

The Lion and The Lamb

Revelation 8:1-13

- The sealed scroll was introduced in chapter five and the seals were opened one by one up until the sixth seal in chapter six. As we waited for the last seal to be opened and the contents revealed there was a pause in chapter seven, where a revealing of one hundred and forty four thousand Jewish believers would preach the gospel during the great tribulation. Now we come to chapter eight, and there the final seal will be opened and the earth and the sea as we know it will no longer exist.

V1-13

- **V1-4** When Jesus opened the last seal something amazing happened, everything in heaven ceased and became silent for what John says for about half an hour. There is an awesome hush as more severe judgments are about to be introduced, as the seal judgments are about to be over and the trumpet judgments are about to begin, which will then be followed by the vial or bowl judgments, culminating in the destruction of Babylon, which will lead to the return of Jesus Christ to earth.
- That which is about to be unveiled is so serious that it requires a period of silence in heaven before it happens wow! Seven Angels are given seven trumpets to announce the coming of judgments upon the earth, the trumpet was used for several purposes in scripture > **1.** Was to call people to worship, **2.** Another was to prepare people for war. An angel was given a golden censor and told to stand by the altar, and offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar before God's throne.
- These prayers ascended before God, this shows how the prayers of God's people set in motion the consummation of history on earth, don't ever think your prayers are meaningless, that's our flesh its not what scripture teaches us.
- So before anything happens at the opening of the seventh seal the prayers of God's people come before The Lord God > **Ps 141:2, Acts 10:4**- an angel tells Cornelius "your prayers and your alms have ascended before God".

- **V5-6** after the silence and then the offering of prayers from the saints, come the judgment to the earth, as the angel now takes the censor fills it with fire and hurls it to the earth, and it produces a groundswell of judgment > noises, thundering's, lightnings, and an earthquake.
- Every time I read these things it takes me back to **Rev 3:10**, and **Rev 4:1**, for these scriptures line up perfectly with **1Thess 5:9**- for God has not appointed us to wrath but for salvation, the unsaved have an appointment with wrath, not those who are saved praise God, as God does not punish the saved with the wicked > **Gen 18:23**.
- **V7** now we see the first four trumpets and they produce nothing but desolation > **1st Earth**- the vegetation is burned up as hail and fire mixed with blood destroys a third of the trees and all the green grass is burned up. The entire earth has no grass, it's barren, with some trees every now and then, and we know what man does with that.
- **2nd V8-9 Sea**- second trumpet sounds something like a mountain of fire, John is sure to tell us it wasn't but that's the best he could do, is thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea becomes blood and a third of the sea creatures die and a third of the ships are destroyed. These two things the desolation of the earth and the sea reminds us of the plagues God sent to Egypt for rejecting Him.
- **3rd V10-11 fresh water**- a third trumpet sounds and a great star falls from heaven like a torch and it lands inland right where our fresh water and springs are, contaminating man's drinking water. This star even has a name "Wormwood". That means a third of man's drinking water will become so polluted and bitter for that is what wormwood means bitter, that people won't have enough water to survive.
- What is interesting is the word translated wormwood gives us our English word "**absinthe**" which is a liquor that contains a wormwood compound that once was banned in the early 20th century. It has a very high alcohol content that can cause hallucinations and long term mental problems, but because of the US alcohol and tobacco intervention with modern science they have again legalized it. Amazing God will use this word to contaminate man's ability to refresh themselves wow!

- **4th V12-13 heavens-** then the fourth trumpet sounds and a third of the sun is struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of all of them became darkened. So a third of the day did not shine, and with one third less sunlight upon the earth means the whole earth is without its full compliment of energy, and we know how we love our energy, now that's depleted.
- Also there is a third less light in the night as well, when we look at the first four trumpets it shows God removing all the ordinary means of sustenance that man takes for granted that God has graciously supplied for us but he gives God no credit.
- Food, water, light and natural energy, all means that we enjoy, which allows us to bask in the regular rhythm of life, giving us comfort, has now been permanently disrupted.
- In the midst of all this we still see the mercy of God, for as bad as this is notice, these are still only partial judgments, striking only one third, so its meant to warn and make aware to a rebellious world, you need to repent before the final curtain closes amen! God is still doing this today using us to warn people repent before a merciful God, no matter what you've gone through its nothing compared to what is on its way, surrender now, before there come a point of no surrender.