

The Opening of the Seventh Seal

Revelation 8

Introduction

- We come in this chapter to the opening of the seventh seal.
- In chapter 6 we observed the opening of the first six seals.
- Seal 1: the rider on the white horse who deceives the nations and brings peace.
- Seal 2: the rider on the red horse removed peace from the earth and produced war and slaughter everywhere.

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- Seal 3: the rider on the black horse with a pair of scales in his hand who produced famine.
- Seal 4: the rider on the pale horse is given power over ¼ of the earth to kill with sword, famine, pestilence, and wild beasts.
- Seal 5: the souls under the altar who were martyred during the Tribulation Period for the Word of God and the testimony they maintained.

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- Seal 6: brings a huge earthquake. The sun becomes as dark as black cloth, and the moon becomes as red as blood. Stars (meteorites) fall upon the earth and every mountain and island is moved out of their places.
- This is the wrath of Jesus, the Lamb, upon this wicked world.
- Yet, in the midst of wrath, the offer of salvation is still being offered because of His love.

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Introduction

- In chapter 7 in saw an interlude between the 6th and 7th seal.
- God temporarily suspends His judgments with the 6th seal until the 144,000 Jewish believers receive His seal of protection.
- The implication is that greater judgments will follow the sealing.
- The opening of the 7th seal reveals greater judgments which occur during the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation Period (the "great tribulation").

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Revelation 8:1-13

Seal 7: contains 7 trumpet judgments

- Revelation 8:1** When He opened 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 to them were given seven trumpets.
- **When the 7th seal is opened, a great hush settles over the worshipping hosts of heaven.**
 - **For a period of about ½ hour there is silence as all await the judgments of the 7th seal.**

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Revelation 8:1-13: The 7th seal

- **During this dramatic pause, 7 trumpets are given to the seven angels who stand before God.**

³ Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with 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, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

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Revelation 8:1-13: The 7th seal

- The prayers of God's people are about to be answered.
- The martyrs' pleas in Rev. 6:10 "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" is most likely in view, plus the prayers of all the saints down through the ages.
- Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done!" These prayers are about to be answered.

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Revelation 8:1-13: The 7th seal

- The first four trumpets announce the divine destruction of earth's ecology. (8:6-12)
- The last 3 trumpets involve demonic devastation of earth's inhabitants. (9:1-21; 11:15ff)
- **Trumpet #1 (8:7)**

⁷ The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

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Revelation 8:1-13: The 7th seal

⁵ Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw *it* to the earth. And there were noises, thunders, lightnings, and an earthquake.

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

- **It appears that the angelic activity occurs during the 30 minutes of silence.**

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Revelation 8:1-13: The 7th seal

- That God is about to answer the prayers of the saints (the people of God) seems to be indicated by the thunders, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and earthquake that follow.
- Like the manifestation of God at Mt. Sinai – with the blast of a trumpet, fire, smoke, and tremors of the ground -- the world trembles before the awesome presence of God.

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Revelation 8:1-13: The 7th seal

- **1/3 of earth's forests will be destroyed.**
- **Trumpet #2 (8:8-9)**

⁸ Then 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 living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

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Revelation 8:1-13: The 7th seal

- Perhaps a huge meteor, or comet, plunges into the sea.
- Its impact will create a tidal wave, destroying 1/3 of the world's ships.
- 1/3 of the sea becomes blood causing 1/3 of the living creatures in the sea to die.

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Revelation 8:1-13: The 7th seal

• Trumpet #3 (8:10-11)

¹⁰ Then 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 water.

¹¹ The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

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Revelation 8:1-13: The 7th seal

- The “star” or falling object is named “Wormwood” after the strong bitter taste of the plant by that name.
- Whereas the plant “wormwood” is not poisonous, this falling object is and poisons 1/3 of the rivers and springs of fresh water.
- Many people die after they drink this polluted water.

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Revelation 8:1-13: The 7th seal

• Trumpet #4 (8:12)

¹² Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

• Remember, the aim of God in each judgment is that people should repent of their sin and rebellion before it is too late. At this time, these judgments are only partial.

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Revelation 8:1-13: The 7th seal

- The announcement of much worse judgment coming!

¹³ And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”

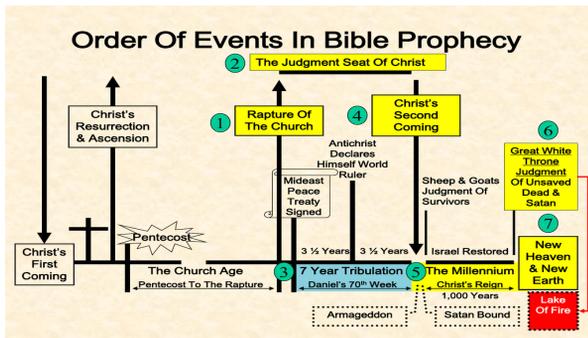
- The three “woes” means that if you think what has happened is terrible, much worse is yet to come!

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Summary of the First Four Trumpets

- Each of the trumpet judgments addresses a different aspect of life.
- Trumpet 1 shows the material world is not to be substituted for God.
- Trumpets 2 – 3 addresses the sea trade, including food supplies.
- Trumpet 4 focuses on life itself in the heat and light of the celestial bodies.
- Those who only live for this world have chosen foolishly, for only in God is there true security and life.

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