



## **The Book of Revelation - Session 21: The Seven Trumpets Revelation**

**September 20, 2023**

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### **Revelation Chapters 8-9**

**Revelation 8:1-6** 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. 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. 5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thundering's, lightnings, and an earthquake. 6 So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

**Revelation 8:1** When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

This is what's scholars call a "dramatic pause." Considering the catastrophic events of chapters 4-7, the sudden and deafening silence in heaven is startling.

*Why was there silence in heaven for approximately 30 minutes? The silence intensifies a sense of anticipation and awe for God's awesome judgments to follow. God will finally start to avenge the blood of the saints.*

At this time not only will the fruit of the sin of humanity be taken even to another level but also the Wrath of God will begin as well to punish those who have harmed the saints of God.

**Revelation 8:2** And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

These angels are always prepared, always available, and always obedient to carry out God's will.

*This can give us some insight unto how angels that are assigned to us conduct themselves and carry out God's will for our lives as well.*

**Hebrews 1:14** *Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*

*So, as we continue through this book pay close to the work, ministry, and capability of these angels.*

In somewhat the same way, we are called to always have our ears listening for the voice of the Lord ready to be obedient as well.

### **The Sound of the Trumpets**

Trumpets play a major role in God's dealings with His people. These trumpets announce coming disaster (**Amos 3:6-8**). Here they announce divine judgment in the day of the Lord (**Joel 2:1; Zech 1:14-16**).



**3 Then another angel, (this angel is not included with the seven that was previously mentioned in this chapter) 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.**

In **Revelation 8:3-6**, God shows us our place in all this, we have a role to play in order for the trumpets to sound.

**Another angel came and stood at the altar.** What John saw at this point is very similar to the priestly service as it took place in Israel's tabernacle and temples.

*The Old Testament priest burned incense and offered offerings on the altar of incense that was symbolic of worship and the prayers of the people of God Rising to Him in this day and time.*

This is why we see the 24 elders constantly bowing down and worshiping God, and the Saints constantly praying to God.

God has ordained that He does nothing on the earth without man's participation.

*John Wesley said, "God does nothing except in response to believing prayer".*

**Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.**

*God reveals it, man speaks it, and God manifests it.*

*That is why before Jesus could be manifested here on the earth, it had to be revealed to the prophets so they could speak it and write it down.*

Humanity has to worship and petition heaven before God acts on the earth. *For what we see in the book of Revelation is an answer to the prayers of humanity.*

*This is why the bible says ask and it shall be given seek and you shall find knock and it shall be opened unto you.*

**We see the start of this praise and worship in Revelation 4:10-11 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: 11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."**

*This is a constant theme for the 24 elders, it seems before God allow certain things to happen on the earth worship from these elders must go forth.*

John sees an angel **holding a golden censer**. This golden censer is a bowl or fire pan designed for holding live coals and incense. The adjective **golden** describes the value of this censor.

This angel is standing before God **holding** this very precious gift. He is then **given...much incense**. Incense is a precious and valuable perfume, just like our praise and worship is very valuable in the sight of God.



This is why we see much worship around the throne, so it can be used with chastisement and wrath as it is poured on the earth.

*It is probable the Father is the One who gives this incense to this angel.*

Why was this angel given all this incense? **so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne.**

*We see all the prayers of the saints are now being mixed with true worship. They are being offered to God at His throne mixed into this golden censer.*

John goes on to tell us that the prayers of all the saints are **“on the golden altar which was before the throne.”**

What a powerful picture! God esteems and enjoys our prayers so much that He keeps them before Him.

*This is why is say that you never have to ask God more than one time for anything. For if you ask by faith, it never goes away.*

Not only does God enjoy these prayers, but they also keep Him in remembrance of His promises.

***Isaiah 43:26 Put Me in remembrance; Let us contend together; State your case, that you may be acquitted.***

*Our prayers stay around the throne of God, stating our case according to the promises He has made.*

It is only because of the work of the Son, that allows the Father to see prayers as being worthy to be presented before Him.

