

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

A Teachable Moment - December 17, 2023

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Title: "The Lamb Opens the Seventh Seal"

Scripture Reference: Revelation 8:1-13

I. Introduction

A. The Book of Revelation is a tremendously fascinating, interesting, and informative book.

B. John the Apostle is the author and Chapter 1:19 provides the outline of this book as John was given a vision, which I like to call "Sightseeing in Glory."

C. Chapter 1:12-16 contain the content of the vision, verses 17-20 tells us about the consequences of the vision.

D. Chapter 1:19 informs us that John was told to write about the things which are past, the things which are (i.e., the present), and that which shall be hereafter (i.e., the future).

E. It is also interesting to note that the Book of Revelation contains a series of things incorporated under the very prominent number Seven.

F. There are **Seven Seals**, **Seven Trumpets**, and **Seven Bowls** (also referred to as Vials). The number seven is also indicative of the **seven churches** in the Book of Revelation, also **seven spirits**; there are **seven Beatitudes** in the Book of Revelation.

G. Here are the Scripture references for the Seven "**Beatitudes**," each containing the word "**Blessed**."

1. Rev. 1:3

2. Rev. 14:13
3. Rev. 16:15
4. Rev. 19:9
5. Rev. 20:6
6. Rev. 22:7
7. Rev. 22:14

H. In Chapter Five, John records that he "saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals." (Rev. 5:1)

I. This book that John saw was literally a **scroll** or a rolled-up parchment, with seven seals affixed to the sides, in such a way that if unrolled, the seven seals would need to be broken one by one.

J. Again, this scroll contained writing both inside and on the back, This was typical of various contracts in the ancient world, including deeds, marriage contracts, rental and lease agreements, and wills.

K. The inside of the scroll contained all the details of the contract, and the outside - or back - contained a summary of the document.

II. Introduction [Part II]

- A. **Note this fact:** This scroll contains the title deed to the earth, sealed with seven seals.
- B. Romans sealed their wills seven times - on the edge at each roll - to prevent unauthorized entry.
- C. Hebrew title deeds required a minimum of three witnesses and

three separate seals, with more important transactions requiring more witnesses and seals.

D. In Revelation Chapter 5, the Lord Jesus Christ ((i.e., The Lamb of God)) was the only one found worthy to open the little scroll - the title deed to the universe.

E. As He breaks the seven seals that secure the scroll, each seal unleashes a new demonstration of the Lord's judgment on the earth in the future Tribulation Period.

F. These seal judgments include all the judgments to the end. The seventh seal contains *the seven trumpets*, the seventh trumpet contains the seven bowls.

III. Exposition [Part I] - The Opening of The Seventh Seal (8:1)

"And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour." (v1)

A. The opening of the seventh seal is a most important event, confirmed by the fact that **there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.**

Comment: This should immediately let you know the something spectacular is about to occur.

IV. Exposition [Part II] - The Seven Angels and The Seven Trumpets (Rev. 8:2)

A. As John observed the heavenly scene, he wrote that he saw the seven angels which stood before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

Comments:

- 1) Remember this fact: In the Book of Revelation, trumpets primarily announce impending judgment.

- 2) The trumpets are of greater intensity than the seals, but not as destructive as the final bowl judgments will be (cf. Rev: 16:1-21).
- 3) The seven trumpets occur during the final three and one half years of the Tribulation Period, but the time of each is indefinite, except the effects of the fifth trumpet judgment, which will last five months (Rev. 9:10).
- 4) The final four trumpets announce the divine destruction of earth's ecology (8:6-12).
- 5) The final three trumpets involve demonic devastation of earth's inhabitants (Rev. 9:1-21; 11:15ff).

V. Exposition [Part III] - The Golden Censer (Rev. 8:3-5)

"And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne." (v3)

A. Before the trumpets sounded, a dramatic introduction was given by another angel, one in addition to the seven, who stood before the golden altar with a golden censer.

B. In the Old Testament tabernacle a censer made of copper, suspended on a rope or chain, was used to carry coals from the brazen altar outside of the tabernacle to the altar of incense inside, in order to ignite the incense. This occurred twice daily, at the time of the morning and evening sacrifice.

C. When the golden censer offering was made, the resulting smoke was symbolic of prayer ascending before God (v4).

D. "And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the

altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake." (v5)

E. The angel throws the censer down upon the earth, which symbolizes the judgment of God released on the earth. This is in answer to the prayers of the saints for justice for those who had opposed and killed them.

Comment: This shows that judgment, vindication, and revenge are in God's hands, not ours (see Matt. 5:38; Rom. 12:9; 1 Pet. 3:9).

Point: No matter how strong our desire might be to take revenge and retaliate on our enemies, our work is to pray, asking God for His justice to be done.

VI. Exposition [Part IV] - The Preparation and Sounding of The First Four Trumpets (Rev. 8:6-13)

"And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. (v6)

A. The trumpet blasts have three purposes:

1. To warn of certain judgment
2. To call the forces of good and evil to battle, and
3. To announce the return of the King, The Messiah.

Comments:

- 1) These warnings urge us to make sure that our faith is firmly fixed in Christ.
- 2) Right here I want to provide you with an outline for reference purposes as you re-read and study Revelation Chapters 8 and 9. However, this Teachable Moment will only cover Chapter 8, the first Four Trumpets. Here is the outline;

- Rev. 8:1 - 9:21 - The Six Trumpet Judgments

- Rev. 8:1-6 - The Seventh Seal is Opened
- Rev. 8:7 - First Trumpet: The Earth Smitten
- Rev. 8:8-9 - Second Trumpet: The Sun Smitten
- Rev. 8:10-11 - Third Trumpet: The Waters Smitten
- Rev. 8:12-13 - Fourth Trumpet: The Heavens Smitten

B. Now, continuing with Chapter 8:7 - The First Trumpet: The Earth is Smitten. 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.

Point: Notice in verses 7-12 every time the trumpet sounds, the destruction affects only one-third of the earth. God's full wrath will be unleashed later.

- C. Vv 8-9 - Second Trumpet: The Sun Smitten
- D. Vv 10-11 - Third Trumpet: The Waters Smitten
- E. Vv 12-13 - Fourth Trumpet: The Heavens Smitten
- F. V 13 - "And 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."

VII. Summary

A. The prophet Habakkuk used the image of an eagle to symbolize swiftness and destruction (cf. Hab. 1:8). ((The older manuscripts read "eagle" instead of "angel" in Rev. 8:13), as flying over all the earth, warning of the terror that is yet to come.

B. Are you firmly rooted in Christ? Do you have a personal relationship with Him?

C. God's judgment with all of its force will one day be unleashed upon the earth. Therefore, now is the acceptable time for you to find shelter, comfort, peace, security, and joy in Christ Jesus. Because the things prophesized in this Book, will surely come to pass!

And this will end yet another - Teachable Moment!!