

## THE SEVENTH SEAL & THE TRUMPET JUDGMENTS—Revelation 8

### 1. Introduction

- The Seal Judgments of chapter 6 are resumed and concluded with the 7<sup>th</sup> seal

“A summary of the seals:

The first four seals are plainly successive, introducing the successive judgments at the beginning of the tribulation period. The fifth is subsequent to these since it gives the toll of the slain.

The sixth, however, reveals the signs from heaven, including the parted heavens, the One seated on the throne, and the impending wrath of the Lamb. Cf. Matthew 24:29, 30.

It is clear, therefore, that the seal judgments take the scene up to the end of (and beyond), the tribulation period; consequently, the trumpet judgments, since at least all but the last are confined within the limits of the tribulation period, cannot be placed subsequent to the close of the seal judgments.”

*(taken from A Revelation of Jesus Christ by J.D. Smith)*

- v. 1—the half hour silence in heaven portends awful judgment to come—imagine the silence
- All the seals are now open

### 2. The Seven Angels—Rev. 8:2-6

- They stand before God; a place of great prominence such as is given to Gabriel (Lk. 1:19)
- The use of trumpets in Scriptures

“The use of trumpets by the angels has considerable background in the Scriptures. Trumpets were used in various phases of Israel’s economy. They were sounded at times of public assembly, used to direct soldiers in war and to signal important events on the calendar. Trumpets were used on the occasion of the giving of the law, were sounded on the first of the month, and served to announce almost every important occasion”

*(taken from A Revelation of Jesus Christ by John F. Walvoord)*

- Another angel probably the Lord Jesus Christ in His working as High Priest
- It shows the necessity of praying in His Name
- The censer is thrown to the Earth—set for judgment

### 3. The First Trumpet—Rev. 8:7

- Hail, fire mingled with blood
- Parallel in Ex. 9:18-26—7 Egyptian plagues
- This is literal
- Vegetation is destroyed—1/3 of trees and grass
- Terrible problems for world: food, transport
- First four trumpets form a special unit contrasting with the last three

4. **The Second Trumpet**—Rev. 8:8-9

- Something like a great mountain into the sea
- 1/3 of sea creatures die; 1/3 ships destroyed—imagine!
- This is literal

“Though some believe that the sea becoming blood is the language of appearance, that is, that the sea through some chemical change turns blood-red, the natural effect is devastating in that the judgment destroys a third of the ships and a third of life in the sea. The probability is that all live and all ships are destroyed in one portion of the earth, the area nearest to the impact of the great burning mountain.”

(taken from *A Revelation of Jesus Christ* by John F. Walvoord)

5. **The Third Trumpet**—Rev. 8:10-11

- A third angel
- A great star like a burning lamp fell on 1/3 of the rivers and upon the fountain of waters

“A great blazing object containing some type of pollutant or poisonous substance will fall out of the sky. It will be named after a bitter herb called **Wormwood** in the Bible. It will contaminate one-third of earth’s fresh water supply, causing many people to die from drinking the tainted water. Although the Bible does not say, it is reasonable to assume that many others will die from thirst. With one-third of the fresh water tainted, most people will be unable to obtain drinkable water before extreme thirst sets in. Adults will survive without water for about three days, while the sick and infants will have fewer.”

(taken from *The Book of Revelation* from the Smart Guide to the Bible Series by Daymond R. Duck)

“The star seems to be a heavenly body or a mass from outer space, understandably burning as it enters the atmosphere of earth, and falling with contaminating influence upon the rivers and waters. The reference to wormwood seems to draw the parallel of the experience of the children of Israel at the waters of Marah (Ex. 15:23-25). There the tree cast into the bitter waters made them sweet. Here the wormwood cast into the sweet water made it bitter. Such also is the contrast between Christ on the cross atoning for sin and making that which is bitter sweet and Christ coming in judgment which turns the vain hopes and ambitions of men into bitterness and despair. The result of this trumpet is to inflict a divine judgment from God upon men themselves.”

(taken from *A Revelation of Jesus Christ* by John F. Walvoord)

6. **The Fourth Trumpet**—Rev. 8:12-13

- The fourth angels sounds
- 1/3 of sun and moon smitten
- 1/3 of stars darkened
- the day did not shine for 1/3 of day and night
- compares with ninth plague of Egypt

“J.B. Smith comments:

‘It is of considerable interest to note the progress—one third of the green trees and grass, one third of marine life and shipping, one third of the waters, and one third of the heavenly bodies. Food is destroyed; distribution is crippled; water supply is limited; production is hampered.’

This interpretation is given support by the next verse, which indicates that the first four trumpets are not only judgments in themselves but warnings of the last three trumpets which will be far more severe in character.”

(taken from *A Revelation of Jesus Christ* by John F. Walvoord)

- v. 13—the Angel flying through the air
- Woe, Woe, Woe—onomatopoeia
- The next judgments are on mankind
- These judgments should be seen as literal

“It is well to remember the oft-repeated rule, ‘When the literal sense makes good sense, seek no other sense.’ To which one may add, ‘Any other sense is usually nonsense.’”

(taken from *A Revelation of Jesus Christ* by J.D. Smith)

- Let us warn of the wrath to come