

Revelation 8:1-13

REVIEW...

● OUTLINE...

- THREE sections – **Revelation 1:19**
- THREE events...
 - The RAPTURE – **Revelation 4-5**
 - The WRATH – **Revelation 6-18**
 - The RETURN of Jesus Christ – **Revelation 19-22**
- THREE judgements...
 - The seven SEAL judgments – **Revelation 6-8**
 - The seven TRUMPET judgments – **Revelation 8-14**
 - The seven BOWL judgment – **Revelation 15-18**
- **Tribulation Saints...**
 - AFTER - Jesus [Lamb] opens the first SIX seals – there is a PAUSE in the JUDGEMENT of God...
 - FOUR angels who have power of the weather – SIXTH trumpet – are told to WAIT...
 - FIRST God needs to SEAL 144 thousand Jews [twelve thousand from each tribe]
 - Who will be the FIRST fruits of those SAVED in the Tribulation – then tell others about Jesus!
 - AFTER – the 144 thousand are SEALED
 - John saw an innumerable multitude in HEAVEN worshiping before the THRONE...
 - One of the ELDERS told John – these are those who have been saved from the Great Tribulation!

SEVEN TRUMPETS...

● 1ST – SEVENTH SEAL... vs. 1-2

- 1ST – Silence in Heaven... vs. 1
 - **When He opened the seventh seal!**
 - Having SEALED the 144 thousand Jewish EVANGELISTS...
 - With an INNUMERABLE multitude already SAVED and worshiping in HEAVEN...
 - God still wanting to get the ATTENTION of the remaining unbelievers on earth...
 - Continues the JUDGEMENTS – and Jesus opens the SEVENTH and final SEAL!
 - **There was silence in heaven for about half an hour!**
 - In a strong TYPHOON – there will always be an EYE in the middle of the STORM...
 - As the EYE gets closer – the winds increase doing maximum damage...
 - Then suddenly there is SILENCE – the wind STOPS – there is an EERIE calm...
 - But after a short time [half an hour] – the STORM pick back up at the PEAK level!
 - This SILENCE in heaven takes place in the midst of the JUDGEMENT...
 - It is an eerie calm – because we know the JUDGEMENT is NOT done...
 - The LAST of the SEALS – marks the beginning of the SECOND set of JUDGMENTS!
 - **There is a BAD joke – that I feel compelled to share called the PARTIAL rapture theory...**
 - **It states that MEN are raptured a just a little before the WOMEN...**
 - **Because there is SILENCE in heaven for a HALF hour!**
- 2ND – Seven Trumpets... vs. 2
 - **I saw the seven angels who stand before God - and to them were given seven trumpets!**
 - In the midst of the SILENCE – John saw SEVEN angels who STOOD [perfect] before God...
 - Like a somber ceremony – each was handed a TRUMPET – in preparation for what came next...
 - TRUMPET - [σάλπιγγί] same as [שופר] – first mentioned in the Bible at Mount Sinai!

- **Exodus 19:13** – “When the TRUMPET [שופר] sounds long - they shall come near the mountain.”
- The PURPOSE of the TRUMPET was to call people to come HEAR the LORD...
- Because God WANTS to speak to MEN – He desires for them to LISTEN...
- But SIN has made it hard for MEN to hear what God has to say...
- It hardens their HEARTS to the GOSPEL – keeps them from His GRACE...
- So God breaks out the TRUMPETS – very LOUD – to try and get their attention!
- **2ND – THE GOLDEN CENSER... vs. 3-6**
 - 1st – The Altar... vs. 3
 - Then another angel - having a golden censer - came and stood at the altar!
 - With the SEVEN angels – now holding the SEVEN trumpets...
 - Another angel came having a GOLDEN censer – and stood before the ALTAR...
 - CENSER [λιβανωτός] – comes from the word FRANKINCENSE...
 - It was a golden pot used to hold INCENSE that was burnt to give off a sweet aroma...
 - The ALTAR – was the altar of INCENSE – like the one inside the TABERNACLE – **Exodus 30:1-6**
 - 2nd - The Incense... vs. 3-4
 - [The angel] 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...
 - [which is] the prayers of the saints - ascended before God from the angels hand!
 - The angel took a LOT of incense – and offered it with the PRAYERS of the SAINTS [ἄγιοις]
 - This is NOT talking about SPECIAL saints – this is the ALL believers on earth...
 - Those who have gotten SAVED – and are praying to God in the TRIBULATION...
 - Their prayers are HEARD – they come up BEFORE God...
 - Believers who are in the TRIBULATION – can always call out to God...
 - He is LISTENING to their prayers – and is there to HELP them in their time of TROUBLE!
 - Pray to God...
 - The ALTAR of INCENSE was inside the Tabernacle – next to the VEIL – **Exodus 30:6**
 - The Lord told Moses that He would meet with him there at the ALTAR...
 - Because even Moses could not go inside into the HOLIEST of ALL [throne room]
 - But as the INCENSE was burned – it would carry through the veil – into presence of God!
 - **I Peter 3:12** – “Eyes of the LORD are on the righteous - His ears are open to their prayers.”
 - We may not have to go through the GREAT tribulation – but we still have TRIALS...
 - The question WHERE do we go when they come – WHO do we turn to...
 - We are told we should [subjunctive] COME to the THRONE of GRACE - **Hebrews 4:16**
 - God is AVAILABLE – He is ABLE to HELP – we just have to choose to PRAY to Him!
 - 3rd - The FIRE... vs. 5
 - Then the angel took the censer - filled it with fire from the altar - and threw it to the earth.
 - The CASTING of the CENSER to the earth seems like an act of ANGER...
 - But it actually might be a picture of being CLEANSED from sin!
 - This FIRE from the ALTAR – is perhaps the same as what Isaiah saw...
 - When Isaiah had a VISION of heaven – he was terrified because he was UNCLEAN...
 - But one of the CHERUBIM took FIRE from the ALTAR and cleansed him!
 - **Isaiah 6:6-7** – “One of the seraphim flew to me - having in his hand a live coal [fire] which he had taken with the tongs from the ALTAR. And he touched my mouth with it... Your iniquity is taken away and your sin purged.”
 - 4th – Mount Sinai... vs. 5
 - [The censer was cast down] and there were noises – thundering – lightning - an earthquake!
 - This is an EXACT picture of what happened on Mount Sinai...

