

# Pentwater Bible Church

*Revelation Message 21*

*January 21, 2024*



Four Horses of The Apocalypse, By Sharlene Lindskog

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Revelation Message Twenty-One

THE TRIBULATION CONTINUES

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Revelation 8:1

*<sup>1</sup>And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour (KJV).*

Mozart said that music is painted on a canvass of silence. They are the rests and are just as important as the music.

From a position of extreme noise in all the earthly convulsions, the Lord takes us to complete silence in heaven for a half-hour. Now there is *silence in heaven*. All the heavenly hosts will soon be engaging in actual warfare against earth. But it is God's "strange act" (Isaiah 28:21). He "hath no pleasure in the death of him that dieth." God is love.

Surely, since the Lord lives in a place where there is no time this must be taken as a figurative exposition designed to allow us to realize the cessation of calamities for a short time who are still in time and space (1/2 hour). The seal opens and not a voice is heard; not a motion is seen and an awful frightful pause is sensed. One might want to realize this as the calm before the storm or the calmness in the eye of a hurricane. Those familiar with these storms realize that the worst is yet to come. With this pause in heaven everything is mute and motionless. The silence will create a deep fear upon the earth's inhabitants. It raises their anxiety. As Jesus opens the seventh seal, the scroll (5:1-8a) is now completely open, and the remaining earthly judgmental events are ready to begin.

The second set of sevens is about to be unleashed upon the earth, the seven trumpet judgments. Therefore, the seventh seal unleashes seven trumpet judgments. This silence, which precedes the seven trumpets, creates a suspense of which the world has never before seen nor felt and it imparts a sense of anxiety about awful expectations that the unrepentant of this world are about to realize.

After the pause, the actions from the Throne resume. God has imparted additional fear and He is about to embark on a worse set of judgments than what we have seen so far.

Revelation 8:2

*<sup>2</sup>And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets (KJV).*

Jesus Himself spoke of angels who do always behold the face of the Father that is in heaven. (Matthew 18:10) These seven angels whom stand before God are those, which we saw in Revelation 1:20 are, the angels who are before His throne carrying out God's will. The seven angels who stand before God are of a special class of angels. Gabriel when announcing the birth of John the Baptist to his father told Zacharias in Luke chapter one that he stood in the presence of God.

Luke 1:19

*<sup>19</sup>And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings (KJV).*

Michael an archangel who stands for the Children of Israel will be one of these in this time of tribulation.

Daniel 12:1

*And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince who standeth for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book (ASV, 1901).*

We typically do not look to The Apocryphal and Pseudepigraphal books of the Old Testament for ecclesiastical direction and guidance. These books are not entirely with error. True they are not canonical, but nevertheless have usefulness in clarifying some situations. In this instance with some Scriptural support there is reason to consider the following additional names to the two given already in Scripture who stand before the throne of God. I am not endorsing these books as canon; for they are not. Tobit 12:15 declares:

“I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who stand in the attendance of the Lord and enter His glorious presence.”

Further the book of Enoch chapter twenty has the following:

- 1 These are the names of the angels who watch.
- 2 Uriel, one of the holy angels, who presides over clamor and terror.
- 3 Raphael, one of the holy angels, who presides over the spirits of men.
- 4 Raguel, one of the holy angels, who inflicts punishment on the world and the luminaries.
- 5 Michael, one of the holy angels, who, presiding over human virtue, commands the nations.
- 6 Sarakiel, one of the holy angels, who presides over the spirits of the children of men that transgress.
- 7 Gabriel, one of the holy angels, who presides over Ikisat, over paradise, and over the cherubim.

It is quite possible that the additional five names are correct in identifying the full seven who stand before God and are the specific ones prepared to carry out His purification of the Jews and the earth.

In the book of Esther, we see the seven Persian princes that “saw the king’s face” were the highest officers in the realm and next to the monarch (Ahasuerus) in rank and power.

Esther 1:14

*<sup>14</sup>and the next unto him were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who saw the king’s face, and sat first in the kingdom (ASV, 1901).*

What these Persian princes were to Ahasuerus, these seven God presence-angels are to the Lord of the universe. We have a vastly different view of organizational governance in heaven than we see on the earth. Here we have various governmental forms that have degenerated through the

various earthly kingdoms into a ten national confederation nation led by the Antichrist. Within the Visible Church the last vestiges of its form was an apostate Laodicean lukewarm shell of Christianity.

Christ told us of these angels and their role in His end-time plan for the earth.

