

Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #17 | Revelation 8:1- | The Seventh Trumpet | Dr. Randy White

A Review

- We now know that six seals have been opened, and this has brought us all the way to the Day of the Lord's wrath (Rev. 6:17).
- We therefore expect the seventh seal to be one of wrath.
- Because the events of the sixth seal make long-term life on earth a near impossibility, we assume that the seventh seal will take place in a matter of months, weeks, or even days.
- The first six seals (especially the sixth) are so bad that John wonders who could survive. In response to his inquiry, he is told about the 144,000 who survive physically on earth to inherit the Kingdom, and the great multitude that survive spiritually to inherit the Kingdom.

Revelation 8:1-7 | Opening of the Seventh Seal

- The seventh seal consists of the releasing of 14 events, shown in seven trumpets and seven bowls of wrath.
- As it is opened, it seems that all of heaven is able to see ahead to the 14 events. The events are so drastic that **there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour** (v.1).
 - Is this time figurative? If so, *what does it figure?*
 - Is there any reason *not* to interpret this literally?
- The prophecies of the Psalms predict this silence. The Hebrew word for *silence* is only used four times, each in the Psalms.
 - Psalm 22:1-4 – the prayer of the Forsaken is **not silent** (v. 2).
 - Psalm 39:2 – the forsaken was **dumb with silence**.
 - Psalm 62:1 – the forsaken **waiteth upon God** for salvation.
 - Psalm 65:1 – **Praise waiteth for thee** (is silent for thee).
- Compare also Lamentations 3:26. The Bible consistently displays a *waiting period* before judgment comes.
- There were **seven angels** who were given **seven trumpets** (v. 2).
 - These will be blown in Revelation 8:7-11:14.
 - In 1 Chronicles 15:24 seven trumpets were blown prior to returning the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem.
 - Zephaniah 1:14-16 describes the final days as **the day of the trumpet**.
- Note the specificity of the seven angels. Who are they? We are not told. We do have, however, some intriguing possibilities:
 - Revelation 1:4 spoke of **the seven Spirits which are before his throne**.

- Luke 1:19 reveals that Gabriel stands in the presence of God, so could assume he is one of the seven.
- In Daniel 4:13 there is a **holy watcher that came down from heaven** with a vision.
- They are perhaps the same angels which **excel in strength** as in Psalm 103:20.
- Prior to the blowing of the trumpets, there was an incense offering placed on the **golden altar** (v. 3).
- Both here (v. 3-4) and Revelation 5:8 we see the incense representing **the prayers of the saints**.
 - Because of the context of this passage (especially verse 5) along with 5:8, we can assume that the prayer of the saints has been for *vindication* and *vengeance*.
 - *Presumably* (but not without doubt) these prayers are from those *alive*, not dead (as in Rev. 5:8).
 - Many of the vengeance prayers of the Psalms give us the content of these prayers.
 - Psalm 28:4
 - Psalm 141
- Upon hearing the prayers, the Lord (at last!) brings an answer to the prayers.
 - He uses an angel to take the **fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth** (v. 5).
 - Psalm 18:1-9 also speaks of this event.
- Closing the introduction to the opening of the seal, the **seven angels...prepared themselves to sound**.
 - Woe to those on earth who hear their sound.
 - The judgements will be “of Biblical proportions,” as powerful and as real as those of the Old Testament.

A Comparison to Our Day and Time

- We *are not* in the tribulation, even though the events of 2020 have been more spectacularly awful than any single year in the last 50 years.
- One hundred percent of the pain and suffering of 2020 has been *man-made*. The events of the Revelation are sent directly from God.
- In our day, the answer to all of our problems is simple: *a worldwide recognition and acceptance of the truth of the Gospel would solve the divisions of politics, race, and worldview that trouble our world today*.
- In the coming days of the seventh trumpet, there will be *no hope* other than to *endure to the end*.