

Revelation chap. 8

The seven trumpets part 1

1 And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. 3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. 5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. 6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. 7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. 8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; 9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed. 10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; 11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter. 12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. 13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

The opening of the seventh seal is a continuation of chapter 6 where the first six seals of the book of Daniel are opened. The sixth seal was the 2nd coming so to continue a chronological order the seventh seal would have to follow that. When the seventh seal is opened there is silence in heaven for half an hour. This seal is much harder to identify because it is so vague. Is there silence in heaven because Jesus and the angels have left for the 2nd coming? It's hard to

say for sure but what we do know is that this seal precedes the scene in heaven where an angel offers incense on the golden altar which is before the throne for the prayers of all saints. In the book of Luke, Zacharias offers incense in the temple during the time of prayer indicating that this would be a time of silence and during this duty he is met by the angel Gabriel. Whether the silence in heaven is due to it being emptied during the 2nd coming or is significant because of the incense and prayers that are offered before God is not made known by the verses.

And seven angels which stood before God were given seven trumpets. These seven angels are joined by the angel with the golden censer and after offering the incense and prayers he fills the censer with fire from off the altar and casts it into the earth. This action brings about voices and thunderings and lightnings and an earthquake which appear to precede the judgments that will be handed out by the seven angels. The temple imagery in heaven hearkens back to the day of atonement which was the most solemn occasion in the Jewish calendar. The feast of trumpets preceded this event and was a warning for the Israelites to get ready for the great day of judgment was coming. The seven trumpet judgments appear to be similar in nature and will warn the people of God to get ready because Jesus is numbering the members of his kingdom in the heavenly sanctuary. These judgments will also affect the wicked but they will not be brought to repentance by them just hardened in unbelief.

The first angel sounded and hail and fire mingled with blood were cast upon the earth. A third of the trees were burnt up and all the green grass was burnt up. I have seen many interpretations for the trumpets with some being overly symbolic and span the gamut of historical events to those that are overly literal and include asteroid impacts. I tend to take a literal approach because the trumpet judgments do mirror the vial judgments and affect the same things. The first angel is very similar to the plague of hail that fell on Egypt in the time of Moses. The bible records that hail fell and fire ran upon the ground and men, animal, plants and trees were all destroyed. If this judgment were upon a third of the earth it would be devastating. The second angel's judgment is a great mountain burning with fire that is cast into the sea and a third of the sea becomes blood. A third of the sea creatures are killed and a third of the ships destroyed. This sounds very similar to an asteroid impact in the ocean with the added element of the water turning to blood which means this is more than an act of nature but a supernatural act of God.

The third angel sounded and a great star fell from heaven burning as a lamp and fell on a third of the rivers and fountains of waters. The name of the star is called Wormwood and many men died from the waters because they were made bitter. It would be easy to once again label this as some type of asteroid impact but the words used are the same as the fifth trumpet where a

star falls and opens the bottomless pit indicating the star is actually an angel. This appears to be the same with the angel even being named as Wormwood. The name Wormwood comes from 'apsinthos' which is similar to the highly alcoholic spirit absinthe. Whether the waters are turned into alcohol or poison is not made known but what is known is that many are killed from these tainted waters. The fourth angel strikes a third of the sun, moon and stars so that a third of the light is taken away in the day and night. Once again this is some type of supernatural phenomenon. A final angel is seen flying thru the midst of heaven saying woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth because the final three trumpets will be even more terrible than the first.