

Revelation Ch. 8

V: 1 *"And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour."*

- Jesus opens the 7th. seal - the scroll is now open, which leads to the 7 trumpet judgments.
- There is silence in Heaven for 1/2 hr.
- This silence is intense, and the only one in the book of Revelation. The other seals brought swift action in comparison to praise and worship etc.
- Nothing moves or happens without God's direction or permission. Right now nothing moves in Heaven.
- This silence is similar to the scene at the battle of Jericho. The people marching in silence, the priests blowing the 7 trumpets, God giving victory to the children of Israel. He'll be doing that again!
- All Heaven is about to break loose.

V: 2 *"And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets."*

- 7 Angels stand before the Lord.
- Each of the 7 angels is given a trumpet.
- 30 minutes is up - things start rolling.
- In the seal judgments men were killing men. This was a somewhat indirect method, as when God used Babylon against Israel.
- With the trumpet judgments we see God giving direct judgment similar to His sending brimstone and fire to smote the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah.

V: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."*

- Another angel comes and stands at the altar.

- He has a golden censor. The Greek word for "censor" is derived from the word "frankincense" which means holy incense (Exodus 30:34)
- Prayer is likened to as a sweet smelling incense to God.

Psalm 141:2 "Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice."

Revelation 5:8 "... and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints."

- This is combined with the prayers of the saints.

V: 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."*

- This smoke, like our prayers, ascends up unto God.

V:5 *"And the angel took the censer, and filled it with the fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake."*

- This is all part of the 7th seal.
- In **Revelation 6:9-10** the martyrs ask God how long until they are avenged on Earth.
- Here in verse 4 we see prayers ascending up to God, and now we see is response.
- The high priest took the censer with him with the blood sacrifice into the Holy of Holies.
- We now see that the censer is being sent back to earth full of hot coals / fire from the altar in Heaven, along with voices, thunderings, lightnings, and earthquakes. (A Heavenly "forget me not.")
- Full of powerful and destructive things.
- All who reject God's loving gift of forgiveness, now receive His righteous vengeance.

Hebrews 10:26-27 "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."

Matthew 3:11 "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."

Luke 12:49 "I am come to send fire on the Earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?"

2 Thessalonians 1:6-8 "Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; and to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

- That's just the fire part, there are voices meaning possibly direction, and thunderings and lightnings - like a storm or tempest, and an earthquake.
- Great earthquakes have been used before; this probably starts quite a panic on Earth as another one starts.

V: 6 *"And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound."*

- The 7 angels prepare to sound the 7 trumpets.
- The angels, trumpets, and plagues soon to come are all literal in every sense.

V: 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."*

- The first angel sounds his trumpet.
- Two things are cast as once, together to the Earth.
 1. Hail.
 2. Fire mixed with blood.
- The result is:
 1. 1/3 of the trees are burned up, consumed.
 2. All the green grass is burned up.
- "1/3" shows up 12 times in Revelation showing / demonstrating direction and intent, versus random change or "un-fortuitous circumstances".
- This destruction of plant life means the destruction of foodstuffs.

- The first judgment came by water in the flood; the final judgment starts with fire.
- Plant life was the first created life, taking place on the third day. (Genesis 1:12)
- We see in one of the plagues against Egypt / Pharaoh that hail mixed with fire smotes men, animals, and the plants.

Exodus 9:18-26 ".... The Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire.... and the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and best; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field."

- *"mingled with blood"* might mean that a lot of people are killed directly or indirectly as a result of this judgment. Taken literally it means that there will be actual blood mixed with the fire when it comes.

Joel 2:30 "And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the Earth, blood and fire, and pillars of smoke."

- God used fire and brimstone from Heaven killing all the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah fully achieving His purpose in **Genesis 19:24**.

V: 8 *"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;"*

- The 2nd angel sounds his trumpet.
- A large burning mass, as big as a mountain is thrown into the sea.
- 1/3 of the sea becomes literal blood.
- Again we see a similarity between this judgment and that which came upon Pharaoh.