- When God came down to speak with Israel – to give them His WORD!
- **Exodus 19:16-19** – “There was thundering and lightning - a thick cloud on the mountain - the sound of the trumpet was very loud... the mountain quaked greatly... and God [spoke].”
- The WORD that God gave to Moses and Israel – was the TEN commandments...
- Not so they could be GOOD – but so they could see they were BAD – and needed SALVATION!
- We come back to this SIMPLE truth – the MOTIVE behind the TRIBULATION...
- God SPEAKS to men – brings His WRATH to the earth...
- In an effort to show them they are NOT good – NO one is – **Romans 3:23**
- Because until we see the PROBLEM – we are sinners – we will not look for the SOLUTION...
- God is still trying to SPEAK to people – get them to see they NEED Jesus!
- o 5th - Seven Angels... vs. 6
 - And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound!
 - The SEVENTH seal is done – the PRAYERS of the saints have been HEARD...
 - The SEVEN angels – prepared their SEVEN trumpet to be blown...
 - God is ready to SPEAK again – SEVEN more judgements – to get the attention of rebellious men!
- 3RD – TRUMPET JUDGEMENTS... vs. 7-13
 - o 1st – First Trumpet... vs. 7
 - The first angel sounded!
 - Hail and fire followed - mingled with blood - and they were thrown to the earth.
 - A third of the trees were burned up - and all green grass was burned up!
 - The FIRST trumpet brings devastation to the PLANTS on earth...
 - A HAILSTORM – accompanied by LIGHTENING [fire]
 - That HAIL is so devastating that it had the potential to KILL [blood]
 - FIRES that are the result of the STORM burn down a THIRD of the trees and ALL the grass!
 - The SEVENTH plague...
 - **Exodus 9:24-25** – “There was fire mingled with the hail... and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field.”
 - This is NOT the first time we have HAIL and FIRE as a judgment of God...
 - The SEVENTH plague that God brought on EGYPT – was HAIL and FIRE!
 - God WARNED those in EGYPT – do NOT go outside during the STORM...
 - If they obeyed the WORD of the LORD – they would be safe...
 - But if they IGNORED what He said – then they would lose their life!
 - **Deuteronomy 30:15** – “Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death - between prosperity and disaster.” [NLT]
 - The book of REVELATION is a WARNING – we need to LISTEN to God...
 - If we reject His message of salvation – then there will be death...
 - God does not send ANYONE to hell – they CHOOSE to go there – by not listening to His Word!
 - o 2nd – Second Trumpet... vs. 8-9
 - Then the second angel sounded!
 - Something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea!
 - The SECOND trumpet brings devastation to the OCEANS...
 - Something LIKE a great [μῆγας] mountain – that was on FIRE – was cast into the SEA...
 - Recall when Revelation uses KEY words – such as LIKE or AS...
 - John is trying to DEFINE something that is difficult for him to DESCRIBE...
 - This is most likely a METEOR [rock on fire] that comes crashing down into the SEA!
 - A third of the sea became blood - a third of the living creatures in the sea died...
 - And a third of the ships were destroyed!
 - There are over one MILLION METEORS in our solar system [most between Mars and Jupiter]

