

REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 14 (8:1-13) The Four Trumpets

Introduction: Chapter 1 is the Introduction, 2, 3 the Church age, 4, 5, the Church in Heaven, 6, a summary of the rest of Revelation, 7, evangelism during the Tribulation (the Amazing Grace chapter). Grace before judgment. Everybody always has an opportunity. A pastor met a young woman from New York on a bus and in their conversation he found out that she was starving for knowledge about God. She had POSITIVE VOLITION. God always sends somebody to anybody who wants to know about God. REMEMBER: The Trumpets sound judgment for the GENTILES and the Vials are judgment for the Jews.

Chapter 8:

Trumpets sound judgment! But grace always comes before judgment - REMEMBER. (Discuss the fact that God has done everything He can do to keep people out of hell.) There are those who say "there is no God" even whole countries cry "there is no God" but there are millions of people behind those cold iron walls that have gone on POSITIVE VOLITION and have found out about God and are saved.

v1 - In chapter 6 the scroll was begun to be opened and several seals were broken. NOW we come to the 7th seal and it is the beginning of judgment of the whole world..

"silence" - When the angels saw the awfulness of the coming judgment, they were speechless. They had just been singing, chanting and shouting, etc. but now have become silent. (Have YOU ever been speechless?) In many cities one can see the depths that people have sunken. Vagrants, homeless people sleep under overpasses, in alleys, under store porches, anywhere they can find a place out of the weather, eating what they can find and begging on street corners and at traffic intersections. Every one of these are made in the IMAGE OF GOD, just like you and me. Whenever God is neglected, life becomes awful.

v2 - "stand" - stood - had been standing for some time.

- "trumpets" - sounds of judgment of the world. 4 will sound now in this study and the last 3 later. There are 7 verses for 4 trumpets and later there are over 50 verses for the last 3 trumpets.

- Here are 7 points concerning the 7 Trumpets:

1. The trumpet is the instrument announcing judgment of the Gentiles. There will be a special judging of the Jews later.
2. The judgment is directed toward UNBELIEVING GENTILES - all those who worship something, someone other than Jesus Christ (many of our modern "faiths").
3. There are 4 trumpets given here.
4. Judgment is given against NATURE, not people.
5. 7 verses describe the 4 trumpets, 50 verses describe the last 3.
6. The reasons for the delay of judgment is that God wants to give everybody a chance. The Jews will have a chance. The Gentiles will have a chance. No matter how remote, no matter where on earth. If a person wants to believe, he/she goes POSITIVE VOLITION and God will send the word to him/her.
7. The 7th trumpet means the immediate coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. His second coming.

v3 - Verses 3 - 6 describe the prayers of Gentile martyrs. Hundreds of thousands are slain and here their prayers are coming up to God.

- "altar" - NOT the throne of God, but the altar. It is a replica of the Tabernacle altar. Outside was the brazen altar where sacrifices were made, representing the Cross. Inside was another altar but for incense. The brazen altar meant sacrifice, if saved, one could come inside. Inside was the show-bread and

meant Jesus Christ was the bread of life. The 7 golden candlesticks meant Jesus Christ was the light of the world. Come to the altar of prayer and we can now pray because we are believers. Then we come to the Holy of Holies inside. The priests entered once a year to offer the supreme sacrifice for the people, but you and I (all believers) can now enter because we are saved and are "priests" ourselves.

- "censer" - really a shovel.
- "incense" - today it is used around the house, in stores, etc. The Chinese have used it for centuries in their worship. It gives off an odor when burned. "Stacte" (stacte) is the base element and represents God. "Anika" (onycha) is a tiny, thin shell and when crushed and burned, it gives off a sweet smell. "Galbanium" is a gummy liquid that gives off odor as it melts. Frankincense is the main odor producer. A sweet odor rises up when the incense is burned. This is a picture of prayer. YOUR prayer is lifted up to the heavens, our cries are heard by God.
- "altar" - Exodus 30, 37 explains. "Acacia" wood reflects the humanity of Jesus Christ, overlaid with gold, depicting the deity of Jesus, the bowl of fire for burning incense, a crown on top, representing the rulership of Jesus, inside, over the bowl is the screen which holds the incense to be burnt. Burning incense represents the prayers rising up to God. WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE.

v5. - "cast" - judgment is coming to earth. The fire cast is a picture of that coming judgment.
- "voices" - noises would be better.
- "thunderings, etc." - the judgments of God.

v6. - "prepared" - judgment is coming, all is ready.

v7. - "first angel" - the first judgment

- "grass" - actually ALL vegetation. 1/3 of the crops, etc. A judgment against agriculture. Why? In the Tribulation the Dictator will have all his followers stamped with some type of identification and those without it will not be able to buy or sell, thus thousands upon thousands of Christians, refusing to bow to him will not be able to buy food and thus starve to death. Therefore God is going to send judgment against agriculture. He's going to fight back against the Dictator who refused to allow God's people to buy food. At many places of business, entertainment, etc., you are stamped with an invisible mark which can be seen only with a special light. So it isn't strange to have a "stamp" or membership cards to get in and out or to buy or sell, even today. Judgment is coming on agriculture, on all green vegetation. How long can YOU go without vegetables? All vegetation will be destroyed. Highways are heavy with trucks carrying food. How long can people in cities last without trucks bringing food to their stores? God will strike out at agriculture.

vv8, 9 - Judgment number 2

- "sea" - notice it is SALT water first.
- "blood" - remember how much of the world's food supply comes from and across the seas/oceans. Oil, food, basic materials for clothing, building, etc. Think of all that our own country imports.

v10 - Judgment number 3

- "rivers" - notice it is FRESH water now.

v11 - "wormwood" - really absinthos, a cheap liquor, a poisonous liquor.

- "bitter" - poisonous

v12 - Judgment number 4

- "sun" - vital to all parts of the world

Judgment is coming to this earth and here we are finding the details of that judgment. Thank God that every born again believer will be spared. WE will be with Jesus Christ and will be preparing to come back with Him while all these judgments are being cast upon the earth. JUDGMENT IS COMING. Every unbelieving Gentile and Jew will feel the wrath of God. Now notice how it ends:

v13 - "woe" - why 3 woes?

- Woe number 1 is trumpet number 5
- Woe number 2 is trumpet number 6
- Woe number 3 is trumpet number 7

These last three will be studied beginning with the next chapter and going for some 50 more verses.

- Woe number 1 - 9:1-12
- Woe number 2 - 9:13ff
- Woe number 3 - 11:15ff - the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Does all this sound still sound strange? If only everybody of our Church family were here to listen and learn. The book of Revelation can be understood. God will control things. No matter how bad things might look, NOBODY can take the world away from God, NOBODY.

- "sound" - In chapter 9, the last three trumpets will begin to sound/blow. Finally the 7th trumpet will sound and time shall be no more. Jesus Christ will return.

(It is a tragedy that pastors don't preach from this Book more than they do - God's people need to know this Book)