

**Lesson: Revelation 8:1-13**

*“A Shattering Silence”*

**Revelation 8: 1**

**“And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour”**

- \* **The Breaking of the Seventh Seal**
- \* **Awesome preparation for Judgment**
- \* **The opening of the Seventh Seal births Heavens standing in silence for a space of half an hour**
- \* **In this chapter we see the final seal on the scroll broken and then we see or hear the Seven Trumpet Judgments - Events During the Great Tribulation.**

**The Bible teaches us clearly that today we live in a period of great grace, but that there will be a day of God's wrath poured out on the ungodly.**

**We now after the glimpse into the grace of God in the midst of the Great Tribulation the break between the opening of the first six seals of the scroll now continue to watch as the events of the Book of the Revelation unfold.**

- \* **We have already witnessed the end of the church age, which will culminate in the Rapture of the church - Rev. 4:1.**
- \* **We have seen the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus, take the seven-sealed scroll from the hand of His Father and, we have watched as He began the process of breaking the seven seals - Rev. 6.**
- \* **As He did, the earth was engulfed in horror after another as one after and other of the judgments of God began to fall on sinful men.**

**We also studied the events of Rev. 7 - where *144,000 Jewish virgin men evangelists are saved*, sealed and sent out to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to all the nations of the world - Rev. 7:1-8.**

**As they preached a vast multitude was saved out of great tribulation and washed their garments in the blood of the Lamb. This redeemed multitude is pictured, healthy and whole, in Heaven in the presence of the Lamb and of the Father - Rev. 7:9-17.**

2.

That brings us to our text for this study.

Revelation 8: 1

“And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour”

- \* Here, in verse 1, the seventh seal is broken by the Lord Jesus.
- \* When He breaks this seal, seven trumpet judgments are unleashed upon the earth.
- \* If you think things have been horrible thus far, you are right, but the worst is yet to come.

We are going to watch as the first four of the trumpet judgments are sounded against the earth.

- \* We are going to see things go from bad to worse for those who will be living on the earth during the Great Tribulation.

THERE IS SILENCE IN HEAVEN – A Shattering silence

Revelation 8: 1 [Amplified]

“1WHEN HE [the Lamb] broke open the seventh seal, there was silence for about half an hour in heaven”

John describes a scene that must be a first in Heaven

1<sup>st</sup> Picture

- \* Absolute silence reigns there for one-half an hour.
- \* Revelation chapters four, five and seven all describe Heaven as a place of worship, praise, joy and song.

Heaven is described as a place alive with noise.

- \* It is pictured as a place that literally throbs with the excitement of its inhabitants.
- \* Yet, we are told there is silence in that land of praise for half and hour.

3.

### The beast and elders are silent.

- \* The angels and the redeemed multitudes have neither shouts of praise nor songs of joy to offer up.
- \* There are no divine pronouncements from the throne. Heaven sits in total silence.

### Silence is a powerful thing.

- \* You can be about asleep in a service, but just let the preacher fall silent and you will snap to attention.
- \* The silence at the beginning of a wedding lets you know the time has come.

### Silence can also be nerve shattering!

- \* Imagine you have asked your girlfriend to marry you and she just sits in silence for thirty minutes.
- \* Imagine you have been accused of a crime and the jury has come back with your verdict. You are standing before the judge waiting for him to read it to you, and for thirty minutes he just sits there in silence.
- \* Imagine you have a medical test result and you are in the doctors office he comes in and reads the results and sets in silence for 30 minutes before telling you the results.

### What we are seeing in this verse is the lull before the storm.

- \* The seventh seal is broken.
- \* The scroll's contents are now about to be revealed, framed within the seven trumpet judgments of God's wrath

### Habakkuk 2:20

**“But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.”**

- \* Earth will not hear the Lord’s voice, nor will they acknowledge Him at all.
- \* They rush on in their sins, living their vain lives, all the while ignoring the God of Heaven.

4.

**The *inhabitants of Heaven*, on the other hand, understand what God is about to do and they fall silent in awe at His presence and His power.**

\* Here on earth, we often see people call for a moment of silence in the aftermath of tragic events.

\* We saw that kind of thing after 9/11.

