

Seven Seals Seven Trumpets Seven Bowls (part 2)

(Rev. 8-11)

Silence filled heaven and earth after the sixth seal. The false peace is broken; tsunami of the judgment carried by the trumpets has come; God has spoken. But before the trumpets' judgment sounded, an angel is sent coming up from the east and carrying the seal of the living God; with a loud voice he calls out to the four angels who had been given authority and power to injure earth and sea, Saying, "Harm neither the earth nor the sea nor the trees, until we have sealed the bond servants of our God upon their foreheads". Who are they? They are "the bond servants of our God" chosen "from every tribe of the sons of Israel". These are they who have not defiled themselves by relations with women, for they are virgins (Rev. 14:4a). Contrary to the belief of many that they are from the Jehovah Witness cult, they comprise 12 thousand from each tribe totaling 144 thousand. They will be protected against the coming judgments of the seven trumpets, which will harm the earth, sea and the trees. They had gone through the judgments of the six seals. These will be God's messengers who God chose to spread the good news of the Gospel. In chapter fourteenth of Revelation we find them in heaven. They were possibly martyred for their testimonies and taken to heaven. If our Lord will have these servants of His sealed during the tribulation, would He not seal His bride if she were to be going the tribulation? Absolutely.

John sees seven angels with seven trumpets ready to be blown, bringing judgment to earth. He also sees another angel standing over the altar with a golden censer, and given to him 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 upon the golden altar before the throne. (When he did that), smoke of the incense arose in the presence of God, with the prayers of the people of God from the hand of the angel; 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 (Rev. 8:3-5).

This is the most beautiful description of how the Lord receives the prayers of His saints. King David well understood this. He prayed: Let my prayer be as the evening sacrifice that burns like fragrant incense, rising as my offering to You as I lift up my hands in surrendered worship! (Psalm 141:2).

Here an angel is given the task of mingling the prayers of the saints with incense. When it burned it rose up to God and He accepted and answered the prayers as the censer was cast upon the earth with sounds of God's judgment with "peals of thunder and loud rumblings and blasts and noises and flashes of lightning and an earthquake". These are prelude of the judgments to follow which God is sending to the wicked of the earth. These judgments

constituted the answer to the saints' prayers. This is one more proof that these judgments are not for the Lord's church.

After this the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them (Rev. 8:6). What judgments will these trumpets bring?

(1) The first trumpet will bring storm of hail and fire mingled with blood; resulting in the third of the earth, third of the trees and all the green grass being burned (Rev. 8:7).

(2) The second trumpet a great mountain blazing with fire is hurled into the sea. A third of the sea was turned to blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea perished and a third of the ships were destroyed (Rev. 8:8)

(3) With the sound of a third trumpet a huge star will fall from heaven burning like a torch and it will drop on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. A third of the water will be changed into wormwood; many people will die from it (Rev.8:10).

(4) With the fourth trumpet, a third of the sun, the moon the third of the stars will be smitten (Rev. 8:11).

These first four trumpets are different from the other three to come by their extent of severity. They affect a third of the natural world: earth, trees, grass, sea, sea creatures and ships; rivers and springs of fresh water, the sun, the moon and the stars. Three of these judgments echo the plagues of Egypt.

Then I [looked and I] saw a solitary eagle flying in midheaven, and as it flew I heard it crying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the rest of the trumpet blast which the three angels are about to sound (Rev. 8:13)! This introduction to the three trumpets left to be sounded is brought by an eagle which alone in mid-heaven announces the severity of the judgments coming on earth. Woe. woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth! The word woe has a deep meaning which interprets great sorrow, grief; misery (Webster's dictionary). The woes presented here are not the woes we are familiar with. We cannot understand the intensity of pain, misery and sorrow men will go through from that time on as the judgments of God are released through the rest of the trumpets and the seven bowls. The repetition of the word implies intensity of the judgments. The position of the eagle in mid-heaven, where the sun reaches the meridian, is a visible position to all. All mankind hears his warnings which are followed by the blowing of the fifth trumpet (Rev. 9:1-11). When the angel blew the fifth trumpet he opened the long shaft of the Abyss and smoke like the smoke of a huge furnace puffed out of the long shaft, so that the sun and the atmosphere were darkened by the smoke from the long shaft. Then out of the smoke locust came forth on the earth and such power was granted them as the power the earth's scorpions have. They were told not to injure the herbage of the earth nor any green thing nor any tree, but only such human beings as do not have the seal (mark) of God on their foreheads (Rev. 9: 1-4).

The first four trumpets' judgments affected the necessities of life: earth, trees, grass, sea, rivers, fountain, and light of the sun, moon and stars. However the woes trumpets will affect men's life with pain, death and hell.

The fifth trumpet opens the abyss and out of it came locusts to injure men with the exception of the 144 thousand who were sealed before the seventh seal was opened. These demonic locust are to torment and torture the human race for five months, but not to kill them (Rev. 9:5). At that time men will seek death, but will not find it. That will be a time of excruciating pain. No morphine pill will be able to help. The judgments of God have come down without mercy upon those who rejected Him. No mercy, no forgiveness, no salvation. Men are at the mercy of the devil. The sixth trumpet releases a demonic army to kill a third of mankind (Rev. 9:12-21). Several pastors are teaching this army to be the Chinese army. It is absolutely not true. These are demons with the purpose to kill mankind, including the Chinese army. God has not spared the Chinese army to bring His judgments upon men. He has reserved demons kept in the abyss to fulfill His judgments upon those who have not accepted His Son's atonement for their sins.

The second woe has passed; now the third woe is speedily to come. The seventh angel then blew [his] trumpet and there were mighty voices in heaven, shouting, The dominion of the world has now come into the possession and become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ and He shall reign forever and ever (Rev. 9: 15). The seventh trumpet closes the first woes and opens the next woes through the seven bowls.

(5) The fifth trumpet brings a plague of demonic locusts to torture humanity (Rev. 9: 1-6)

(6) The sixth trumpet a demonic army is released from the abyss to destroy a third of mankind (Rev. 9:12-21).

(7) The seventh trumpet calls forth the seven angels who have the seven bowls of the wrath of God (Rev. 11:15-19; 15:1-8).

YAHSHUA said, I am the Way the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me (John 14:16). He is the way to eternity in heaven, the truth that will set man free from the eternal condemnation and He is the life and He offers you this life that will never perish in hell. Believe and trust in Him; accept His gift of salvation offered to you today. Today is all you have!