Exodus 7:20 "And Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood."

- "The" sea seems to mean specifically the Mediterranean as opposed to the seas plural as this is from a Jewish perspective.

V: 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."*

- This is a continuation of the 2nd. trumpet.
- 1/3 of all the sea creatures die.
- Blood and dead fish - Whew! That will stink!
- 1/3 of all ships sink, presumably with their crews.
- Possibly the result of the tsunami / tidal wave from the impact of the "mountain"
- The Med. is full of the world's navies (U.S. 6th. fleet, Russian, European) and merchant vessels in great concentration, more so than the other oceans and seas of the world.
- Similarly, in Rev. 11:6, God's two witnesses are given power to turn the waters into blood.

V: 10 *"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;"*

- The 3rd. angel sounds his trumpet.
- A great burning star falls from Heaven upon 1/3 of the rivers and fountains of waters - fresh water.
- Life depends on water, and now 1/3 of it is ruined.
- Before the stubborn and stiff-necked people can recover, the astronomers identify yet another sign from heaven.

Luke 21:11 *"And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from Heaven."*

V: 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 name of the burning star full of poison is "wormwood."
- 1/3 of fresh waters become bitter or poisoned enough to kill many men.

- Wormwood refers to judgment for idolatry.

Jeremiah 9:15 "Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink."

Jeremiah 23:15-16 "Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts concerning the prophets; behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land. ¹⁶Thus saith the Lord of hosts, hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord."

Deuteronomy 29:18-21 "Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood;..."

- "Wormwood" is literally a deadly liquor substance known as "absinthe" or "hemlock" (**Hosea 10:4; Amos 6:12**). It is bitter and causes drunkenness (**Deut. 29:18; Prov. 5:4; Lamentations 3:15**), and is closely related to "gall".
- In **Exodus 15:22-25** we see God turn the bitter water into sweet drinkable water. He uses a tree to do so. He does the same for us through the cross.
- Here God fulfills **Exodus 15:26** as they have not kept His commandments.

Exodus 15:26 "And said, if thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and will give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee."

- They didn't so....
- No cross -> no living water -> no life.

V: 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 fourth angel sounds his trumpet.

- God turns the lights down:
 1. 1/3 of the sun.
 2. 1/3 of the moon.
 3. 1/3 of the stars.
 - * 1/3 of the day and 1/3 of the night goes dark.
- God separated these same lights on the 4th. day of creation. (**Genesis 1:14-19**)
- This is temporary, at least for the sun, because later the heat is turned way up:

Revelation 16:8-9 “⁸And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. ⁹And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give Him glory.”

- This decrease in light also means that there's a decrease in heat & temperature, which has an impact upon the whole Earth. Temperature changes change air pressure which means storms.

Luke 21:25-26 “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars, and upon the Earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the Earth: for the powers of Heaven shall be shaken.”

Matthew 24:29 “Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from Heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.”

- Much like the 9th. plague that struck Egypt in **Exodus 10:21-23**.

Exodus 10:21-23 “²¹And the Lord said unto Moses, stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. ²²And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: ²³They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.”

- This could also be the result of an atmospheric condition resulting from the previous judgments.
- Is the wattage / brightness turned down? Or is the moonless / starless nights made to last longer, 18 hrs. of darkness and 6 hours of daylight being changed from their current proportion?
- Several of the Old Testament prophets foretold of this:

Isaiah 13:10, Jeremiah 4:23, Ezekiel 32:7-8, Joel 2:31; 3:15, Amos 5:20

- Basically God is showing the pagan Earth dwellers who's in charge and who controls the various creations they like to worship.

V: 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!"*

- Still part of the 4th. trumpet judgment.
- An angel flies thru Heaven pronouncing woes to Earth's inhabitants.
- This implies that the next 3 trumpets are more severe than the first 4.
- This says that the next 3 are on their way.
- God in His mercy is giving a warning of what is to come, and perhaps an opportunity to repent for any that might now see the light.

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."