\* We do it after the event because we have no way of knowing when tragedy will strike.

**Heaven, on the other hand, calls for a moment of silence before the event.**

\* Heaven knows tragedy is about to stroke and Heaven falls silent in the face of impending judgment.

**So the first thing we find in [Revelation 8](#) is that [There Is Silence In Heaven](#)**

**Picture 2 – Instruments of judgments [specific judgments]**

**[Revelation 8: 2-5](#) [Amplified]**

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

**3 And *another angel came and stood over the altar.***

***He had a golden censer, and he was given very much incense (fragrant spices and gums which exhale perfume when burned), that he might mingle it with the prayers of all the people of God (the saints) upon the golden altar before the throne.***

**4 And *the smoke of the incense (the perfume) arose in the presence of God, with the prayers of the people of God (the saints), from the hand of the angel.***

**5 So *the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and cast it upon the earth.***

***Then there followed peals of thunder and loud rumblings and blasts and noises, and flashes of lightning and an earthquake”***

\* **We can see that there is a lot of information and details** given to us as soon as the seventh seal holding the scroll shut is opened.

\* **First Silence** for about the space of half an hour.

\* **Then Seven angels** come and stand before God

\* **They are given Seven Trumpets**

\* **Yet another angel** comes forth and stands over the **ALTAR**

5.

### Revelation 8: 2 [Amplified]

“ 2 Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets”

### Involved Preparations

\* Seven angels are pictured standing before God, ready to do His bidding.

### By the way, these angels present a good lesson for us

\* We should also stand ready to do our Lord's bidding.

In a day when people are concerned about education, wealth, health and a host of other things they think they need to serve God; the greatest ability is still availability.

\* The Lord is looking for people with a heart like that which Isaiah possessed.

\* He is looking for people who will say “*Here am I*” when He asks “*Whom shall we send?*” Isaiah 6:1-8

### These seven angels are given seven trumpets.

\* This 7th seal being opened introduces an new surge of activity on Earth, God's judgments on evil begin in rapid succession.

\* This 7th seal begins the 7 trumpets of judgment.

So often today people don't take sin seriously because they don't see the fruit or consequences of their sinful actions ... but there will be a time when such consequences will be forthcoming.

### Illustration

The story is told of a farmer in a Midwestern state who had a strong disdain for "religious" things. As he plowed his field on Sunday morning, he would shake his fist at the church people who passed by on their way to worship. October came and the farmer had his finest crop ever--the best in the entire county. When the harvest was complete, he placed an advertisement in the local paper that belittled the Christians for their faith in God. Near the end of his diatribe he wrote, "Faith in God must not mean much if someone like me can prosper." The response from the Christians in the community was quiet and polite. In the next edition of the town paper, a small ad appeared. ... It read simply, "*God doesn't always settle His accounts in October.*"

William E. Brown in Making Sense of Your Faith. Christianity Today, Vol. 33, no. 11.

6.

**These seven trumpets are going to be used to send judgments upon the earth.**

\* Trumpets, as you know, figured heavily in the lives of the ancient Jews.

**Numbers 10:1-12 [NIV] [The Silver Trumpets]**

**“1 The LORD said to Moses:**

**2 "Make two trumpets of hammered silver, and use them for calling the community together and for having the camps set out.**

**3 When both are sounded, the whole community is to assemble before you at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.**

**4 If only one is sounded, the leaders—the heads of the clans of Israel—are to assemble before you.**

**5 When a trumpet blast is sounded, the tribes camping on the east are to set out.**

**6 At the sounding of a second blast, the camps on the south are to set out. The blast will be the signal for setting out.**

**7 To gather the assembly, blow the trumpets, but not with the same signal.**

**8 "The sons of Aaron, the priests, are to blow the trumpets. This is to be a lasting ordinance for you and the generations to come.**

**9 When you go into battle in your own land against an enemy who is oppressing you, sound a blast on the trumpets. Then you will be remembered by the LORD your God and rescued from your enemies.**

**10 Also at your times of rejoicing—your appointed feasts and New Moon festivals—you are to sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, and they will be a memorial for you before your God. I am the LORD your God."**

**11 On the twentieth day of the second month of the second year, the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle of the Testimony. 12 Then the Israelites set out from the Desert of Sinai and traveled from place to place until the cloud came to rest in the Desert of Paran.**

**13 They set out, this first time, at the LORD's command through Moses.**

**14 The divisions of the camp of Judah went first, under their standard”**

\* **Two silver trumpets** were to be used to notify the people of Israel that certain events were about to occur.

