

When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. (Revelation 8:1)

I. Heaven's Silence Before The Storm (vv.1-6)

- a. There was silence in heaven for *about a half-hour*. John does not tell us why.
 1. The absolute silence and the distribution of the trumpets are evidence of heavenly order.
- b. The significance of trumpets: 1) they called people together; (2) they announced war; and (3) they announced special times (Numbers 10:1-10) (Joshua 6:13-16).
- c. An angel offers prayers for the "saints", those who are in Christ, not referring to *sainthood*.
- d. In the O.T., on the Day of Atonement, the high priest would put incense on the coals in the censer and, with the blood of the sacrifice, enter the holy of holies. (Lev. 16:11-14)
- e. The angel's burning incense on the altar symbolized prayers before God, praying, "God may your will be done". Notice that worship continues during Judgment. Why?
- f. The seven angels stand waiting to hear the command to blow their trumpets one by one (**order**).

II. The First Four Trumpets Will Dramatically Impact Nature (vv.7-12)

- a. **The First Trumpet (Judgment on the land):** Hail and fire will fall on the earth.
 1. God is judging mankind at its greatest strength; the natural resources (fertile land, water, etc.).
 2. 1/3rd of the trees (fruit producing) and grass will be destroyed.
 3. 1/3rd of the earth will be set on fire destroying agricultural.
 4. Some people worship nature, rather than the One who created it (Romans 1:25).
- b. **The Second Trumpet (Judgment on the sea):** Something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea.
 1. 1/3rd of the sea became blood; 1/3rd of the living sea creatures died.
 2. 1/3rd of all ships will be destroyed (*53,000+ ocean-going vessels as of Jan 2019, Statista*)
 3. How will this impact the economy and coastal areas?
- c. **The Third Trumpet (Judgment on fresh water): A great flaming star (bitterness a.k.a. wormwood) fell out of the sky.**
 1. National Geographic lists 100 primary rivers in the world, 30 large rivers in the U.S. and thousands of smaller rivers around the world that provide fresh water to billions of people.
 2. 1/3rd of the inland waters become bitter and undrinkable. **Many people will perish.**
- d. Even after all the impact on natural resources, many will not repent.
- e. **The Fourth Trumpet:** Desolation in the heavens
 1. The fourth judgment will affect the entire world. Light supports life systems on the earth.
 2. 1/3rd of the sun is darkened. (1/3rd less energy will be available for animal and plant life)
 3. 1/3rd of the moon is darkened; 1/3rd of the stars are darkened; 1/3rd of the day no sunshine; 1/3rd of the night (no moonlight or starlight)
 4. Human nature will take advantage of the darkness (crime and wickedness). (John 3:20)

III. Woes to The "Earth Dwellers" (v.13)

- a. *Those who dwell on the earth*, refers to those who live *for* the earth and the things *of* the earth.
- b. These are not the people who have repented and now have their citizenship in Heaven. (Rev. 13:8)
- c. The woes refer to the judgments yet to come. If you think this is terrible, just wait!
- d. In the beginning heaven and earth were united. Sin caused a chasm between heaven and earth.
- e. Jesus died for the sins of the world thus bridging the gap between heaven (God) and earth (us).
- f. During the tribulation, all will have the opportunity to receive Christ as Lord and Savior.