

Revelation 8 The Seventh Seal

Introduction

The seventh seal is the beginning of a new set of more severe judgments. This seal introduces the seven trumpet judgments. The trumpets are more severe than the seals, and they are obviously divine in nature. It may be argued that seals 1-4 are “self inflicted.” They were warfare, famine, disease, and death. Seal five showed the souls under the altar, and seal six was the first clear indicator of divine judgment. The trumpets leave no doubt that God is actively judging the world and its leader the anti Christ. These judgments are intended to bring man to repentance, but we will see that man only hardens his heart during this time.

I. Preparations for the Trumpets, v1-5

As the seventh seal is opened, there is an unusual silence in heaven, because of the great judgment about to fall on the earth.

- A. The Silence in Heaven, v1-2 This is a very unusual happening. The glimpses that we get into heaven show praise and worship going on continually, Rev.4:8, 5,11-14, Isa. 6:1-4. This silence is designed to make us aware of the horror that is about to hit the earth. The judgments that follow will be some of the most devastating ever sent by God.
- B. The Saint's Prayers, v3-5 The prayers referred to here are probably the ones recorded in Rev. 6:9-10. These are prayers of vengeance, and in this passage, we see that God hears and responds to them. From this passage, it is easy to see that when God's people pray according to His will, He finds it pleasing and will act.

II. Trumpets 1-4, v6-13

It is important to remember that these judgments are more severe than the seals, and they are all obviously divine in nature. Notice that angels are used to announce these judgments, v6.

- A. Judgment on the earth, v7 In this judgment we see hail, fire, and blood fall on the earth. During this time one third of the vegetation on the earth is destroyed. This will cause an environmental and economic nightmare. This will greatly impact food, building, and clothing supplies. The atmosphere will be also be harmed. Plants produce oxygen and filter out carbon dioxide. The earth will be in great trouble!
- B. Judgment on the sea, v8-9 Here we see great burning mountain cast into the sea. This is probably some type of meteorite. It will cause one third of the sea to turn into blood. This will kill sea life, destroy ships, and lead to many other deaths. The oceans of the earth

occupy approximately three fourths of its surface. This judgment will probably cause the rest of the sea life to be thrown out of balance also.

- C. Judgment on fresh water, v10-11 The star Wormwood will cause one third of the earth's fresh water supplies to be poisoned. Many people, fish, and animals will die from this event. Things like this have already happened on a much smaller scale. A volcano erupted on the Aleutian Islands in 1823, and caused the waters to be temporarily poisoned. God will do this on a world wide scale.
- D. Judgment on the heavenly lights, v12 During this time God will use things from space as instruments of judgment, but He will also judge things in space. All the bodies in heaven that give light will be changed. The light from all of them will be cut by a third. This will lead to crop failure, freezing temperatures, and many more deaths.
- E. Judgments to come, v13 This verse tells the people on earth that they are not through with the judgments. The last three trumpets will be more intense than the first four. They are called the Three Woes.
 - 1. Rev. 9:1-12
 - 2. Rev. 9:13-11:14
 - 3. Rev. 12:12-13:14

Conclusion

These trumpets start the time of God's great judgment on the earth. God's purpose is to see man repent, however man only hardens his heart. The time of God's greatest judgment is yet to come.