

Week 7 End Times Study

Ch. 8 Judgment Continues with Seven Trumpets

Cf. Hebrews 10: 23 Hold On vs. 31 AMP *It is a fearful and terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God [incurring His judgment and wrath].*

8:1-5 Seventh Seal – Silence in Heaven & Prayers for Justice. The silence is interpreted as a dramatic delay in judgment. It creates anticipation. It is about to get loud = trumpets. (Vengeance belongs to the Lord Rom. 12:19; Heb. 10:30)

Trumpets - Old Testament - Exodus 19:16 Trumpet announces God invading time and history; Numbers 10:10 - summons people to worship or the camps set out; 29:1 Sacred assembly "festival of trumpets – Rosh Hashanah - New Year"

Four uses: sounds an alarm, announces the arrival of royalty, summons to assembly; army signals such as charge as at Jericho - Joshua 6:20; & Gideon - Judges 7:20

Trumpets - New Testament - Announce the return of the Lord along with angelic shouts. Matthew 24:31; 1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16

Sin brings loss. From the time of the giving of the law God has promised blessing to the faithful and loss to the unfaithful. Cf. Deuteronomy 7:7-11

8:5 The incense burner on the main stage now comes into play as a symbol of the wrath that is to come. Recall Exodus 19:16

8:7 First Trumpet – Hail & Fire - Scorched Earth, 1/3 burned up! To some it may sound like a modern day firenado, or the result of a nuclear explosion. More to Come.

8:8-9 Second Trumpet – Blazing Mountain (Volcano) - Sea to Blood, 1/3 of sea and ships destroyed! The mountain would bring a tsunami and sea pollution. More to Come.

8:10-11 Third Trumpet – Falling Star named Wormwood – Fresh Waters embittered, 1/3 of population dies. Fresh Water Pollution – chemical or natural pollution from an asteroid or meteor. Destruction like an ice age brought on by a meteor that killed the Mastodons. More to Come.

8:12-13 Fourth Trumpet – 1/3 of Sun, Moon, Stars darkened, day night cycle changed. Life and light cycle interrupted. Cf. Zech. 14:6-7 More to Come.

The disruption of life as previously known and the mass destruction in this time of tribulation has led many to bring forth interpretations that remove the church from the scene, but this whole book is written to believers to reveal the events that shall in prophetic form. It gave them insight into the present and the future, from the one who is the first and the last and remains presently with them. Some will die, and some will live

An eagle warns of Three Woes = Trumpets 5-7

9:1-12 Fifth Trumpet = 1st Woe – an assault of Locust Monsters, like scorpions who torture and are led by a powerful demon of named Abaddon (Heb) Destruction,

or Apollyon (Grk) Destroyer. v. 11 A prelude to the all-out assault of Armageddon. Many want to interpret the locust monsters as modern day assault helicopters or other aircraft. Could be, but for the first century they were locust monsters.

9:13-21 Sixth Trumpet = 2nd Woe Death & Resurrection

An Interlude- Three Scenes of Hope

10:1-11 (1) Little Scroll - An Angel with an emerald rainbow over his head - Listen to the Loud message (seven thunders). They learn that there are some areas where you have to trust God. It is not to your advantage to know (like when Jesus is going to return). No more delay for the day is getting nearer. The little scroll that is good news (honey Ps. 119:103) is for those in the midst of suffering (bitter Heb. 12:15). Like the prophet Ezekiel (3:1), John is asked to eat the scroll (:11), that is to digest the message, and then prophecy.

11:1-10 (2) Two Witnesses - As the faithful have been sealed (7:4), and shepherded (7:17), now they are measured for protection.

From verse two, the verbs become past tense, and the future is spoken of as if in the past. (Back to the future?) The two witnesses are powerful and succeed for a while, but then are rejected and martyred. In the Old Testament the two people who had the powers represented by these witnesses are Elijah who prayed for fire to fall :5, (cf. Deuteronomy 5:24-27) and Moses who was given the ability to bring about many plaques :6. They could represent be future witnesses who will also be given miraculous powers for a time.

In 11:7 we get a glimpse of the Anti-Christ who rises up to kill the witnesses.

In 11:10 we gain an understanding of how the world sees the church, for when we speak truth it torments them. Rather than turn and repent they reach out to destroy. Destruction of truth by the one who operates in lies and murder Jn. 8:44. Cf. 2 Cor. 11:13-15

11:11-14 (3) Two Resurrected Witnesses Raptured = "Come Up Here"
(Like Enoch in Genesis 5:24 and Elijah 2 King 2:11 "fiery chariot")

11:15-19 Seventh Trumpet - Worship Preparation for the Seven Bowls of Wrath

A taste of what is to come -

12:1-17 Spiritual War in Heaven Tells of the Victory to Come

1. 12:1-6 Attempt to Stop the Birth of Jesus and to Destroy Him

2. 12:7- 9 War in Heaven cf. Is. 14:12-15; Ezekiel 38; Zechariah 14

3. 12:10-11 Provision for the Faithful

4. 12:6, 12-17 Protection for the Woman (Faithful) Cf. Matthew 16:18

Next Week Chapters 12-15 A second interlude. Chapter 15 takes us back to worship and prepares for the next round of judgments called Bowls in chapter 16.