

Revelation 8

Revelation 8.1-2

V 1-2 – Who is "The Lamb"? Jesus ("Worthy is the Lamb...")

- Why silence? Everyone is waiting anxiously; John is getting everyone's attention
- What happened when Jesus broke the seventh seal on the scroll? 7 angels with 7 trumpets
- What is the usual purpose of trumpets (or bugles)? To get everyone's attention
- General explanation: trumpets mean that God is preparing to bring punishment on the Roman Empire
- Notice the 3 groups of 7's – seals, trumpets, bowls
- God emphasizes 3 times that Christians will be avenged

Revelation 8.3-5

V 3 – What other pause have we had? The angel holding back the 4 winds (for the sealing of the saints)

Remember *Habakkuk 2.20* – *The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him*

- How would v 3 encourage Christians in the First Century? That their prayers were being heard by God
- Read Romans 8.26-27 – the Holy Spirit "translates" our prayers into God's thinking
- Censer? In the Catholic Church, they have a bowl with a cap with holes in it –it is on a chain and is swung around the auditorium

V 4 – Where did the prayers go? Up before God

V 5 – Very dramatic...

- Why would the angel do this? God is ready to speak and act
- Remember God on Mt. Sinai – thunder, earthquakes, lightning

Revelation 8.6-9 - First two angels sound their trumpets

V 6 – What would the angels do to prepare themselves to play the trumpets? Up to mouths

- In the first century, there was a 4-fold division of nature: land, sea, fresh water, and sky

V 7 – Beginning of the second set of calamities

- Do these match the first and second horsemen? No – this is a new set of calamities
- First trumpet? Fire and hail and blood on the earth
- Total destruction? No, only a third
- Seventh plague against Egypt (*Ex. 9.18*)? – hail
- How would destruction of trees and grass affect a civilization? Crops, fruit trees, etc.

V 8 – Second trumpet? Great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea

- Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD (Pompeii)
- The Jews of the first century thought that it was God's revenge on the Romans for the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD

V 9 - Result of second trumpet blowing? A third of the creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships at sea were destroyed

Revelation 8.10-11

V 10 – Third trumpet sounded? A falling star

- Over the centuries, how have people generally looked on meteors and comets?** Very suspicious
- Mark Twain was born in the year of Haley's Comet, and he always said that he would die when it returned 75 years later (1835-1910), and that is exactly what happened
- Wormwood?** A very bitter plant
- Sent to inland water
- Remember the first plague against Egypt – *Ex. 7.20* – water into blood
- God is now beginning to avenge the persecution against his people
- Why was good water needed in ancient warfare?** Many historical studies have found a common tactic was to poison the water of the enemy
- Wormwood was not poisonous, but made the water too bitter to drink (see *Prov. 5.3-4, Jer. 9.15*)

Revelation 8.12-13

V 12 -Fourth trumpet? 1/3 of sun, moon, stars were darkened (would destroy navigation by the stars)

- Remember the ninth plague against Egypt?** Total darkness – See *Exod. 10.21-23*
- Why are there so many references back to the situation in ancient Egypt?** God saved his people then; he will now also save his people
- What does the darkness symbolize?** Sin

V 13 – 3 remaining trumpets

- Some translations have "vulture" instead of eagle
- Notice:
- First 4 trumpets = woes on nature
- Next 2 trumpets = woes upon mankind
- But the worst is yet to come

Revised 2013-01-28