

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Week 11 - Revelation 8 – Silence; And Then....

April 4, 2017

Rev. 6:14 - *the sky receded (the sky will be parted) as a scroll when it is rolled up,*  
God created the universe, He can pull it apart!

Rev. 7:17 - *...the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters*

The Lamb has always been the Shepherd!

Rev. 7:15 - *...He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.*

God is above time and space; He's above all. He is transcendent. Yet, He dwells among man. God is near – He is immanent! *Dwell* – He will “spread His tent over them.” God's presence will become a canopy for the great multitude that is before Him in this passage. God will shelter and protect them...and us...always!

Bottom line: it's all about GOD!

### REVELATION 8:1-6 (STAND)

*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. 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.*

The 144,000 have been sealed for protection. Therefore, the seventh seal can be opened. Seven angels are given seven trumpets. The first four angels sound their trumpets which result in great devastation to the life-supporting systems of the earth. As harsh as these judgments are, they are less severe than the remaining three trumpets to come.

*the seventh seal* is opened. The seventh seal contains the seven trumpet judgments.

*there was silence in heaven for about half an hour* – this silence appears to reflect the awe and anticipation re: the intensity of the judgments to come. Scripture reveals a pattern of silence associated with the recognition of God's holiness and righteous judgment:

Psa. 76:8-9 - *You caused judgment to be heard from heaven; the earth feared and was still, <sup>9</sup> When God arose to judgment*

Hab. 2:20 - *But the LORD is in His holy temple.*

*Let all the earth keep silence before Him.*

Zeph. 1:7 - *Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD;*

*For the day of the LORD is at hand,*

*Zech. 2:13 - Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!"*

Consider the silence concerning God's just/righteous judgment in this light...there can be no defense spoken!

Consider the attack on Jericho in Joshua 6:10 - *Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, 'You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout.'* The seven priests bearing the seven trumpets/seven trumpets of rams' horns, blew those horns continually, but the people remained completely silent. The setting: the taking/conquering of the first city. God was leading them to take a kingdom, the Promised Land. We see in the trumpet judgments in the book of Revelation that the goal is the taking of a Kingdom – God's Kingdom! At the sounding of the seventh trumpet (which contains all the bowl judgments), the announcement is made: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever" (Rev. 11:15)!

The first four trumpet judgments are divided into two groups: the first four affect the natural systems of the earth (Rev. 8:7-12); the last three affect men (Rev. 9:1, 13; 11:15).

Why trumpet judgments? Trumpets were blown in Biblical times to warn the people of impending danger, to call people to war, to call an assembly of people together, to celebrate the coronation of a king, to call people to repentance.

At the Feast of Trumpets, the Lord told Moses to *Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.* <sup>25</sup> *You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.'* (Lev. 23:23-25) The blowing of the trumpets at the Feast of Trumpets (observed on the first day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month on the Jewish calendar) alert the people to focus on a solemn time of preparation for the Day of Atonement which is observed on the tenth day of the 7<sup>th</sup> month. This preparation time is called "Ten Days of Repentance" or the "Days of Awe." The trumpet blasts are a call to introspection and repentance. I'm suggesting that the Feast of Trumpets points to the Tribulation for Israel as they look forward to atonement at Yom Kippur. I'm suggesting that Yom Kippur will be fulfilled in the Second Coming of Jesus, following the Tribulation! Yom Kippur is then followed by the Feast of Tabernacles which looks forward to God dwelling with man. The Feast of Tabernacles points to the Millennial Kingdom. In these three fall feasts within the Jewish calendar, we see the Tribulation, followed by the Second Coming of Jesus, following by the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom!

#### BIBLICAL TIMELINE OF END TIME EVENTS (CHART)

Why does the chart begin with an image (of sorts) and a notation regarding "The Times of the Gentiles"? Luke 21:24 - *And they (Israel) will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the*

*times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.* “The Times of the Gentiles” refers to the extensive period of history when the Gentiles will dominate Israel.

“The Times of the Gentiles” extends from the Babylonian captivity of Judah...under Nebuchadnezzar (586 BC)...continuing through the Tribulation. Rev. 11:2 - *But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.*

Daniel 2 – While Daniel, a faithful Jewish man, was in exile in Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. Daniel alone was given the ability to interpret that dream. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar what would transpire in latter days. Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was of an image/a statue and a stone. The statue had a head of gold, arms and breast of silver, belly and two thighs of bronze, two legs of iron, and feet and toes that were a mixture of iron and clay. The stone is cut out of the mountain without hands (Dan. 2:45).

Interpretation: the statue depicts four Gentile powers/Gentile empires in succession that would rule over Israel: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome followed by the revived Roman Empire in the latter days (Dan. 7:24).

Babylon – the head of gold (Dan. 2:32, 38) succeeded by...

Medo-Persian – two distinct peoples, the Medes and the Persians, were united together in 550 BC. The image/statue Dan. 2:32, 39) depicts this with the two peoples (the arms) coming together into one empire (the breast) This empire was succeeded by/conquered by...

Greece – represented by the image’s belly and thighs of bronze (Dan. 2:32, 39). This is the kingdom of Greece under Alexander the Great. The belly gives way to two thighs which was an accurate portrayal of the Grecian empire. After Alexander died, his kingdom was divided among his four leading generals; however, only two of those generals played important roles: the Ptolomies in Egypt and the Seleucids in Syria. Greece was succeeded by...

Rome – represented by the legs of iron (military strength) – depicting the western and eastern divisions of Rome: Western Rome with Rome as its capital and the Eastern Roman Empire with Constantinople as its capital (Constantine [Turkey]). The Western side of the empire collapsed in 476 AD.