Matthew 13:40–42

*<sup>40</sup>As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.<sup>41</sup>The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;<sup>42</sup>And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth (KJV).*

Here the apostle John sees these angels presenting themselves to carry out this momentous work of God. He sees the trumpets that they were given.

The trumpets were appointed in Israel by God for calling of the princes, and the congregation, and for the journeying of the camps, as an alarm, or public notification (Numbers 10:1–6). The trumpets were to be blown also in the days of Israel’s “gladness,” “set feasts,” and over their sacrifice in the beginnings of their months, “*for a memorial before your God.*” Jehovah also loved them (Numbers 10:10).

One special use of the trumpet, is in arousing to war the hosts of Jehovah against their enemies (Numbers 10:9). In Ezekiel 33:1–7, the watchman’s trumpet blown faithfully could deliver all who would “take warning.” But it was too late in Jeremiah 4:19 (for the Israel of that day).

Jeremiah 4:19

*<sup>19</sup>My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; My heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, Because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.<sup>20</sup> Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled: Suddenly are my tents spoiled, and my curtains in a moment.<sup>21</sup>How long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet? <sup>22</sup>For my people is foolish, they have not known me; They are sottish children, and they have none understanding: They are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge. <sup>23</sup>I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; And the heavens, and they had no light.<sup>24</sup> I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, And all the hills moved lightly.<sup>25</sup> I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, And all the birds of the heavens were fled. <sup>26</sup>I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, And all the cities thereof were broken down At the presence of the Lord, and by his fierce anger.<sup>27</sup> For thus hath the Lord said, The whole land shall be desolate; Yet will I not make a full end.<sup>28</sup> For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black: Because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, And will not repent, neither will I turn back from it (KJV).*

They blow the very trumpets of heaven against an earth become “as it was in the days of Noah ... as the days of Sodom,” as Joshua and Israel blew the trumpets against Jericho.

Trumpets;

God in Scripture uses trumpets for many reasons.

1. A loud and mighty cry or solemnity such as the giving of the Law. (Exodus 19:16)
2. A time for men to go to war (Numbers 10:9; Jeremiah 4:19)
3. Convocation of the people and moving the camps of Israel. (Numbers 8)
4. Proclamation of festivals. (Numbers 10:10; Leviticus 23:21 etc.)
5. Announcement of royalty. (I Kings 34, 38; II Kings 9:13)
6. To produce a fear of the Living God. “*Shall a trumpet be blown in the city and the people not be afraid?*” Amos 3:6.
7. Trumpets connect with the overthrow of the ungodly. (Joshua 6:13-16)

We again have an Old Testament reference within the Revelation characterizing God’s use of instruments that He holds representative of His order and sublime governance of His universe. But before these trumpets sound “another angel” appears and another “sent one” intervenes into the majestic purification of this dying earth.

Revelation 8:3

*<sup>3</sup>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 (KJV).*

This is the same angel that made an appearance in Chapter seven originating from the “rising of the sun” who halts the judgments until the sealing of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists is complete. Since this book of Revelation is codifying the Old Testament prophecies and arranging them in chronological order it is important to be aware of the use of a treatment of OT Preincarnate references to Jesus. This reference to an angel from the “rising of the sun” speaks to His eternity. He has been here since before time, before light and the sun is a reference to light, with “rising of the sun” referring to the beginning of that light. This angel is Jesus Christ Himself about to take the golden censer and the prayers of the saints. When has this Preincarnate Christ, also known in the OT as the Angel of Jehovah, appeared in the OT?

Some of these are:

1. Genesis 16:10 where He promised to multiply Hagar’s descendants.
2. Genesis 22:10-16 where he visits Abraham to stop the Akedah
3. Genesis 28:12-22 in Jacob’s dream of the ladder
4. Exodus 3 in the burning bush
5. Judges 2:1-2 we meet the Angel of the Lord coming up from Gilgal to Bochim
6. Judges 6:22-24 gives peace to Gideon
7. Judges 13 declares His name as wonderful
8. Psalms 34:7 the angel who encamps around
9. Hosea 12:3-5 the angel who wrestled with Jacob
10. Isaiah 63:9 the angel of His presence

Other references for further study:

(Genesis 16:7, 16:9-11,21:17, 22:11,15,31:11;Exodus 3:2, 14:19;Numbers 22:22-27, 22:31-35  
Judges 2:1,4; 5:23; 6:11-12, 20-22; 13:3,6,9,13,15-18, 20-21;I Samuel 29:9;II Samuel 14:17;

