

Pastor Grady Covin

The Mission

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## Revelation 8

So the week before last we finished up Revelation chapter 7, and last Wednesday night we had Brother James and two of his elders with us to report on their ministries in Clarkston, Georgia, as well as in the country of Miramar; and if you missed that, you truly missed a blessing.

And so tonight we'll go on to chapter 8, keeping in mind that chapter 7 was more or less an interlude if you will between the opening and the execution of the sixth seal and the opening of the seventh seal. And I won't go back over that. If you weren't here, you can go to the website as always, and catch up if you're of a mindset to do so.

So tonight if someone would like to read for me chapter 8 in its entirety and then I'll go back and explain it one verse at a time when you finish.

**Revelation 8:1, 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, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

So with the breaking of this seventh seal comes if you will the beginning of the “Day of the Lord”. And what is the Day of the Lord?

Well, at least six times in the Old Testament, the Day of the Lord is called “the day of doom.” In other words, what the prophets were saying is that one day there’s going to come a day when the Lord will bring about His final judgment.

That’s what the Apostle Paul was talking about in 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 when he wrote:

**1 Thessalonians 5:1, But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.**

It’s also the same day the Lord was telling His disciples about, back in **Matthew 24:42, Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. 43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.**

So this is the day of the Lord, the final judgment, and it’s about to be unleashed upon the earth.

But notice what happens first. Look at verse 1. It says and

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

Up until this point and time, there had been nothing but worship and praise and prayer going up to the Lord. The angels, the elders, the church, all the saints of God are pictured gathered around the throne God with the sounds of unending praise and worship!

But then all of sudden it stops. And for a half an hour or so, there’s nothing; but silence. No music, no praise, no whispering of a prayer, no sound whatsoever.

When Jesus took that scroll and peeled back that seventh seal, all of heaven knew it was time. All of heaven knew that the day of the Lord had come and with it comes this eerie silence in heaven as they awaited what was to come next.

And then in verse 2 John says

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

Breaking the silence would be the piercing sound of these trumpets as they would be blown one by one.

Now, why trumpets?

Well, trumpet in ancient times, and especially in Israel, were used regularly as a means to announce to people things that you wanted them to know. In other words, they were used to get people's attention.

A trumpet, for example, was blown, to declare war. A trumpet was blown to assemble the people. A trumpet was blown to announce a festival or a convocation. Trumpets were used to introduce the king. They were used to direct people's attention to the king when he was about to speak.

And of course that's what they're being used for here. They're announcing the urgency and the importance, if you will, of what is about to come, which begins with war and ends with judgment.

And there will be a trumpet that will declare war. There will be a trumpet that will call the people to assemble. There will be a trumpet that will call for the world's greatest convocation: the kingdom and the reign of Christ. And there will be a trumpet which will announce the return and majesty of the King.

And so these seven angels, which are appointed by God to direct these judgments, hold these seven trumpets which will eventually unleash the final judgment upon the earth.

**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.**

And so we see here what the saints are doing, just prior to and while these seven trumpets are blown. They're praying! And this angel with the golden censer is introduced as standing before the altar.

And he's more or less symbolizing if you will, the order of the priest in the Old Testament. The priest in Old Testament times would burn incense upon the altar and the smoke and the scent would fill the temple and eventually rise toward heaven.

And so this was symbolic of worship and prayer and a reminder that intercession to the Lord has the character of sweet incense.

And by the way, we're not told who this angel is, but many believe again it's Jesus who is not just acting as a priest, but who is the High Priest and also the One who intercedes for His people.

And so the incense is offered along with the prayers of the people as they both rise up to God.

Now, we're told the saints are praying, but what are they praying for? Are they praying for the deliverance of the remaining people on the earth? Are they praying for God to have mercy on them and to give them grace?

Well, if you go back to chapter 6 of Revelation, It says

**9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” 11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.**

There in chapter 6, they were praying that God would avenge their death, and the death of their brothers and sisters who were also about to be martyred for their faith.

But here in chapter 8, that time has been completed, and the time of judgment has finally come.

And so the saints here in chapter 8, they're not praying as we pray now on earth. We pray for grace and mercy and we pray for the salvation of people. And we're commanded by Christ to do that, to pray, like He did, to forgive our enemies and to forgive those who want to do us harm, for they know not what they do.

But that's not the prayer of these saints. The age of grace has passed and the saints who are around the throne of God here have a different request. Because it's time. God has been patient, and he's been merciful and kind and loving and long-suffering, but it's time; and so now they're praying for God to judge, and to avenge the blood of those who have been martyred. So these are prayers for judgment to come.

**5 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.**

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

And so the angel takes the censer that holds all of this incense, which was being offered up along with the prayer of the saints, and he throws it to the earth. God is finally going to answer the prayers of those martyred saints. And when the angel throws this censer filled with fire to the earth, well, this marks the beginning of the end. And all of heaven knows that there is about to come upon the earth a time of judgment and devastation like has never been seen before in the history of mankind.

And it's going to start with fire in some fashion or form.

Just like in Matthew 13, where the angels are participating in judgment. It says in verse 41 that, **“The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”**

Well, here we have basically the same thing as the angels throw their fire to the earth and it consumes and catapults people into the lake of fire. And as we're going to see later on in our studies of Revelation, all unbelievers will eventually end up in that lake of fire.

And of course everyone on earth also will know what's about to happen, when all around the globe, there will be sounds of thunder, and flashes of lightning, and a great earthquake that shakes the entire world. And all this even before the first trumpet!

