

## The 7<sup>th</sup> Seal and the 7 Trumpets

### Revelation 8:1-12

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## The 7<sup>th</sup> Seal - v.1

- ▶ Silence in Heaven
  - ▶ A dramatic pause
  - ▶ Rev 7:1; 10:4
- ▶ What is the purpose of this pause?

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## The Silent Pause

- ▶ Note the timing
  - ▶ After the great multitude worshipping at the throne
  - ▶ Before the next set of judgements
  - ▶ Hab 2:20; Zeph 1:7-18; Zech 2:12,13

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## The 8 Angels - vs 2-5

- ▶ There are 7 angels blowing trumpets
- ▶ There is 1 angel with a golden censor

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## The Angel with the censor

- ▶ Burning incense to God
  - ▶ See 5:8 - is there a link?
  - ▶ Also Luke 1:8-10

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## Censors and Altars

- ▶ Censors
  - ▶ Ex 27:3 - censor of brass
  - ▶ 1 Kings 7:50 - censor of gold
- ▶ Altars
  - ▶ Ex 30:1-10; 1 Kings 6:22; Heb 9:4

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## Censors and Altars

- ▶ The altar stood before the Holy Place in the temple
- ▶ Incense was burned before the first sacrifice and after the last sacrifice of the day

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## Censors and Altars

- ▶ Now, by contrast, in Rev the censors are turned from the prayers of the saints to the punishment of the sinner
- ▶ See Ex 19:16-25

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## The 7 angels - v.6

- ▶ Inter-testamental Jewish writings named 7 archangels:
  - ▶ Uriel, Raphael, Raguel, Michael, Saraqael, Gabriel, and Remiel
- ▶ Are they the same angels of 15 and 16?

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## The First Trumpet- v.7

- ▶ A symbol of God's intervention in history
  - ▶ Ex 16:16-25; Isa 27:12-13; Joel 2:1-2; Zeph 1:14-16; Zech 9:14-16

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## The First Trumpet- v.7

- ▶ Hail and fire mixed with blood
- ▶ 1/3 of the earth, trees, and all the green grass is burned up
- ▶ Imagery of the 7<sup>th</sup> plague of Egypt
  - ▶ See Ex 9:13-35

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## The First Trumpet- v.7

- ▶ The blood may refer to the prophecy of Joel 2:31; Acts 2:19-20
- ▶ The blood red rain of 1901 in Italy

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### The Second Trumpet- vs 8,9

- ▶ A huge mountain thrown into the sea
- ▶ 1/3 of the sea turned to blood
- ▶ 1/3 of the living sea creatures died
- ▶ 1/3 of the ships were destroyed

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### The Second Trumpet- vs 8,9

- ▶ The imagery is from the 1<sup>st</sup> plague of Egypt - Ex 7:14-21
- ▶ AD 79 - Mount Vesuvius
- ▶ 196 B.C - Volcanic eruption in the Aegean Sea

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### The Third Trumpet- vs 10-11

- ▶ Blazing star falling from the sky
- ▶ 1/3 of rivers and the springs of water
- ▶ Wormwood - bitter
  - ▶ 1/3 of the waters turned bitter and people died from drinking the water

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## Wormwood

- ▶ A general name for a class of plants known as Artemisia whose characteristic is bitterness of taste

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## Wormwood

- ▶ In OT, wormwood was a symbol of bitterness and sorrow.
- ▶ Also the fruit of idolatry
- ▶ Deut 29:17-18; Jer 9:13-16; 23:15

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## The 4<sup>th</sup> Trumpet - v.12

- ▶ 1/3 of the sun, moon, and stars are struck so that 1/3 of the day and night are without light
- ▶ The imagery could be from the 9<sup>th</sup> plague of Egypt - Ex 10:21-23
  - ▶ Darkness for 3 days

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## Darkness

- ▶ Always a symbol of God's judgments in apocalyptic writing.
  - ▶ Amos 5:18; Joel 2:2; Mk 13:24- Isa 13:10
- ▶ Ancient Near-East mindset

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## Summary/conclusion

- ▶ Trumpets are a sign of God's direct intervention upon the world
- ▶ God is about to come and He is giving a clear signal of the immanence of His appearance

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## Summary/conclusion

- ▶ NOTE! There is still opportunity for repentance upon the earth!
- ▶ Perhaps this is why the imagery is connected with the Exodus plagues
- ▶ An opportunity to recognize God and repent of sin

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## Summary/conclusion

- ▶ This was a direct way of saying, “If you want a sign from God, here it is!”
- ▶ Just as Jesus gave many signs

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## Summary/conclusion

- ▶ Revelation is written to point people to God, not to the details of who, what, when, where, and why.
- ▶ God will reveal those in time, but right now, it is enough that He has revealed Himself
- ▶ What we need to know is JESUS.

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