

## STUDYING THE BOOK OF REVELATION THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST (17)

### The Seals (4)

#### THE SEVENTH SEAL AND THE GOLDEN CENSER

##### REVELATION 8:1-9



*8 When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.*

*2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.*

*3 Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne.*

*4 The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand.*

*5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.*

#### TRUMPETS

*6 Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.*

*7 The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.*

*8 The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood,<sup>9</sup> a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.*

#### WORD WEALTH

The **seven trumpets** announce severe judgment in response to the prayers of the saints. It was a common belief in intertestamental Judaism that seven angels "*presented the prayers of the saints*". **Trumpets** are a warning signal and summons to repentance. The plagues released by the blowing of **trumpets** are reminiscent of the



plagues of Egypt (*see Ex. 7:17; 17-21; 9:23-25; 10:21-23*). The first four affect the natural world, and the last three affect the unredeemed.

- These calamities are symbolic, not literal; they are repetitive throughout history rather than consecutive; again, they will intensify as this Age closes.

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## CONCLUSION - LIST OF THE CHURCHES

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**8:3** The **golden altar** was the altar of incense (*see 6:9; Ps.141: 2; Luke 1:8-10*). **The prayers of all saints** avail to bring upon the Earth God's judgments, which summon the rebellious to repentance and partially vindicate God's justice.

**8:7** A **third**, a significant minority of the earth and its vegetation, man's environment, is devastated.

**8:8, 9** A **great mountain burning with fire** suggests a volcano whose ashes pollute the sea.

# **A STUDY OF THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST CHART**

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***Matthew 24:29-31 Mark 13: 24-27 Luke 21: 26-28 Revelation 6:12 – 7:14***

## **WORLDWIDE DISTRESS**

Immediately after the distress of those days...(v29) But in those days, following that distress, ... (v24) Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world ... (v26)

## **SIGNS IN THE SKY AND EARTHQUAKES**

...”the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.” (v29) ...”the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. (v24,25) ...for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.(v26) I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. (6:12-13) ... and every mountain and island was removed from its place. (v14)

## **JESUS IN THE CLOUDS**

At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. (v30) At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.(v26) At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. (v27) Described as: The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, (v14). This would unveil a view of Jesus, in the sky, coming in clouds.

## **WORLDWIDE DISTRESS**

Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”(v15-17).

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR BELIEVERS**

When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. (v28).

## **PHILADELPHIA HARVESTED FROM EARTH**

And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. (v31) And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. (v27) After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth... (7:1).

## PHILADELPHIA ARRIVES IN HEAVEN

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb ... (7:9) Then one of the elders asked me "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation..." (7:13-14). . *to be cont'd*



*Janet Thomas*  
*Founder/President/CEO*  
*Bible Stories Theatre of*  
*Fine & Performing Arts*  
[info@biblestories theatre.org](mailto:info@biblestories theatre.org)  
[www.biblestories theatre.org](http://www.biblestories theatre.org)