7.

**A certain blast was used to assemble all the people; another was used to assemble just the heads of the tribes.**

\* A certain sound was used to tell the people when it was time to break camp and march - another alerted them when there was a war.

\* There was a certain sound that was to be made for each event.

**That is why Paul said:**

**1 Corinthians 14: 8**

**“For if the *trumpet* give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?”**

\* So we find that trumpets were very important to the people of Israel.

**God’s people are listening for trumpets**

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 [NIV]**

**“ 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and *with the trumpet call of God*, and the dead in Christ will rise first.**

**17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever”**

**1 Corinthians 15: 51-52 [NIV]**

**“ 50 I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.**

**51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—**

**52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, *at the last trumpet*. For the *trumpet will sound*, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed”**

**Trumpets are a big part of our future also.**

\* Think with me for a minute about an event that occurred in the history of ancient Israel involving the use of trumpets.

**8.**

In [Joshua 6:1-21](#) we find that the Israelites marched around Jericho once each day for six days and then seven times on the seventh day.

\* As they marched, they sounded their trumpets.

Well, you know what happened!

\* *On the seventh day!*

\* *After the seventh lap!*

\* They blew their trumpets and they shouted and the walls of Jericho fell down flat.

There is coming a day during the *Great Tribulation* when Heaven will sound its trumpets against a rebellious earth, and the walls of rebellion that have been erected against holy God by sinful man will fall before His unstoppable wrath.

These trumpets are war trumpets and they are used to sound the attack. When God attacks the earth in His wrath, no one will be able to repel His advance.

Revelation 8: 3-4

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

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 the saints, on the golden altar before the throne.

4The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand”

**Involved Prayers**

\* Another angel takes a censer filled with incense.

\* He takes the incense and offers it along with the prayers of the saints on the altar before God.

\* The smoke of the incense and the prayers of the saints ascend together into the very presence of God.

\* These are mysterious verses, but they do have a couple of lessons to teach us today.

### **The prayers of the saints are kept by God**

\* As our prayers leave our hearts and lips to ascend to the throne of grace, they are not just sent out into the ether to disappear forever.

\* These verses show us that God holds onto our prayers and keeps them in His presence.

\* You see, some prayers cannot be answered when we pray them; the time is not right!

\* In His time, however, they will be answered, as we see in these verses.

### **The prayers of the saints are answered by God**

\* We are seeing the prayers of the saints under the altar, **Rev. 6:9-11** answered in these verses.

#### **Revelation 6:9-11**

**“ 9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.**

**10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"**

**11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed”**

\* For two-thousand years, God’s people have prayed, **“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”**

**The prayers of the saints mentioned here no doubt included those prayers that were cries to God for justice.**

\* It is hard sometimes as Christians to witness evil that appears to go unpunished, while often those who walk consistently with God face constant struggles.

\* This is an age old conflict ... why the righteous often suffer and the unrighteous prosper.

**There is a natural cry in our heart and in our prayers for God to balance the scales of justice.**

## The prayers of the saints have power with God

**Such cries of the righteous have NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN by God, those prayers have not failed, it just hasn't been the right time yet**

**\* In spite of the seeming injustice of so much of life, the godly do not forsake the Lord under any circumstances ... and the prayers mentioned here are the prayers of the saints who have walked consistently with the Lord.**

**\* They may have cried out to God in their struggle to understand, but they had not abandoned God in the midst of what appeared to be injustice.**

**\* Our walk with God today should not be based on how fair things appear in the here and now.**

**\* We must be confident that God will take care of all injustices in time.**

**\* The call of the believer is to walk consistently even in the midst of injustice, knowing that justice will be answered at another time.**

**Do not let Satan or the world discourage you with the appearance of evil's triumphant in the moment ... the day of justice will fully come.**

