# 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 remining 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 - [σάλπιγξ] same as [שׁוֹפָר] – first mentioned in the Bible at Mount Sinai!

- **Exodus 19:13 –** "When the TRUMPET [שׁוֹפָר] 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 [ἅγιος]
      - 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 brough 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 [μέγας] 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 is seem 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 [чорно́биль]
  - 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 tole 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 every 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 solders 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 [οὐαί] 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!