

# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### "THE FIRST FOUR TRUMPET JUDGMENTS"

#### I. THE SILENCE BEFORE JUDGMENT (1)

A. Begins when the seventh seal was opened.

1. This verse picks up where chapter six closed with the opening of the \_\_\_\_\_ seal.
2. Notice this seventh seal has no \_\_\_\_\_ itself but out of it comes seven \_\_\_\_\_ and contained in the seventh trumpet is the seven bowls (8:2). We see then there is a telescopic development in the judgments.

B. Takes place in heaven and lasts for about half an hour.

1. What we see here in verses 1-6 is a \_\_\_\_\_ scene of activity.
2. What we have represented here is like a lull just before a \_\_\_\_\_. Note Hab. 2:20; Zeph. 1:7; Zech. 2:13; Isa. 41:1. So when the seventh seal is opened we have a picture of things just before more and greater judgments begin to fall.

#### II. THE SYMBOLS OF JUDGMENT (2-6)

A. Are represented by seven angels who were given seven trumpets (2).

1. These seven angels were to direct the \_\_\_\_\_ proceeding from the sounding of their trumpets.
2. Trumpets in Scripture were used to announce some particular thing. They announced assemblies, attacks, and important events such as when the law was given. Note Ex. 19:19; Lev. 23:24; 25:9; Num. 10:2-10; Joel 2:1.

B. Are presented by something which another angel did and what took place after that (3-6).

1. We see another angel took his golden \_\_\_\_\_ which was filled with fire from the altar and offered incense to God along with the prayers of the saints (3-4).

- a. Some take this angel to be Christ identified as "the angel of the Lord".

(1) We note however the term "the angel of the Lord" identifying Christ in His preincarnate appearances in the O.T. is never used of Him in the N.T.

(2) Secondly the word "another" in verse three referring to this angel means another of the same kind.

- b. What this angel did with the censer compared to the way it was used in the O.T. worship (3-4).

(1) Fire was taken first of all off the golden altar of incense and put into the censer. Then incense was added and then offered to God.

(2) The incense that was used in the O.T. worship speaks of prayers and intercession (Ex. 30:34-38). Here it speaks of the prayerful cries of the \_\_\_\_\_ martyrs (Rev. 6:9-11, 20:4).

2. This other angel who offered incense cast his censer upon the \_\_\_\_\_. This was followed by voices, thunders, lightnings, and an earthquake (5).

- a. This act by this angel seems to be symbolic of judgment in response to the prayers of the persecuted \_\_\_\_\_ in the great tribulation. Some of the Psalms no doubt speak of prayers that Israel will pray against their persecutors during the tribulation period.

- b. The things which followed this act are the things which characterize a storm and they warn that the storm of God's judgment is coming.

3. The seven angels then prepared to sound their trumpets after the sounds of this terrible storm were heard (6).

### III. THE SORROWS OF JUDGMENT (7-13)

- A. Start out upon the earth's \_\_\_\_\_ when the first trumpet sounded (7).

1. It was followed by hail and fire mixed with blood upon the earth and it burnt up 1/3 of the vegetation upon the earth.
2. Note here the means by which this judgment is carried out parallels

the judgment of the seventh plague of Egypt (Exodus 9:18-26). The blood may refer to that of men and beasts who will be caught in it. This was the case in Egypt (Ex. 9:19,25).

B. Come next upon the \_\_\_\_\_ as the second trumpet sounded (8-9).

1. This trumpet sound was followed by a judgment upon the sea with 1/3 of it becoming blood. Also 1/3 of the creatures in the sea died and 1/3 of the ships were destroyed.
2. The means by which this judgment is accomplished is a great burning mountain which is cast into the sea. Apparently it will be a large object which will fall from heaven.
3. This judgment also parallels the plagues of Egypt when all the waters in Egypt were turned to blood (Ex. 7:20; Psa. 105:29).

C. Continue upon the \_\_\_\_\_ waters when the third trumpet sounded (10-11).

1. This trumpet sound was followed by judgment upon the drinking waters with 1/3 of the rivers and the springs being made bitter and poisonous.
2. The means by which this judgment is accomplished is a great burning star named wormwood (bitter) which will fall from heaven. This parallels Israel's experience at Marah (Ex. 15:23-25). There bitter waters were made sweet by a tree. Here sweet waters will be made bitter. One pictures Christ atoning for sin, the other pictures Christ coming in judgment.

D. Afterwards come upon the earth's \_\_\_\_\_ when the fourth trumpet sounded (12-13).

1. This trumpet sound was followed by judgment upon the illumination of the earth with 1/3 of the sun, 1/3 of the moon, and 1/3 of the stars all being darkened.
2. Note the parallel of Ex. 10:21 which was a total eclipse for three days. Here we see the light of the sun, moon, and stars will be darkened by 1/3. The means by which this judgment is accomplished may be an eclipse each day and night.
3. This judgment was followed by an angel announcing a threefold woe in regard to the three remaining trumpets. The three woes are the three remaining trumpets which are yet to sound. The fifth trumpet is the first woe (9:12), the sixth trumpet is the second woe (11:14), and the seventh trumpet is the third woe.

