

## I. REVIEW: STRUCTURE OF REVELATION IN 4 PARTS

- A. There are four parts in the structure of the book of Revelation, the fourth part (Revelation 6-22) being the largest and consisting of 5 chronological sections (7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls = 21 events).
1. John's calling to prophesy about the end times (Revelation 1).
  2. Jesus gave seven letters to the churches (Revelation 2-3).
  3. Jesus takes the scroll from the Father's hand (Revelation 4-5).
  4. Jesus's plan to judge evil and transition to the next age (Revelation 6-22). This includes the Great Tribulation judgments against the Antichrist and Satan to cleanse the earth of evil and His return to transition creation to the next age.
- B. It's important to know the "Goshen Principle" when we think of God judging His enemies amongst His people in Egypt (Exodus 8:22-23, 9:4, 26, 10:21-23, 11:7, 12:13, Zephaniah 2:3). Israel was protected in Goshen while great judgments were poured out on Egypt.

## II. THE SEVENTH SEAL: 7 TRUMPETS PREPARE TO BE SOUNDED

*When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets...<sup>6</sup>So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. Revelation 8:1-6 NKJV*

- A. The trumpet judgments have a three-fold purpose. 1-to hinder the Antichrist's influence by destroying natural resources and unleashing demons, 2-warn unbelievers of increased judgment from God and rage from Satan (demons), thus saving some, and 3-rally His people to battle in prayer and boldness (trumpets in the Old Testament rallied the nation of Israel to war).
- B. A primary theme in Revelation is God's judgment against the Antichrist. A secondary theme is the Antichrist's persecution of the Church (12:12; 13:4, 8) (3% of the book).
- C. The Antichrist's 3 ½ year reign (42 months, 1,260 days) will have a strong influence worldwide. God will frustrate His influence by these judgments.
- D. Trumpets warn that trouble is coming. As the Church is proclaiming the seven trumpets one after the other to unbelievers many will turn from their sin and repent. Chapter 14 reveals a great harvest of souls.
- E. The trumpet judgments are limited to 1/3 as highlighted twelve times (8:7-12). The limitation of the trumpets warns and gives opportunities to repent.
- F. The fall of Jericho associated with the blowing of 7 trumpets (Joshua 6) before Israel entered the Promised Land is a picture of what happens to the Antichrist after the 7 Trumpets of Revelation.
- G. The trumpet and bowl judgments also parallel the 10 plagues of Egypt against Pharaoh (Ex. 7-12).
1. The first trumpet (8:7) parallels the seventh plague of hail

with fire and blood (Ex. 9:22-26). The second and third (8:8-11) parallel the first plague of the Nile turning to blood (Ex. 7:19-25). The fourth (8:12) parallels the ninth plague of darkness (Ex. 10:21-23), and the fifth (9:1-11) parallels the eighth plague of locusts (Ex. 10:12-20).

2. OT prophets believed the miracles of Egypt would occur again in the End-Times (Isaiah 10:22-25; 11:12-16; 30:30; Jeremiah 16:14-15; 23:7-8; Ezekiel 38:22)

*"As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders." Micah 7:15 NKJV*

- H. There is an inconsistency and unbelief among some commentators who recognize the plagues of Egypt as literal yet their counterpart in Revelation as merely figurative.
- I. God prophesied that blood, fire, and smoke would be the prominent end of the age signs.

*"And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke. <sup>31</sup>The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. <sup>32</sup>And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." Joel 2:30-32 NKJV*

*These (two witnesses) have power to shut heaven so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. Revelation 11:6 NKJV*

- J. The angel explained to John that the protected ones would be sealed before God struck the earth, sea, and trees (Rev. 7:1-4), the very areas affected by the trumpets (Rev. 8:7-11).
- K. In Exodus, Israel received a protective mark on their doors as a seal to save them from the plague of the death of the firstborn. Many will be divinely protected in the end time judgment (Zephaniah 2:3; Micah 7:14-19; Isaiah 11:15-16; Rev. 12:14-16).

