

Revelation 8

Opening the 7th Seal – First Four Trumpets

INTRODUCTION

- A. When the 7th seal was opened, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.
1. The silence here is accentuated by the contrast with the “voices” in the six seals before it.
 2. Here is a symbol of pause, a sign for the shortness of time.
 3. The silence here followed in immediate succession to the scene of chapter 7, where all the angels, elders, and beings “[fell before the throne on their faces and worshipped God.](#)” [6:11](#)
 4. The similarity between the cessation of singers and the silence of the angels was impressive.
 5. One writer called this a “pregnant pause, a real attention getter,” all look toward the Throne.
- B. This is an important section as the judgment of God is about to fall, having been announced in the sixth seal (Revelation 6: 12-17).

Verse 2

- A. Seven angels with seven trumpets. By blowing the seven trumpets the seventh seal is opened— that is, revealed!
- B. Trumpets were real attention getters also. As chapter 8 begins, and we look toward the opening of the seventh seal. We must hear all seven trumpets blow before judgment falls.

Verse 3

- A. Another angel brings “much incense” to the altar which is before the Throne in Heaven (Rev. 4:2). The incense represents the many prayers of the saints.

Verse 4 - The picture in this verse is of intercession—the prayers of the saints going to God.

Verse 5 - The angels cast fire to the earth representing judgments (real, but not literal).

THE FIRST FOUR ANGELS SOUND THEIR TRUMPETS

Verse 6 - Now the angels are ready to sound (blow their trumpets—warning).

Verse 7 - First angel sounds his trumpet LAND disaster judgment (pictures the

Old Testament plagues in Moses' day).

Verses 8-9 - Second angel sounds his trumpet: SEA (maritime) disaster judgment.

Verses 10-11 - Third angel sounds his trumpet: LAND WATERS judgment.

Verse 12 - Fourth angel sounds his trumpet: DARKNESS smites the sun, moon, and stars.

WARNING - THREE MORE WOES: THREE MORE TRUMPETS — The Woe Trumpets

Verse 13 - Flying eagle (ASV; NIV) announces the final three trumpets of WOE, WOE, WOE.

TRUMPETS—SIX USES IN SCRIPTURE from Numbers 10:1-10

- A. To assemble the congregation (Numbers 10:2).
- B. To direct the movement (journeying) of the camps (Numbers 10:2).
- C. To go to war—sound an alarm (Numbers 10:9).
- D. To rejoice in days of gladness (Numbers 10:10).
- E. To announce the beginning of months (Numbers 10:10).
- F. To announce offerings and sacrifices for a memorial (Numbers 10:10).

ALARM AND WARNING OF TRUMPETS

- A. Sound an alarm with the trumpet, a day of Jehovah is coming (Joel 2:1-3).
- B. The day of Jehovah is “a day of the trumpet and alarm. . .” (**Zephaniah 1:14 18**).
- C. Seek for safety when the trumpet is blown (Jeremiah 4:5-9).
- D. The trumpet, when blown, struck fear in the hearts of the people (Amos 3:6).
At this point let us take a brief look at the Olivet Prophecy of Jesus, which includes many of the same types of symbolic figures of coming judgment that are used in Revelation.

THE OLIVET PROPHECY - Matthew 24, Mark 13, AND Luke 21 - DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM

- A. This was a very lengthy and important prophecy made by Jesus before His death concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, the temple, and the end of the world (eon—age [Jewish Age]).
 - 1. In **Matthew 24:3**, Jesus was talking with His disciples about the temple, and He said, “**There shall not be left here one stone upon the other. . .**”
 - a. In response to this statement, the apostles asked two questions:

1. “Tell us, When will these things be?” **Matthew 24:3**
 2. And what will be the sign of your coming . . . ?“ [What shall be the sign that these things are about to come to pass?]
 - b. There are parallel passages in Luke 21 and Mark 13 which record the same two questions.
 - c. However, Matthew records an additional thought, “what shall be the sign of your coming and of the end of the world [eon].”
 1. This is not a third question, but an explanatory phrase.
 2. The word “and” in Greek can mean “even.”
 3. So in Matthew, the question is, “what shall be the sign of thy coming, even the end of the world?”
 4. The word “world” here is eon which means “age” (historical period of time).
 5. **When Jesus came in judgment to destroy Jerusalem, the Jewish age ended** (Hebrews 8:8-13).
 6. The apostles were not asking about the ending of the earth and stars, or the question would have been—the end of the kosmos.
 2. Jesus answered the apostles’ questions—**Matthew 24:15, 30, 34** - Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand)

30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.
 3. The parallel passage in **Luke 21:20-22** reads: But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her.

For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.
- B. Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 are completely and totally fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem (AD 70), when the Roman armies led by Titus Vespasian surrounded the city of Jerusalem; laid siege to it; tore down the temple stone by stone; and finally burned it.
1. Remember, we must honor the time factor Jesus gave his disciples: this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. (**Matthew 24:34**).

2. Jesus said that the Gospel must go into all the world before this end of the age could come (Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:10).
 3. Some question whether the Gospel had gone into all the world by AD 70 when Jerusalem fell. The answer is, “Yes.” The Bible tells us four times that the Gospel went to the entire world:
 - a. **Mark 16:20** (AD 68) - And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.
 - b. **Romans 10:18** (A.D. 58) - But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: "Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world."
 - c. **Colossians 1:23** (AD 63) - If indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.
- C. There are other New Testament scriptures yet to be fulfilled in Christ’s final coming, but the Olivet Prophecy (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21) is not one of them.
1. In addition, according to Jesus in **Luke 21:22**, ALL previously written prophecy (from Genesis to Malachi) had to be fulfilled by the time Jerusalem was destroyed, which happened in AD 70.
 - a. This includes all of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Amos, Zechariah, etc. ALL!
 - b. **Luke 21:22** - For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled
 2. It is important to note that these parallel chapters which discuss the fall of Jerusalem (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21), and the book of language:
 - a. Tribulation.
 - b. Sun darkened.
 - c. Moon darkened; stars falling.
 - d. Sign of Jesus.
 - e. Tribes mourning.
 - f. Jesus coming in clouds with power and glory.
 - g. Sound of a trumpet;
 - h. Four winds.
 - i. Earthquakes.
 - j. Death by the sword.
 3. However, these figures refer to two different judgments.
 - a. Matthew, Mark and Luke refer to the destruction of Jerusalem (in AD 70)
 - b. Revelation to the destruction of the Roman Empire. Both events were to occur soon or quickly.

NOTE: The description of these events is purely symbolic or figurative.