

SILENCE IN HEAVEN

REVELATION 8

Text: Revelation 8:1

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¹ And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

Introduction:

Chapter 8 records the opening of the seventh and final seal. This is still the tribulation period. With the opening of the seventh seal we are introduced to the sounding of seven trumpets. This entire period of the tribulation is a series of judgments. Not until after the judgments are there voices heard saying:

Revelation 11:15

¹⁵ And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

This chapter can be divided into three sections.

1. THE SILENT PAUSE (8: 1)

Revelation 8:1

¹ And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

Notice this silence is in Heaven, not on the earth.

The Bible tells us of a coming day when all the earth, and all the islands, and all flesh will be called upon to be silent before God.

Habakkuk 2:20

²⁰ But the LORD *is* in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

Isaiah 41:1

¹ Keep silence before me, O islands; and let the people renew *their* strength: let them come near; then let them speak: let us come near together to judgment.

Zechariah 2:13

¹³ Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.

The silence in Heaven precedes the silence on earth.

In chapters five and six all of Heaven resounds with the praises of the redeemed giving glory to the Lamb, but now there is stillness and a silence. No voice is heard, no motion is seen.

Following the silence God will speak as it says in Psalms 2:5

Psalms 2:5

⁵ Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

Hebrews 1:1-2

¹ God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

But the next time that God's voice is heard throughout all the earth, judgment will fall.

2. THE SOLEMN PREPARATION (8:2)**Revelation 8:2**

² And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

These seven angels are going to announce the execution of judgment through the sounding of the trumpets. But they are restrained for the space of about a half an hour.

This is a solemn moment because of the judgment that going to follow.

These judgments will be the most awful judgments to ever come upon the world.

They are the judgments prophesied by Enoch, expected by the Psalmist, and verified by Paul.

Jude 1:14

¹⁴ And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

Psalms 96:13

¹³ Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

Acts 17:31

³¹ Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

3. THE SINNERS PUNISHMENT (8:7 – 9:21)

The trumpet judgments appear to occur just before the second coming of Christ, in power and great glory as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

A. The First Trumpet**Revelation 8:7**

⁷ The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

At the sounding of this first trumpet, one-third of all vegetation will be destroyed; resulting is disaster for the world's supply of fruits, vegetables, meat, milk, and cheese.

B. The Second Trumpet

Revelation 8:8-9

⁸ And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; ⁹ And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

Pay close attention to the words. It doesn't say that this was a great mountain but rather as it were a great mountain burning with fire.

It's not certain what this object is, possible a volcanic mountain in the sea that explodes, or a falling star or a meteorite, or even a satellite, but regardless what it may be the results will be disastrous.

One-third of the sea turns to blood, one-third of the creatures in the sea die, and one-third of the ships are destroyed, affecting trade between countries.

C. The Third Trumpet

Revelation 8:10-11

¹⁰ And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; ¹¹ And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

God will use that which He created to effect the creation. He put the stars in their place;

Genesis 1:14-16

¹⁴ And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: ¹⁵ And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. ¹⁶ And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: *he made* the stars also.

He knows how many there are and their names;

Psalms 147:4

⁴ He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by *their* names.

The name of this star is called Wormwood

Deuteronomy 29:18

¹⁸ Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go *and* serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood;

Proverbs 5:4

⁴ But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword.

Jeremiah 9:15

¹⁵ Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, *even* this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink.

Jeremiah 23:15

¹⁵ Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make

them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land.

Amos 5:7

⁷Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth,

At the sounding of the third trumpet many men will die from water made bitter by the Divine Judge.

How wonderful it is in this day of grace God make available to individuals the soul-satisfying water of life.

John 4:14

¹⁴But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 7:37-39

³⁷In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. ³⁸He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. ³⁹(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

D. The Fourth Trumpet

Revelation 8:12-13

¹²And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. ¹³And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the

earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

The sounding of this trumpet is a fulfillment of a prophecy which will baffle all scientists who study the sun moon and the stars.

This prophecy was given by the Lord Himself.

Luke 21:25-28

²⁵And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. ²⁷And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

It interesting what God did on the fourth day of creation.

Genesis 1:14-19

¹⁴And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: ¹⁵And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. ¹⁶And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: *he made* the stars also. ¹⁷And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that *it was good*. ¹⁹And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

And now the fourth trumpet God will withdraw the light that He Himself created.

This will seriously affect the health and well being of people on the earth at that time. The seasons will be changed, and the remaining fruits and vegetables will be affected as well.

Close:

These judgments are just the beginning to still greater judgments that will follow. Three more trumpets are yet to be heard. These last three trumpets are call the “WOE” trumpets indicating the severity of God’s judgment at the end of the tribulation.