**The most powerful people in this world are not the political movers and shakers.**

**The most powerful people are not the kings, queens, dictators, presidents and generals.**

**The most powerful people are not the celebrities and the wealthy.**

**The most powerful people in this world are widows, women, men, children, the poverty stricken and others who believe in the God of Heaven and call out to Him be faith.**

**So, pray Christian pray!**

**As you do, your prayers are mingled with the finished work of Jesus and you have power with God! There is more power in your prayers than you could have ever imagined!**

**Revelation 8: 5 [NIV]**

***“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”***

**The prayers of a righteous man avails much!**

**11.**

**The angel takes the censer and fills it with fire from the altar and he casts this into the earth.**

\* When he does, there are sounds from the earth.

\* These sounds are the premonitions of the upheavals that are coming upon the earth.

**Did you notice that the same fire that causes the incense and prayers to rise up also causes the judgments to come down?**

\* Men have rejected God's love, His grace, His mercy, His Son and there is nothing left for them but the undiluted wrath and judgment of an offended God. That is what we are about to see as these trumpets are sounded and judgment falls upon the earth.

**So we have seen in Revelation 8, the Silence in Heaven and a Service At The Altar.**

1. There Is Silence In Heaven
2. There Is A Service At The Altar

**Now lets look at the Trumpets**

**Revelation 8: 6-13 [NIV]**

**“ 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 upon 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,**

**9 a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.**

**10 The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water—**

12.

11 the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.

12 The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, 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 turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.

13 As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"

### THERE IS SUFFERING ON THE EARTH

#### Revelation 8: 6 [Message]

“ 6-7 The Seven Angels with the trumpets got ready to blow them. At the first trumpet blast, hail and fire mixed with blood were dumped on earth. A third of the earth was scorched, a third of the trees, and every blade of green grass—burned to a crisp”

\* Verse 6 tells us that the angels take their places and prepare to sound their trumpets. As they do, we are about to see one horror after another visited upon the earth and her inhabitants.)

#### The Trumpet Of Devastation

\* The first trumpet brings hail and fire mingled with blood.

\* This may be a description of hail falling from the skies, a fierce storm explodes on the earth – A Storm of Wrath!

\* The blood might be that of men and animals killed in the cataclysm, or it could refer to contaminated water droplets that have the appearance of blood.

**Whatever the nature of this judgment, this storm of wrath falls upon the earth and burns up one-third of all the trees on the earth, along with all the grass.**

\* As a result of this judgment, oxygen levels plummet and the quality of breathable air suffers greatly.

**13.**

***“...A third of the earth was scorched, a third of the trees, and every blade of green grass—burned to a crisp”***

- \* **One Third of this earth is scorched by fire**
- \* **Scorched by fire means that everything growing and living is consumed in the fire.**
- \* **Scorched – Lifeless**

### **Illustration**

- \* **Scorched earth / a small glimpse is to look at the state of California as much of it in recent years.**
- \* **Scorched earth / look at the area after the gas line that exploded just north of here a few weeks ago – every tree, grass simply anything living was consumed by the fire.**
- \* **One third of this earth will be consumed at the sound of this trumpet**

### **Trees**

- \* **One third of the trees scorched**
- \* **Trees making reference to oxygen levels on this earth will lower**
- \* **Trees fruit trees consumed – food will be effected**

### **Grass**

- \* **Wheat, which is used to produce bread, is a type of grass.**
- \* **Grass is used to graze livestock.**
- \* **So this judgment will have a tremendous impact worldwide food supplies.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet is a time of great geological, ecological and economic disaster.**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet**

#### **Revelation 8: 8-9 [KJ]**

***“8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;  
9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed”***

## **The Trumpet Of *Destruction***

When the *second trumpet* sounds a fiery mountain is seen falling into the sea.

- \* One-third of the sea is contaminated
- \* One-third of the all marine life dies and one-third of all human ships are destroyed.
- \* This could be a description of a massive volcanic explosion hitting the oceans.
- \* If that were to happen, it could easily destroy one-third of all life in the sea.
- \* This would contaminate the oceans with the dead, rotting bodies of marine life.
- \* It would also trigger massive tidal waves that would sink great numbers of ships..

Mankind is very dependent upon the resources he retrieves from the sea. When the oceans are taken away as a source of life and livelihood, man will suffer from hunger and economic disaster.