14:20; 19:27; 24:16, I Kings 19:7; II Kings 1:3; 1:15; 19:35; I Chronicles 21:12; 21:15-16; 21:18; 21:30 Psalms 34:7; 35:5; 35:6; Isaiah 37:36; Zechariah 1:11-12; 3:1, 5-6; 12:8)

Revelation 8:4

*And the smoke of the incense, [which came] with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand (KJV).*

Finally, the intercessory prayers of the saints are about to be answered regarding the sin in the world, the persecution, the lies, the death, the pain, and all the disappointments from unfairness. God is about to take the vengeance that He promised us in His Word. The incense is like a vehicle to drive the prayers to their fulfillment. These prayers are directly coming from those who become believers during this Tribulation and are crying out to Him. We must remember how and what Christ taught His apostles to pray.

THY KINGDOM COME; THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

This is the sum total of all of all of our prayers. All that we need and ask for will be fulfilled with the establishment of His kingdom here on earth the same as it is in heaven.

Revelation 8:5

*<sup>5</sup>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 (KJV).*

Christ then takes the censer and casts it to earth to initiate the next stage of the Tribulation. The fire begins to consume more of the earth producing more thunder, lightning and an earthquake.

The Bible tells us that crowns are waiting for them who love His appearing. (II Timothy 4:8) We should be constantly praying for Him to appear. The Bible gives us at least seven activities to engage in while waiting for Him.

BELIEVERS SHOULD BE WATCHFUL AND ALERT

Matthew 24:42-44; Mark 13:33-37; Luke 12:35-40; I Thessalonians 4:4-6; Revelation 16:15

BELIEVERS SHOULD BE MOTIVATED TO GODLY LIVING

Matthew 24:45-51; I Peter 3:13-15; II Peter 3:11-14; I John 2:28

BELIEVERS SHOULD CONSIDER HIS COMING VERY SOON

Romans 13:11-12; Philippians 4:5; James 5:8-9; I Peter 4:7

BELIEVERS SHOULD EAGERLY AWAIT IT

I Corinthians 1:7; Philippians 3:20; Titus 2:11-13

BELIEVERS SHOULD ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

Romans 8:23-25; I Thessalonians 4:13-18

BELIEVER SHOULD LONG FOR IT

II Timothy 4:8; II Peter 3:12; Revelation 22:20

BELIEVERS SHOULD PERSEVERE

Matthew 24:12-13; I Corinthians 1:7-9; II Thessalonians 3:5; I Timothy 6:12-14; James 5:7-8

Revelation 8:6

*<sup>6</sup>And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound (KJV).*

The fact that incense is added to the prayers of the Saints indicates the Trumpet Judgments will be the answer to the prayers already voiced in the fifth seal judgment. Now there is a warning to the earth by way of the trembling and nature convulsions that the Trumpet Judgments are about to start. Verse six clearly states that the Trumpet Judgments are about to start. The first four are convulsion of the natural world and the heavens. Then appear the final three judgments, which are the supernatural demonic invasions, announced as the three Woe Judgments. Normally we can't see the spiritual world. We can only sense it.

John 3:8

*<sup>8</sup>The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit (KJV).*

In other words, Christ is saying that we cannot see the Spirit world. He tells us this through a comparison of the Spirit world to the wind. He does this in conversation with Nicodemus as He is explaining the person who has been born again. He describes that fact that we can't see the Spirit but we can feel Him. The Spirit is intangible. It has no weight and takes up no space. Just as a computer disc when full weighs the same as one that is empty.

Ephesians 6:12

*<sup>12</sup>For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places] (KJV).*

The apostle Paul recognized this too. He tells us that the great spiritual battle that goes on around us is manifested in the flesh and the natural matter. Nonetheless the battle is invisible and spiritual. After the first four Trumpet Judgments, which are on the visible nature then, comes the supernatural demonic Woe Judgments. It is at this time that the invisible, supernatural world becomes visible to the natural world. It is not disguised like when Christ spoke to Nicodemus relating the wind analogy to him. It is now fully exposed and starting to unleash massive pain on the earth's inhabitants.

Revelation 8:7

*<sup>7</sup>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 (KJV).*

One third of the earth's surface is burnt up. This will not be the first-time hail and fire mingled with blood fell to the earth. August 17, 1819 Captain Ross of the British Navy saw the mountains of Baffin's Bay Antarctica covered with blood-red snow. Saussure found it at Mount St. Bernard in 1778. "The phenomenon of 'blood' raining from the sky has also been observed in limited areas and on a small scale...One of these occasions, according to Pliny, was during the consulship of Manius Acilius and Gaius Porcius. Babylonians, too, recorded red dust and rain falling from the sky; instances of 'bloody rain' have been recorded in diverse countries. The red dust, soluble in water, falling from the sky in water drops, does not originate in clouds, but must come from volcanic eruptions or from cosmic spaces. The fall of meteorite dust is a phenomenon generally known to take place mainly after the passage of meteorites; this dust is found on the snow of mountains and in Polar Regions." Other and more recent observations have also been made.

