

Chapter Seventeen

The 7th Seal
(Revelation 8:1-13)

I. THE SEVENTH SEAL - SILENCE IN HEAVEN (8:1)

I. The Lamb Opens The Seven Seal. (8:1a)

II. Silence In Heaven For About Half An Hour. (8:1b) - **Up until the seventh seal there was a lot of noise going on in heaven.**



II. PREPARATION FOR THE SOUNDING OF THE SEVEN TRUMPETS. (8:2-6)

I. Seven Angels Prepared. (8:2)

Revelation 8:2 (NKJV) ² And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

A. Seven angels who stand before God. **The Greek for the word “stand” indicates that they were in the presence of God and had been there for some time.**

B. To them were given seven trumpets. **These trumpets unleash a specific judgment, greater judgments than the first six seals.**

II. The Angel With The Golden Censer. (8:3-6)

Revelation 8:3-6 (NKJV) ³ Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. 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. ⁴ And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. ⁵ 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. ⁶ So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

A. Came and stood before the altar. (8:3a) **Some believe this is Christ.**

B. Was given much incense to offer... (8:3b)

1) With the prayers of all the saints. **I believe these saints are the ones under the altar (Ref. 6:9- 11)**

2) Upon the golden altar before the throne.

Exodus 30:34-36(NKJV) ³⁴And the Lord said to Moses: “Take sweet spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, and pure frankincense with *these* sweet spices; there shall be equal amounts of each. ³⁵You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, *and* holy. ³⁶And you shall beat *some* of it very fine, and put some of it before the Testimony in the tabernacle of meeting where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you.

C. The smoke of the incense and the prayers of the saints... (8:4)

1) Ascended before God. **Symbolic of worship, prayer and a reminder that intercession to the Lord has the character of sweet incense.**

2) From the angel's hand

D. The angel took the censer... (8:5)

1) Filled it with fire from the altar

2) Threw it to the earth. **The act of throwing it to the earth possibly reveals that God's judgment will come in direct response to those prayers.**

a) Accompanied by noises, thundering, lightning's, and an earthquake

E. The seven angels with the seven trumpets then prepared themselves to sound. (8:6)

III. THE FIRST FOUR TRUMPETS. (8:7-12)

I. The First Trumpet: Land/Vegetation Struck. (8:7)

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

A. Hail and fire, mingled with blood, thrown to the earth. **Devine judgment.**

B. A third of the earth and trees were burned up, and all green grass burned up

II. The Second Trumpet: Seas Struck. (8:8-9)

Revelation 8:8-9 (NKJV) ⁸ Then 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. ⁹ And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

A. Something, like a great burning mountain thrown into the sea. **Asteroid or meteorite, it comes from heaven.**

B. A third of the sea became blood; a third of the creatures in the sea died; a third of the ships destroyed.

III. The Third Trumpet: Rivers And Springs Struck. (8:10-11)

Revelation 8:10-11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Then 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. ¹¹ 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.

A. A great burning star fell on a third of the rivers and springs of water. **The Greek word for star stands or refers to any celestial body other than the sun or moon.**

B. Named Wormwood, a third of the waters became wormwood; many men died from the bitter water. **Mentioned eight times in the O.T. where it is associated with bitterness, poison, and death. (Deut. 29:18; Prov. 5:4; Jer. 9:15; 23:15; Lamentations 3:15,19; Amos 5:7;6:12) In three of these uses wormwood is connected with poisoned water.**

Deuteronomy 29:14-19(NKJV) ^{14c} I make this covenant and this oath, not with you alone, ¹⁵ but with *him* who stands here with us today before the Lord our God, as well as with *him* who *is* not here with us today ¹⁶ (for you know that we dwelt in the land of Egypt and that we came through the nations which you passed by, ¹⁷ and you saw their abominations and their idols which *were* among them—wood and stone and silver and gold); ¹⁸ so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the Lord our God, to go *and* serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you **a root bearing bitterness or wormwood;** ¹⁹ and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall have peace, even though I [£] follow the dictates of my heart’—as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.

Proverbs 5:3-4(NKJV) ³ For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth *is* smoother than oil; ⁴ But in the end she is **bitter as wormwood**, Sharp as a two-edged sword.

Jeremiah 9:13-15(NKJV) ¹³ And the Lord said, “Because they have forsaken My law which I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to it, ¹⁴ but they have walked according to the dictates of their own hearts and after the Baals, which their fathers taught them,” ¹⁵ therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: “Behold, I will feed them, this people, **with wormwood, and give them water of gall** to drink.

Jeremiah 23:15(NKJV) ¹⁵“Therefore thus says 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 Profaneness has gone out into all the land.’”

Lamentations 3:15(NKJV) ¹⁵ He has filled me with bitterness, He has made me drink **wormwood.**

Lamentations 3:19(NKJV) ¹⁹ Remember my affliction and roaming, **The wormwood and the gall.**

Amos 5:6-7(NKJV) ⁶ Seek the Lord and live, Lest He break out like fire *in* the house of Joseph, And devour *it*, With no one to quench *it* in Bethel— ⁷ You who turn justice to **wormwood**, And lay righteousness to rest in the earth!”

Amos 6:11-12(NKJV) ¹¹ For behold, the Lord gives a command: He will break the great house into bits, And the little house into pieces. ¹² Do horses run on rocks? Does *one* plow *there* with oxen? Yet you have turned justice **into gall, And the fruit of righteousness into wormwood,**

IV. The Fourth Trumpet: Heavens Struck. (8:12)

Revelation 8:12 (NKJV) ¹² Then 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.

A. A third of the sun, moon, and stars struck. **Devine judgment shifts from the earth to the heavens.**

B. A third of them were darkened, so that third of the day and night did not shine. **The loss of heat from the sun will affect temperatures. The tides will change because of the moon along with unpredictable storms. The O.T. prophets associated the signs with the day of the Lord.**

Isaiah 13:9-10(NKJV) ⁹ Behold, **the day of the Lord comes**, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. ¹⁰ For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine.

Joel 2:31-32(NKJV) ³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome **day of the Lord.** ³² And it shall come to pass *That* whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and

in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the Lord has said, Among the remnant whom the Lord calls.

Amos 8:9(NKJV) ⁹ “And it shall come to pass **in that day**,” says the Lord GOD, “That I will make the sun go down at noon, And I will darken the earth in broad daylight;

IV. THREE-FOLD WOE ANNOUNCED. (8:13)

Revelation 8:13 (NKJV) ¹³ And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

I. An Angel (Eagle?) Flying Through Heaven. (8:13a)

II. Pronouncing A Three-Fold Woe. (8:13b)

A. “Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth”

B. Why the woe’s, “Because of the remaining trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the remaining three angels!”

It’s about to get worse. These judgments and condemnations are for those who rejected the gospel. They will be destroyed because they failed to listen to the warning that God addresses to all sinners. (Ref. Hebrews 3:7-8)