### Note:

Verses 7 and 8 both mention blood. Blood will fall from the skies and the seas will be turned to blood.

This could be look at as God sending man a clear message.

Man has rejected the blood of Jesus as the sole means of salvation. God places the blood before their eyes as a constant reminder that nothing but the blood of Jesus can wash away to stains of sin!)

### Revelation 8: 10-11 [Gods Word]

“ 10 When the third angel blew his trumpet, a huge star flaming like a torch fell from the sky. It fell on one-third of the rivers and on the springs.

11 That star was named Wormwood. One-third of the water turned into wormwood, and many people died from this water because it had turned bitter”

**15.**

### **The Trumpet Of *Death***

- \* A object falls from Heaven.
- \* It is probably a comet, or a meteoric mass since it is described as having a tail.
- \* It falls upon the fountains of fresh waters and causes them to become poisoned.

**The word “wormwood” translates the Greek word “apsinthos”**  
**It means “bitterness”**

- \* It refers to a plant whose leaves are used to manufacture a certain drink called “*absinthe*”
- \* This alcoholic beverage is so toxic that it is banned in many countries.

***One-third of the sweet, fresh waters of the earth are poisoned and many die from drinking these tainted waters.***

**Revelation 8: 12 [Gods Word]**

**“12 When the fourth angel blew his trumpet, one-third of the sun, one-third of the moon, and one-third of the stars were struck so that one-third of them turned dark. There was no light for one-third of the day and one-third of the night”**

### **The Trumpet Of *Darkness***

- \* When the fourth trumpet sounds
- \* God turns down the power of the sun, moon and stars.
- \* Their power is reduced by one-third – some type of an astronomical eclipse
- \* This could be the result of all the ash and debris from the earlier judgments, or this could be the supernatural hand of God.

**The earth is plunged into darkness as the sun, moon and stars refuse to give their light.**

**16.**

This will affect growing seasons, weather patterns, plant life, temperatures on the earth, and mankind's physical and emotional health.

This trumpet will take a great toll on humanity.

**Note:**

**During the tribulation God will take away what man has always taken for granted. Man will be judged for his refusal to bow before God and to acknowledge His Lordship.**

**Revelation 8: 13 [Gods Word]**

**“13 I saw an eagle [*angle*] flying overhead, and I heard it say in a loud voice, "Catastrophe, catastrophe, catastrophe [*woe, woe, woe*] for those living on earth, because of the remaining trumpet blasts which the three angels are about to blow." [The triple woe judgments**

**The Testimony Of *Doom***

- \* This chapter closes with an angel flying through Heaven pronouncing further woes upon the earth.
- \* Things are bad, but not as bad as they will become.
- \* The worst part of the Tribulation still lies ahead!

If you have never been saved, this would be a good time to do something about that.

If you have been saved, this would be a good time to rejoice that you will miss these events.

**Conclusion**

**Matthew 24:29 [Jesus says]**

**“Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken”**

He is describing the very events that we have read about today.

Notice that last phrase: *“and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken”*

**17.**

**The word “powers” comes from the word “dunamis” which gives us the word “dynamite”**

\* It means *“inherit, explosive power”*

\* The word *“heaven”* come from the word *“uranos”* - which gives us the word *“uranium”*

**And the word “shaken” means “to be set off balance”**

\* Now, without trying to change what the Scripture says, but looking at it this way, it reads:

*“And the powers of uranium shall be set off balance”*

When God created the universe; He build within the tiniest part of this universe, the atom, the very power to destroy this universe.

\* When man learned to *“split the atom”* he unleashed the most powerful and destructive force in existence.

Mankind possesses the power to literally destroy the world.

Could it be that God will use a nuclear explosion to accomplish some of these things?

I do not know, but I do know that He has built the potential into every atom in this universe.

Everything around you, from the air you breathe, to the pews upon which you sit, can become an instrument of destruction.

**The bottom line is this:**

Judgment is coming upon this earth and upon all those who refuse the accept Jesus as their Savior.

The best thing you can do today is be saved by His grace and ready to meet Him when He comes so you can avoid the tragedies that are coming. Are you saved?