first woe has passed – two more to come. First woe = unimaginable physical and spiritual devastation. The next two = more extreme devastation.
 - Sixth Trumpet – Army (200 million) released to kill a third of mankind (in addition to those who have already died.) Jesus regarding the tribulation – “*Unless those days were cut short, no one would be saved.*” (Matthew 24:22)
 - 9:20-21 – The tragic response from the survivors = No repentance to stop worshipping demons and idols. No repentance of their murders, their sorceries, their sexual immorality, or their thefts.

Revelation 10:1-11:14 The second interval before the sounding of the seventh trumpet.

- A mighty angel holding a little scroll, roaring like a lion. John ordered to take and eat the scroll – internalize the word. Sweetness and bitterness. *“You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings.”* (10:1-11)
- John given a measuring reed *“to measure the temple of God and the altar and count those who worship there.”* Two witnesses who prophesy for 1260 days – the second ½ of the tribulation. When their prophecy is completed, the beast from the abyss conquers them and kills them. (A look ahead to Chapter 13). Their dead bodies unburied, openly viewed and gloated over by peoples, tribes, languages and nations for 3 and ½ days. (11:1-10)
- The martyred witnessed resurrected: But after three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet. Great fear fell on those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, *“Come up here.”* They went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies watched them. At that moment a violent earthquake took place, a tenth of the city fell, and seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake. The survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. (11:11-13))
- The second woe now passed, but take note: the third woe is coming. (11:14)

Revelation 11:15-19 The Seventh Trumpet – A glimpse of heaven.

- Loud voices – *“The kingdom of the world has become a kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.”*
- 24 elders worshipping God – *“We give you thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. The nations were angry, but your wrath has come. The time has come for the dead to be judged and to give the reward to your servants the prophets, to the saints, and to those who fear your name, both small and great, and the time has come to destroy those who destroy the earth.”*
- The ark of the covenant appears in heaven (symbolizing both the promises of God and the atonement available through His divine providences)

Closing thoughts:

1. The horrors of the Great Tribulation intensify for those who have refused Jesus Christ, yet he died for their sins.
2. Prayer is the Christian’s secret weapon.
3. The God of glory reigns – the Devil can do nothing to you without His permission. Remember that when you face persecution.
4. If those who believed and witnessed and preached during the tribulation faced persecution, then we who live today must accept persecution.