

Revelation 8-10

Intro

Revelation 1:1

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John

The Revelation of Jesus

- Revelation - to unveil or reveal
- Revelation of Jesus -

It is **about** Jesus; No portrait of Jesus is complete without the brush strokes found in this book

It is **from** Jesus; He is the Revelator or revealer

Things which must shortly take place

- Revelation unveils the future as it relates to the return and reign of Jesus

Outline

Revelation 1:19

Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

The things you have seen

- Chapter 1; Key word - Jesus

The things which are

- Chapter 2-3; Key word - church

The things which will take place after this

- Chapters 4 - 22; Key word - Future
 - Beginning with chapter 4 the future begins to be unveiled

- The first event is John being called up to heaven. This serves as a picture of the Rapture of the Church
 - A generation of believers entering heaven without passing through the doorway of death
- Once caught up into heaven John describes events that transpire in heaven. These events lead to the judgment that will be poured out upon the earth
- This begins what Jesus called “The Great Tribulation”
 - **Revelation 6-19 provide insight into the events that will transpire during The Great Tribulation.**
 - Before discussing judgment, it is important to note that God desires to forgive

John 3:17

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

That brings us to our text

Revelation 8-9

Here we will see the judgments continue

Revelation 8:1-6

When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. 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. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. So, the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

- In Revelation 5, before the Seals were loosed, a scene in heaven is described where Jesus alone is found worthy to loose the seals and unleash their judgments

Application

Man does not have the authority to determine morality

It is not something that is voted upon or established by culture

For example

- There was a time (and in some parts of the world it is still that time), when slavery was considered morally acceptable

Popular opinion said it was morally acceptable; God disagreed

- There was a time (and in some parts of the world it is still that time), when the Jewish people were considered less than human and their extinction was called for.

Popular opinion said it was morally acceptable, God disagreed

- Today it is considered by many to be morally acceptable to use abortion as a means of dealing with unwanted pregnancies;

God disagrees

Jesus alone has the authority to judge

- In Revelation 8, before the Trumpets sound another heavenly scene is described.
 - The 7th seal is opened
 - It will unleash a series of judgments that correspond with 7 trumpet blasts
 - Before the blast of the first Trumpet heaven goes silent for 1/2 an hour

The silence draws our attention to an Angel carrying a golden censer filled with fragrant incense mingled with the prayers of the saints

What we learn

- Prayer in general is like a fragrance that ascends to the throne of God

Psalms 141:2

Let my prayer be set before You as incense,

The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

- But it is likely these prayers are the cries of the people of God for justice

Psalms 82:8

Arise, O God, judge the earth;

For You shall inherit all nations.

Psalms 94:1-3

O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongs—

O God, to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth!

Rise up, O Judge of the earth;

Render punishment to the proud.

LORD, how long will the wicked,

How long will the wicked triumph?

- Man's heart cries out against injustice

This is seen in the home, on the streets and in every form of artistic expression

Count of Monte Cristo

Hamlet

Murder on the Orient Express

- God allows His own children to suffer in unimaginable ways as He patiently waits for us to come to Christ

This is vividly illustrated in the 400 years God gave the Canaanites. While He extended mercy toward them His own people suffered unimaginable horrors in Egypt

- But God will one day answer the cry of the heart and unleash justice upon the earth

Some of the judgment is unleashed in the Trumpet judgments

First Trumpet: Vegetation Struck

Revelation 8:7

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.

Second Trumpet: The Seas Struck

Revelation 8:8-9

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

Third Trumpet: The Waters Struck

Revelation 8:10-11

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. 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.

Fourth Trumpet: The Heavens Struck

Revelation 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.

- The sin of man has brought unprecedented suffering on the planet

Jesus warned of this

Luke 21:25-28

“And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now **when these things begin to happen**, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”

It should be no surprise to us that many in our world are concerned and even fearful about the environmental conditions of the planet.

Article by “World Economic Forum”

“Climate Change is World’s Greatest threat according to survey”

23 nations leaders surveyed. Climate Change ranked as highest threat

The UN Chronicle

“The Greatest Threat To Global Security”

Jesus told us these things would begin as a sign that End Times events would begin to unfold

Chapter 9

Revelation 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!"

- Before the remaining angels sound their trumpets, a grave warning is given.
 - Keep in mind this is all written to the churches in advance. The warning will go out just prior to the Trumpet sound but the warning is already going out
 - The purpose of this warning is to turn us to the One who can rescue from judgment

Romans 5:9

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Revelation 9:1

Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit.

- A star falls from heaven.
- This is not an actual star. The word is used symbolically of a heavenly being. We know this because of the pronoun used. "To **him** was given..."
- He was given a key to open the bottomless pit
 - This is the place where the demons are held
 - This is the place where the demons begged not to be sent when they were cast out of Legion
 - This is where Satan will be held during the millennium

Revelation 9:2-3

*And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So, the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. Then **out of the***

smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

- Just as the Star is used symbolically to illustrate something about the being who opens the Pit so the term locust is used symbolically to speak of the creatures that are released.
- They swarm like locust and sting like scorpions but they are actually demonic beings
- Keep in mind this is written from the perspective of heaven.
- In a similar passage Daniel saw horrific beasts that represented kingdoms and world leaders. What he saw was a winged leopard, what history saw was Alexander the Great.
- It is likely that there will be no human headed locust with lions' teeth appearing but that demonic beings will be unleashed to real havoc upon humanity during this time

Revelation 9:4

They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

God has always made a distinction between those who belong to Him and those who don't

- The righteous were spared when Sodom was destroyed
- Those with the Lamb's blood on their door posts had the judgment Passover their homes
- Ezekiel saw a vision where an Angel marked the believers before judgment was released
- The Christian has received the seal of the Spirit

Ephesians 1:13

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Revelation 9:5-6

And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

- It is possible that what is being described is a pestilence that spreads throughout 5e earth lasting 5 months

Revelation 9:12

One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

The Sixth Trumpet

- Again, when the trumpet sounds heavenly beings are released
 - These are pictured as a massive army riding upon horses with lion heads who bring plagues upon the earth that Kill 1/3 of the population
 - While this is dramatic it is also a picture of mercy.
 - One third of mankind is affected.
 - Two thirds are untouched

John provides us with some final commentary

Revelation 9:20-21

But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Sadly, some are so angry with God or bound in their sin that they unwilling to turn to God and be saved

Chapter 10

His chapter draws our attention to a little book in the hands of a mighty Angel

Revelation 10:1-3

I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.

John is intrigued with what he hears but is forbidden to record it

Revelation 10:4

Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

So, John's attention turns from what the Angel says to what the Angel is carrying

Revelation 10:8-10

Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."

So, I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book."

And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.

- When John consumed the book, it was both sweet and bitter
- Ezekiel had a similar experience
- What exactly this means we cannot be sure but it serves as a vivid illustration of the value of the Word of God
 - We take it in and it comforts
 - But it should produce a desire to get the message of the Gospel out