



Citadel Of Faith Covenant Church

October 19, 2016

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ALPHA AND OMEGA

We now turn our focus to Rev. 8. We have already witnessed the opening of the seven seals and now we see the sounding of the seven trumpets. We can't miss the symbolism. The seven seals were opened by the Lamb who had been given power to do so. These seals released judgment on the earth and we saw the delineation of those judgments in chapter 7. As we now turn to chapter eight we hear trumpets. The trumpets were used to make proclamations or announcements. In verse one we see that when Jesus opened the seventh seal contained within it were the seven trumpet judgment. After the seal was opened, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. What a reverent moment before such mass destruction. We then see in verse two the mention of seven angels who stand before God. These seven angels were given seven trumpets. Once again, let's not lose the deeper meaning in this sentence. Although the angels will blow the trumpet judgments, they don't have the power to do this on their own. All of the instructions for the judgments to take place emanate from the throne and God who sits on it. God hands the scroll to Jesus. Now the seven trumpets are **given** to the seven angels. Verse three speaks of yet another angel who had a golden censer. These were bowls which were often used in temple worship which were filled with incense made of gum and spices. We will note when there is a reference to incense, it is usually associated with that of prayer (Ps. 141:2; Luke 1:10). Remember Rev. 6:10 when the martyred saints were asking when will their blood be avenged? Here is an example of God storing up prayers in heaven until the appropriate time to answer. We notice in Rev. 8:4 the both the incense from the censer as well as the prayers of God's people went up before the Lord from the angel's hand. Our prayers are always received by God. This is so comforting. Many of us when we don't see immediate answers to our prayers, we question whether or not God heard us, etc. Here is yet another example how not ONE prayer is missed by the heavenly Father. Verse five shows how the angel takes the censer then fills it with fire from the altar (which is before the throne of God) and then hurls it at the earth. With this act, came loud peals of thunder, lightening and an earthquake.

Now we go back to the angels who have been given the seven trumpets and they are now getting ready to sound them, thus releasing judgment. Verse 7, the first angels sounds the trumpet and several things happened as result.



1. Hail and fire mixed with blood.
2. 1/3 of the earth was burned up { 1/3 of trees and all the green grass was burned up)

As result we can assume this caused global catastrophe with crops, the ecosystem as well as the atmosphere (smoke and ash). When the second angel sounded the trumpet something the size of a mountain (ablaze) was thrown into the sea (ocean). As a result 1/3 of the sea turned to blood and (verse 9) 1/3 of all living creatures in the sea died and a third of the ships were destroyed. Once again, this is creating a global catastrophe where there is rotting fish in the sea, commercial sea vessels are destroyed. Not only are their global health issues relating to the first two seals, but the economic conditions are unhinging. The third angel sounds the trumpet and a star (on fire like a torch) falls from the heavens on 1/3 of all the springs and rivers of the earth. This star has a name Wormwood (which means bitter). As result a third of the waters turned bitter and many people died as result of this infected water. Notice that the judgment of the people came through judgment on creation. A fourth angel sounds the trumpet (vs. 12) so that a 1/3 of the sun, moon and stars turned dark. As a result a third of the day and night were without light. We have to note that the world is unraveling and the judgment of God cannot be ignored.

Finally vs. 13 records an eagle flying in mid-air making an announcement: “Woe, Woe, Woe to the inhabitants of earth because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other angels.”. Wow. As if what has happened isn’t bad enough, now we see this eagle announcing this is just the prelude of more severe things to come. God has finally begun the vindication of those who were crying for justice. But more importantly this is the fulfillment of God’s promise to judge the earth of sin.