

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

JROC - Revelation 8 – Silence; And Then....

8/6/17

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

*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!

God is picking up where He left off with the Jewish people during the Tribulation – time of Jacob's trouble [Jer. 30:7]

WHY? Because God chose Israel as a nation to accomplish His purposes.

God has chosen individuals – both Jew and Gentile – for salvation.

Do you often wonder how can Israel be called “chosen” – if believers are called “chosen”?

Israel – chosen as a nation to accomplish God’s purposes. God has a purpose in bringing the world to judgment in the “end times” doesn’t He? He’s using Israel to accomplish that while PURGING Israel.

Individuals are chosen for salvation.

Will there be individual Jewish people who are chosen for salvation? YES...just as there are individual Gentiles chosen for salvation. Not all Jewish people will be saved. Not all Gentile people will be saved.

At the end of the Tribulation, those Jews who are living (one-third) will be saved and so we can say (Rom. 11:26) “All Israel will be saved” – in referencing “end times.”

In Revelation we move from the letters to the churches in Asia Minor, modern day Turkey (Rev. 2 & 3) to the period of “divine judgments” (judgments initiated by God) (Rev. 4-18) and then to the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 19-20).

There are some striking connections between what we find prophesied in the OT – along with what Jesus prophesied – being fulfilled before the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom.

Consider what John beholds in Rev. 4&5 – the throne of God the Father with 24 elders seated on thrones around God’s throne, all surrounded by innumerable hosts of angels. The seven sealed scroll is taken by the “Lamb”. The judgments of God are poured out upon the world (Rev. 6-19) until the King of Kings and Lord of Lords establishes His Kingdom over all the earth (Rev. 20).

#### Daniel 7:9-14

The outline of this passage speaks to the main divisions of Revelation from Rev. 4 to Rev. 22:5.

- In Daniel 7 we read of a divine court set in heaven where the “Ancient of days” is enthroned in the midst of other thrones, all surrounded by myriads of angels (Dan. 7:9-10; Rev. 4-5)
- From this “high court” divine judgments fall upon the nations and the “beast” that leads them (Dan. 7:11-12; Rev. 6-18)
- The divine Son of man comes with the clouds of heaven and receives a Kingdom over all “people, nations, and languages” (Dan. 7:13-14a; Rev. 19-20)
- This Messianic Kingdom finally perpetuates itself in an “everlasting dominion” which shall never be destroyed (Dan. 7:14; Rev. 21-22)

In the book of Revelation we are seeing “pre-Kingdom of God judgments” upon a world which has rejected God. God will loose upon the world a false messianic ruler who rises to world power in 3.5 years and will be emboldened by Satan to unleash his terrible power esp. during the last 3.5 years. The antichrist will be defeated and destroyed by the second coming of the true Messianic King Who will set up His kingdom.

Has God promised Israel restoration? Yes - Dan. 9:24 and throughout the prophets in the OT. BUT, Israel rejected their Messiah at His first coming. And so we see in Scripture a postponement regarding giving Israel the Kingdom of God which God had promised to Israel. AND, at this current time, God is not using the nation of Israel as His “witness people” (Isa. 43:10). God has been using the Church as His witness people – since Pentecost until the rapture.

BUT, from what we read in Scripture – these restoration passages concerning Israel – we should expect that this nation of Israel would once more appear.

And so we see the 144,000 Jewish male virgins sealed and being used of God during the Tribulation as first fruits – their serving God is bringing about a great multitude of believers from all nations. We see a distinction between the 144,000 and the great multitude. YET – the 144,000 are saved as are people from all the nations.

We’re going to see Jewish worshippers in the 3<sup>rd</sup> temple in Jerusalem in Rev. 11 – and Jerusalem trodden underfoot by the Gentile nations.

We’re going to read about two Jewish prophets witnessing in Rev. 11.

In Rev. 12 Israel will be symbolized by a woman fleeing into the wilderness when the antichrist comes after the Jews with a vengeance.

SO????

We need to understand the distinction between the nation of Israel in God’s plan and the Church in God’s plan – or else we will not understand Scripture.

If we don’t grasp the distinction we are going to be forced to begin allegorizing/spiritualizing passages of the Bible – not taking them literally.

Israel is NOT the Church.

The Church is NOT Israel.