- A SIXTY meter rock - would hit earth with an impact of a nuclear bomb [25 megaton]
 - This METEOR would be even larger – hitting the OCEAN – causing mass devastation...
 - So many animals will DIE [one third] – the SEA will become filled with BLOOD...
 - And the TSUNAMI that results from the impact will destroy one THIRD of all boats!
 - This is NOT the FIRST time God sent ROCKS from heaven onto earth...
 - When Joshua was fighting the FIVE kings of the SOUTH – **Joshua 10:1-14**
 - God sent ROCKS [hail] down onto his enemies killing many of them!
 - God does not fight fair – He has control over a whole UNIVERSE...
 - He has a MILLION rocks He can send at any moment crashing down on earth...
 - When we put it into that perspective – how foolish it is to think we can WIN against the Lord!
- o 3rd – Third Trumpet... vs. 10-11
- Then the third angel sounded. A great star fell from heaven - burning like a torch...
 - It fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water!
 - The THIRD trumpet brings devastation to the fresh [drinking] WATER supply...
 - A great [μέγας] STAR fell from heaven – that looked LIKE a burning torch [λαμπάς]
 - STARS are BIG - the SUN [star] is over a MILLION times larger than the Earth...
 - Therefore it seems unlikely the STAR here – is a literal STAR...
 - Instead something that is BRIGHT – with a trail of FIRE [torch] coming from it!
 - The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood...
 - Many men died from the water because it was made bitter!
 - This STAR has a NAME – it is called WORMWOOD...
 - WORMWOOD [ἀψίνθιον] – the name of a PLANT - Artemisia absinthium...
 - It is commonly found in north Africa and Eurasia – and has a very BITTER taste...
 - The RESULT of the water supplies being contaminated by WORMWOOD – many will DIE!
 - The word WORMWOOD in Ukrainian is Chernobyl [чорнобиль]
 - For those not familiar – Chernobyl was the site of a NUCLEAR disaster in 1986...
 - Although only FIFTY people officially died in the immediate aftermath...
 - One of the major consequences of the disaster – was a contaminated WATER supply...
 - Which raised the total death toll up to over FOUR thousand from radiation exposure...
 - This has led some to speculate the STAR that falls from heaven – might be NUCLEAR...
 - There is even a monument of an Angel with a Trumpet – set up in the ruins of the city today!
 - Thirsty World...
 - John is describing a future event – seen TWO thousand years ago...
 - We need to be CAUTIOUS reading too much of our world into his description...
 - While I do find the potential connection to Chernobyl interesting...
 - The arrogance of MEN – toying with POWER they cannot control – leading to DISASTER...
 - I would not say definitively – this is a reference to a NUCLEAR disaster!
 - The point is not HOW God will take away the FRESH water on the earth...
 - The point is THAT God will make men THIRSTY – show them this world is POISON...
 - Because the ONLY thing that can ever truly satisfy us – is Jesus!
 - **John 7:37** – “If anyone thirsts - let him come to Me and drink.”
- o 4th – Fourth Trumpet... vs. 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.
 - A third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine - and likewise the night!
 - The FOURTH trumpet brings devastation to the LIGHT...
 - One THIRD of the sun – moon – and stars goes DARK...
 - Both during the DAY and NIGHT – the LIGHT does not shine one THIRD of the time...

- We are NOT told HOW – only that they are STRUCK – so they do not SHINE!
- **Ecclesiastes 1:14** – “I have seen all the works that are done under the sun - and indeed - all is vanity and grasping for the wind.”
- Men believe the answers to life can come from something UNDER the SUN...
- They look for LIGHT to come from something in this life...
- But the LIGHT of this world is fading – it is passing away...
- It is only when we look to Jesus – the true LIGHT – that we will find the answers!
- **John 8:12** – “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness...”
- One THIRD...
 - THIRD – appears ELEVEN times just in this chapter [half of all occurrences in the book]
 - Which brings up the obvious question – why only one THIRD!
 - If God wanted - He COULD wipe out the WHOLE world...
 - God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah with fire in a day – **Genesis 19:24-25**
 - God killed 185 thousand Assyrian soldiers with ONE angel in a night – **Isaiah 37:36**
 - Yet in the devastation of the SEVEN trumpets – NOT all – never even HALF perish...
 - God does pour out His JUDGMENT and WRATH – but there is still HOPE!
- o 5th – Three Woes... vs. 13
 - 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!
 - Then John SAW and HEARD another angel who was flying through HEAVEN...
 - Saying LOUDLY [μέγας] – WOE [ὀαί] THREE times - to those who DWELL [κατοικέω] on earth...
 - Because there are still THREE more TRUMPETS about to sound...
 - Whereas the first FOUR trumpets bring disaster to NATURE: Trees – Oceans – Water – Light...
 - The last TRUMPETS will unleash hell – the DESTROYER [Abaddon] on MEN!
 - When TRIBULATION comes - our first reaction is to think we can handle it...
 - And perhaps we can – but that does not mean that God is done...
 - He can turn up the HEAT - till our circumstances move beyond anything we can take...
 - NATURAL disasters not enough – OK – then how about the armies of hell...
 - God does not hold back - so we would learn not to trust in ourselves - but instead trust in Him...
 - Because He loves us too much – to give us an easy life – if it means we will miss eternal life!