Antichrist’s kingdom – revived Roman Empire – represented by the feet and toes which will be a mixture of iron and clay. The final stage of the Roman Empire will be strong militarily (iron) while having divisions. Clay is brittle and depicts divisions (breaking up). It appears that there will be a ten-division federation that has never before existed within the Roman Empire. (Note the declining quality of the metal!)

A stone, picturing Jesus (Luke 20:18) at His Second Coming, will destroy the fourth empire in its final phase - antichrist’s kingdom (Dan. 2:34, 35, 44, 45). Jesus totally shattering the Gentile powers will result in the establishment of His Millennial Kingdom, the ultimate empire, and then continuing on eternally (Dan. 2:44; 7:27).

“The Times of the Gentiles” which began six centuries before Jesus, will continue until the Second Coming of Jesus to the earth.

During the last three and a half years of the Tribulation, the Jews will again be persecuted and driven out of Jerusalem. This period begins with the abomination of desolation (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15) and will be the climax of “The Times of the Gentiles” under the control and persecution of the antichrist. At that time its duration will be 42 months (Rev. 11:2), 1260 days (Rev. 12:6), or “time, times, and half a time” (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 12:14).

“The Times of the Gentiles” will end with the Second Coming of Jesus and the establishment of His Millennial Kingdom. From that time forward, Jerusalem will never again be subjected to Gentile domination. The nation of Israel will be the spiritual and political center of the world (Isa. 2:2-4; Isa. 61 & 62; Micah 4:1-3; Zech. 8:22-23; Zech. 14:16-19) with Jesus ruling from the throne of David in Jerusalem.

NOTE: after God makes proclamations against Egypt, we read – Isa. 19:24-25 - *In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing in the midst of the land,*<sup>25</sup> *whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, “Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.”* While Israel uniquely belongs to God because of God’s sovereign choice, (Dt. 32:9-10), Egypt and Assyria will be a blessing because of God having made Israel an instrument of blessing for the WORLD (Gen. 18:18)! In the Millennial Kingdom Israel is going to be God’s instrument for drawing other nations into His fold! The Millennial Kingdom is a time of ingathering of the nations! The Feast of Tabernacles points to the Millennial Kingdom. The Feast of Tabernacles has been also called the Feast of Ingathering:

- Ex. 23:16 - *and the Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you have gathered in the fruit of your labors from the field.*
- Ex. 34:22 - *And you shall observe the Feast of Weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year’s end.*

## THE TRIBULATION

NOTE: these are suggestions re: the exact timeframe of events

### Events in the First Half of the Tribulation

- The seal judgments – the seven seals encompass the entire period of the Tribulation culminating with the return of Jesus. The seventh seal appears to contain the seven trumpets (Rev. 8:1-11:19); the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15) appears to contain the seven bowl judgments (Rev. 16:1-21). Thus, the seven seals contain all the judgments to the end when Jesus returns.
- The rise of antichrist – the rider on the white horse. The beginning of the Tribulation will be marked by the signing of a covenant between Israel and the antichrist (Dan. 9:26-27) which appears to include the world.
- The sealing of the 144,000 Servants of God – Revelation 7 details the sealing/protection of the 144,000 servants of God (Jewish believers) who will serve as witnesses to the nations during the Tribulation.
- The ministry of the two witnesses – God will raise up two mighty witnesses who will testify to the true God with astounding powers.

### Events in the Middle of the Tribulation

- Trumpet judgments

- The little scroll – (Rev. 10:9-11). Content of the little scroll is prophecy relating to the middle and second half of the Tribulation. Biblical prophecy is considered sweet by many; however, the message of judgment to many is bitter.
  - Satan is cast down to the earth from heaven – (Rev. 12:7-9).
  - Extreme persecution of the Jews and of the Tribulation saints (Rev. 12:13).
  - The Jewish believers flee (depicted by the woman [Israel]) into the wilderness where a place has been prepared for her/them (Rev. 12:6, 14). “They” will feed her/them for 1260 days.
    - Rise of the beast from the sea – (Rev. 13:1-10) the antichrist. One of his heads was ...*as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed.*
    - Rise of the beast from the earth – the false prophet – (Rev. 13:1-10) who performs signs and wonders (Rev. 13:13-14) and deceives “those who dwell on the earth” into worshipping the antichrist.
      - The false church – (Rev. 17) the apostate church, the “great harlot”.
      - The mark of the beast – the false prophet requires a mark given to all of antichrist’s followers that permits them to buy and sell (Rev. 13:16-18).
      - The antichrist receives a head wound and is seemingly brought back to life (Rev. 13:3-4)
        - The seven-year covenant broken – by the antichrist (Dan. 9:27).
        - The abomination of desolation – when the antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel, he will himself up as god to be worshipped in the rebuilt (3<sup>rd</sup>) Temple.

#### Events in the Second Half of the Tribulation

- The bowl judgments – (Rev. 16) which destroy the antichrist’s kingdom and prepare the way for the Second Coming of Jesus.
  - Destruction of the false church – (Rev. 18)
  - Armageddon – in stages....
  - The restoration of Israel – (Zech. 12:10).

The Second Coming of Christ (Rev. 19:11ff; Isa. 63:1-6; Dan. 2:44; Zech. 12:10; Zech. 14:4; Matt. 24:27-31)

Antichrist and False Prophet cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20)

The Judgment of the Nations (Matt. 25:31-46)

The Millennial Kingdom (Psa. 2; Isa. 2:4; Isa. 9:6-7; Isa. 11; Isa. 32:1; Isa. 45:13; Eze. 40 through 48; Mic. 3:3; Mic. 4:3 Luke 1:31-33; Rev. 20:4-6....)

Satan released and his rebellion crushed (Rev. 20:7-10)

Satan cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10)

The New Heaven and New Earth/the New Jerusalem – (Rev. 21 through Rev. 22:1-5)