## III. THE MYSTERIOUS POWER OF PRAYER

*When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. <sup>3</sup>Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. And he was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. <sup>4</sup>And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. <sup>5</sup>Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. <sup>6</sup>So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. Revelation 8:1-6 NKJV*

- A. The 7th seal adds a supernatural anointing to the Church. The incense that is offered to the prayers of the saints could possibly be the prayer of Jesus Himself (Romans 8:26, 34)? The incense is mixed with the prayers of the Church, and then there is a manifestation in the earthly realm (earthquake).

B. The fire that is thrown to the earth could very well be pointing towards the greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Peter quoted Joel 2 in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost, where tongues of fire rested on the believers in the upper room. Joel 2, however, will see its greatest fulfillment in the end times.

*When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...Acts 2:1-4 NKJV*

C. This deep desire for a partnership that Jesus has with His people is remarkable to me. Whether it is the great harvest, whether it is confronting injustice and oppression, whether it is Satan being thrown into the lake of fire, concerning all these things the Lord wants His people talking with Him, partnering with Him, as a part of the process under His grand and dynamic, senior, premier leadership in all the events. Of course it is His leadership, and of course, it is His premier action, but He wants us involved with Him. – Mike Bickle

#### IV. 1ST TRUMPET: 1/3 OF TREES & GRASS

*The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. A third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. Revelation 8:7 NKJV*

- A. The first four trumpets will destroy the resources of the Antichrist's empire (8:6-12), affecting the environment (trees, grass, sea, rivers, sky), food supplies (vegetation, meat, fish), sea trade, water supplies, and both light and heat (sun, moon, stars). Their purpose is to destroy, not to kill.
- B. God released hail on the Amorite army (Canaanites) to help Joshua in battle (Josh. 10:11). God reserves storehouses of hail to judge His enemies (Psalms 78:47; 105:32-33; 148:8). People and animals were killed by the hail in Egypt (Exodus. 9:18-25).

*The LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground...*

<sup>24</sup>*there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, so very heavy...*

<sup>25</sup>*The hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt, all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field. <sup>26</sup>Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail. Exodus 9:23-26 NKJV*

*Have you entered the treasury of snow, or have you seen the treasury of hail <sup>23</sup>which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war? Job 38:22-23 NKJV*

#### V. 2ND TRUMPET: 1/3 OF THE SEA

*The second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. <sup>9</sup>And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. Revelation 8:8-9 NKJV*

A. The 2nd and 3rd trumpets correspond to the first plague of Egypt (Psalms 78:43-44). It will destroy food supplies and sea trade. A huge burning object "like" a mountain will fall from heaven turning 1/3 of the sea into blood and destroying one-third of the sea and ships.

*...all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. <sup>21</sup>The fish that were in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt...<sup>24</sup>All the Egyptians dug all around the river for water to drink, because they could not drink the water of the river. <sup>25</sup>Seven days passed after the LORD had struck the river. Exodus 7:20-25 NKJV*

#### VI. 3RD TRUMPET: 1/3 OF FRESH WATER

*The third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. <sup>11</sup>The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter. Revelation. 8:10-11 NKJV*

- A. This judgment is on the inland fresh water supply, and it also parallels the first Egyptian plague on the Nile (Ex. 7:14-25). Famine will increase, and whole cities will be endangered as God poisons their water supply. The saints will be protected as Israel was when the waters in Egypt were defiled. Jesus prophesied that if anyone drank any deadly thing, they would not be harmed (Mark 16:15-20).
- B. Wormwood – the star is named for the effect it has in defiling and polluting fresh waters. Wormwood in the Old Testament is a symbol for divine punishment (Jeremiah 9:15; 23:15; Lamentations 3:15, 19). It is an herb that has a bitter taste and can be poisonous (Lamentations 3:15, 19).

#### VII. 4TH TRUMPET: 1/3 OF LIGHT

*The fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night. Revelation 8:12 NKJV*

*The LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, which may even be felt." <sup>22</sup>...there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days...<sup>23</sup>But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. Exodus 10:21-23 NKJV*





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