So look at verse 7.

**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.**

Now, most of us know, this is not the first time God has used fire and hailstones to bring judgment on the earth. In Genesis 19, in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, we know God rained down brimstone and fire from heaven to destroy those two cities. And there are other examples as well we don't have time to mention.

So we know God has used those things before on a small scale, but this won't be a small scale. This won't involve just a few cities or even a few countries. This will be world wide devastation.

And remember; the earth has already experienced what happened when the sixth seal was opened; when the sky collapsed; and the earth was literally shattered.

And here, the entire earth again hears the thunder, and sees the lightning, and feels this great earthquake. And this all happens before the blowing of the first trumpet!

And though we don't know exactly what all this entails, it appears to be hail as the result of a great storm. And then possibly fire as a result of this great earthquake, which could break open volcanoes, and possibly send lava raining down all over the world.

And again, this is not isolated to just one part of the earth. This is world wide devastation; and so severe that it says, one-third of the earth will be burned up. One-third of the trees will be burned up, and all the green grass will be burned up, which means the scientist are right.



There is coming a day of global warming that will be devastating, but it's not going to come from the emissions from automobiles, or from coal-fired power plants. It's going to come from God as judgement on those who refused to believe in Jesus Christ.

And so this is essentially the end of all forests and plant life, when the whole world is set on fire.

**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.**

So what is this "great mountain"?

Well, it's exactly what Scripture says it is. It's something like a great mountain burning with fire, which means it could be an asteroid or a meteor.

And by the way, there are scientists, even today who believe it's possible that we could have an asteroid or meteor hit Earth the size of a continent.

And if it crashed into the ocean somewhere, it would no doubt cause these results. And what's really bad, is that people are going to know it's coming. With all of the radar technology we have in the world today, they're going to know it's coming, but they're not going to be able to stop it.

Not Bruce Willis, not Leon Musk!

And when it hits, the Bible says, "A third of the sea [will turn to] blood." Now, what does that mean?

Well, unless we have proof otherwise, we can only assume it means what it says. A third of the sea will be turned to blood.

Now, in other scripture we're told the moon will look "like blood," and of course, we've seen those moons with our own eyes, and they look the color of blood, but it's not turned to blood.

But here it specifically says that the sea is turned to blood.

And it could be blood from the sea animals that are killed when this thing lands in the sea or it could be a combination of blood from the sea animals and blood from humans; because it also says that a third of the ships will be destroyed, and we have a lot of ships on the water around the world at any given time, which means that a lot of people will be killed on those ships.

And so a third of the sea turns to blood, and it's not hard to imagine how the water will be poisoned. All the chemicals that will be released into the water when those ships are destroyed; and a third of all marine life will be killed. Which means the food chain as well will be greatly affected; not just the from the devastation to the sea, but think about it!

If a third of the forest and trees are burned up, and a third of all marine life are destroyed, and shipping has been more or less brought to a halt, and other transportation has all but come to a halt, then buying food, and growing food, and catching food from the sea will be all but impossible.

But just like the birth pangs of a woman in labor, it's only going to get worse.

**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.**

And so here's another asteroid, or whatever that crashes into the Earth, but this time instead of landing in the sea, this time it hits land; and this time it affects the fresh water. When it hits, it breaks up into fragments, and

it affects one-third of the rivers and the fresh water springs. And we all know that nothing or nobody lives without water. And so this is a death sentence for many more.

And then in verse 11, we're told this star has a name.

**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.**

Now, that name "Wormwood" in the Hebrew means "hemlock." And there are a couple of places in the Old Testament where it's used, and it really is a plant. It actually has some medicinal value to it when used in the right dosage, but in excessive amounts it is poison and will eventually bring about death.

And so now you have a third of the fresh waters poisoned along with one-third of the ocean turned to blood and poisoned. And all of this by design I can assure you. This is no accident on God's part. This is all part of His plan and judgment as He begins to poison the entire world.

And because people need to drink, they're going to drink, because if they don't drink, they'll die. But if they drink poisoned water they're going to die as well. And so death in one way or another will no doubt be massive across the earth.

And of course that's what it says in **verse 11: It says, "Many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter," or poisoned.**

And then in verse 12

**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.**

Now, those left here on the earth will have their attention drawn elsewhere. It'll move from the surface of the earth to above the earth, as eclipses start happening all over the heavens. And we've all seen eclipses of the sun and the moon, but they only last for a few minutes normally at least the ones I've seen. But these will be different.

There's going to be an eclipse of the sun, and an eclipse of the moon, and an eclipse of the stars, and they're all going to take place at the same time, and they're not going to be temporary; they're going to be permanent.

And when there's no longer a 24-hour day, and no more seasons, and all of the heavens and earth are in total disarray and chaos, there's going to be panic like has never been seen before, because everyone is going to know; that this is not survivable.

And the truth is, that's why these judgments come at the very end because, they're designed to be without remedy. And I don't care how many Leon Musks get together and brainstorm a solution, they're not going to find one. And they can plan all the trips they want to, to Mars, but they're not going to avoid the consequences of this final judgement of God.

Because no-one will escape. No-one!

When everything is gone: when food is gone, and fresh water is gone, and time is disrupted, and the seasons are gone; everything and everyone will be assaulted and no one will escape.

And so if you're not a Christian when the Rapture takes place, then this what you're going to have to look forward to.