Rain bursts continued for the next two months. All along the coast it rained crimson, turning local people's clothes pink, burning leaves on trees and falling as scarlet sheets at some points.

Investigations suggested the rain was red because winds had swept up dust from Arabia and dumped it on Kerala. But Godfrey Louis, a physicist at Mahatma Gandhi University in Kottayam, after gathering samples left over from the rains, concluded this was nonsense. "If you look at these particles under a microscope, you can see they are not dust, they have a clear biological appearance."

This is what God is going to do with this first trumpet. He will bring hail and fire mixed with blood upon the earth.

Revelation 8:8–9

*<sup>8</sup>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; <sup>9</sup>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 (KJV).*

The second trumpet destroys one-third of the salt waters, including seal life. It is important to note that oceans cover more than 3/4th of the earth's surface. The Atlantic alone is about 1/3rd of the oceans complete earth's coverage. The great mountain burning with fire may refer to a meteor or a volcano, but the results are supernatural, for they of themselves would not turn the seal to blood. A number of the Tribulation judgments are similar to the ten plagues God brought on Egypt. This is one such likeness. God also warned us in Joel about these calamities coming on the earth. One estimate from 1999 put the number of ocean-going vessels at more than 25,000 ships.

Joel 2:30

*<sup>30</sup>And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke (ASV, 1901).*

Clearly Joel speaks of the Great Tribulation and it is here with the first and second Trumpet Judgments his prophecy gets realized. So does Hosea, Zephaniah and Isaiah (Isaiah 2:16)



Hosea 4:3

*<sup>3</sup>Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away (ASV, 1901).*

Zephaniah 1:3

*<sup>3</sup>I will consume man and beast; I will consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumbling blocks with the wicked; and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the LORD (ASV, 1901).*

Revelation 8:10–11

*<sup>10</sup>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;<sup>11</sup>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 (KJV).*

The third trumpet destroys one-third of the sweet water. Whenever the word star is used symbolically, it is a common symbol of an angel, and in this is the case here. The angel's name is Wormwood, showing the angel to be a fallen one. This fallen angel causes one-third of the sweet water to turn bitter, which in turn causes the death of many. Fallen angels will be used on several occasions to render judgment on the earth and here is one occasion. The medium is said to be a meteor falling on the earth strategically landing on the earth's sweet water. This has already happened in history in March 21, 1823. In one of the Aleutian Islands there was a great volcanic explosion and as one of the results, the rivers water became like the color of beer and was so extremely bitter that it was unfit for consumption. The Lord has forewarned us in the prophets of all these things.

Jeremiah 9:15

*<sup>15</sup>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 (ASV, 1901).*

In this verse God is telling the Jews through Jeremiah what He will do to them for turning away from Him. Remember one of the purposes of the Great Tribulation is to bring the Jews back to Him and recognize The Messiah.

Revelation 8:12

*<sup>12</sup>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 (KJV)*

The fourth trumpet destroys one-third of the earth's light sources. These verses do necessarily imply that one-third of the sun, moon and stars are destroyed only that that portion of their light is impeded from reaching the earth. As a result of this judgment, one-third of the light source for the daytime and one-third of the light source for the nighttime are completely blacked out. Isaiah saw this and told us in Isaiah 13:9-10

Isaiah 13:9

*<sup>9</sup>Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.<sup>10</sup>For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine (ASV, 1901).*

The Lord is now about to bring the Supernatural in view to the natural as He begins to reveal to the human the demonic world as He uses them to bring judgment upon the world.

Revelation 8:13

*<sup>13</sup>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 (KJV)!*

With the first four trumpets having sounded, this verse introduces the final three. Because the three Trumpet Judgments are especially severe for mankind on the earth, they are called Woe Judgments. As bad as the first four judgments were, the latter three will be far more severe. This severity is so pronounced that there is a warning of their approach sounded with a voice in the atmospheric heavens. The eagle is most likely a cherub from Revelation 4:7 chosen to give this warning to the earth. The first two of these Woe Judgments are demonic invasions and the third one contains the Bowl Judgments.

NEXT WEEK: REVELATION MSG. XXII

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments

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