**8:4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.**

The smoke of the incense going up before God, symbolizes He is receiving the Worship and prayers of His people.

**Psalms 141:1-2 Lord, I cry out to You; Make haste to me! Give ear to my voice when I cry out to You. 2 Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands (which symbolizes worship) as the evening sacrifice.**

*We see here that not only are our prayers supremely important to God, but they actually are closely connected to setting in motion what happens here on the earth.*

*So, we can be certain that when we pray in faith and according to God's will, we will receive an answer; maybe not on the same day on which they are offered, but at least in that day which John saw, if not before.*

*We also see that our praise goes up right before him as well, because proper prayer will include thanksgiving and praise.*



**8:5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thundering's, lightnings, and an earthquake.**

Fire represents judgement. Verse 5 says that the same censor that carried the prayers and worship up to God is now dipped down into the fire of the altar and thrown to the earth.

This Judgement is an answer to the martyr's prayers, that God would avenge them stated in **Revelation 6:9-11**, their prayers are about to be answered.

*I think now during this time of grace that it can have the opposite effect. That our worship and prayers are not mixed with Gods judgement and wrath but with Gods Grace Mercy and Blessings.*

**And there were noises, thundering's, lightning, and an earthquake.** All heaven is getting ready to break loose.

**8:6 So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. 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.**

Why was the hail and fire mixed with blood? Because this is the vengeance of the Lord being poured out on the earth.

*In the Old Testament, hailstorms and fire are a common element in God's judgment.*

*Can you imagine how the destruction of a third of all trees and the destruction of grass will upset the balance of nature and further the shortage of food as well as oxygen.*

*Let me point out that these things will really happen, they are not symbolic as some suggest.*

*Notice as we go through these trumpets that the judgements that come from them are only partial judgements. Only one third is mentioned.*

These judgements, even though they seem severe, are still mixed with God's grace in an attempt to get people on the earth to receive salvation through Jesus Christ by the witness of the 144,000.

**8:8 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.**

It does not say it is a great mountain, burning with fire, was cast into the sea. It says something like a great mountain on fire. It could be an asteroid, but we do not know.

*Also notice that this verse is just talking about one sea or body of water. This could be the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean...but we do not know.*



The sea probably becomes blood because of the amount of living creatures that die from this event.

**A third of the ships were destroyed.**

*So, if you intend to still be on earth after the rapture and you enjoy oceanic cruising, I suggest that you get your fill of it early on in the tribulation period, while your ship is still afloat.*

**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.**

This heavenly mass will probably be over land and shatters when it enters the earth's atmosphere.

*When a meteor comes hurtling toward Earth, the high-pressure air in front of it seeps into its pores and cracks, pushing the body of the meteor apart and causing it to explode.*

This too was on fire. The name of this star was Wormwood which means bitter. It was a bitter herb that was a symbol of divine punishment.

So, this heavenly mass corrupted the drinking water and people died from drinking it.

**8:12 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.**

In contrast to the first three trumpet judgments against the land, sea, rivers, and fountains of water, the fourth trumpet is aimed against the heavens.

*It is interesting that it was on the fourth day that God created and made visible to the earth, the sun, the moon, and the stars.*

This time the trumpet blast announced judgment on a third of the heavenly bodies. Darkness is a common symbol of judgment in the Old Testament.

The darkening of the heavenly bodies predicted in this verse also serves to warn of more judgment to come.

Evidently, God will cut off light from the sun, moon, and stars and from the earth, by one-third.

*I can't even imagine what this will be like. But I know I want to be viewing this from Heaven.*

**8:13 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!"**

As severe as the first four judgments have been, worse is yet to come.

Jesus Is Lord Assembly of Love  
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Advanced Teaching – 9/20/23



The first four attacked nature, with humankind affected indirectly. The next judgments will attack humanity directly as we will see in our next session.

John is saying, “The worst is yet to come. You haven’t seen nothing yet!”