

9 – THE SEVENTH SEAL & THE TRUMPETS (REVELATION 8:1-9:12)

Review:

A. The key verse (1:19)

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19

B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)
2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)
3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

C. A Basic Mindset

1. Don't be dogmatic about your interpretations.
2. Biblical prophecy only gives us a partial picture.

The Jews of Jesus' day did not completely understand the prophecies of the Messiah. It was only after His death and resurrection did the prophecies make sense.

I. The Seventh Seal (Revelation 8:1-12)

A. The Opening of the Seventh Seal (8:1)

- When the seventh seal is opened, there was silence in Heaven for 30 minutes.
- The seventh seal contains the seven trumpets.

B. The Seven Angels and Seven Trumpets (8:2)

- John sees seven angels who were given seven trumpets.

C. The Golden Censer (8:3-5)

1. The angel with the censer (8:3a)

- John sees another angel who stands before the altar with a golden censer.

2. The offering of the prayer (8:3b)

- The angel was given incense to offer with the prayers of the saints.

Hope for The Future: A Study in the Book of the Revelation

3. The offering before God (8:4)

- The angel offers the incense and prayers before God.

4. The censer is thrown to earth (8:5)

- The angel throws the censer filled with fire to the earth.

D. The First Trumpet (8:6-7)

1. The angels prepare themselves (8:6)

- The seven angels prepare to blow their trumpets.

2. The first trumpet sounded (8:7)

a. The trumpet's affect

- With the first trumpet, hail and fire fall upon the earth.

b. The result

- The hail and fire destroy a third of all plant life on earth.

E. The Second Trumpet (8:8-9)

1. The trumpet's affect (8:8a)

- A flaming mountain is thrown into the sea.

Biblical Note: Burning Mountain

Some scholars believe that the description of the burning mountain fits with a comet or meteor. The impact of this would disrupt sea life causing all living things to die. It would also cause a tidal wave that would destroy ships upon the sea.

2. The result (8:8b-9)

a. The condition of the sea (8:8b)

- A third of the sea was turned to blood.
- This parallels God's judgment on Egypt.

Scripture Exodus 7:14-25

¹⁴ So the LORD said to Moses: "Pharaoh's heart is hard; he refuses to let the people go.

¹⁵ Go to Pharaoh in the morning, when he goes out to the water, and you shall stand by the river's bank to meet him; and the rod which was turned to a serpent you shall take in your hand. ¹⁶ And you shall say to him, 'The LORD God of the Hebrews has sent me to you,

Hope for The Future: A Study in the Book of the Revelation

saying, “Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness”; but indeed, until now you would not hear! ¹⁷ Thus says the LORD: “By this you shall know that I am the LORD. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood. ¹⁸ And the fish that are in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will loathe to drink the water of the river.” ’ ’ ”

¹⁹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds, and over all their pools of water, that they may become blood. And there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in buckets of wood and pitchers of stone.’ ” ²⁰ And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. ²¹ The fish that were in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

²² Then the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments; and Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said. ²³ And Pharaoh turned and went into his house. Neither was his heart moved by this. ²⁴ So all the Egyptians dug all around the river for water to drink, because they could not drink the water of the river. ²⁵ And seven days passed after the LORD had struck the river.

b. The destruction (8:9)

- A third of all marine life and ships are destroyed.

F. The Third Trumpet (8:10-11)

1. The trumpet’s affect (8:10)

- A great star falls on a third of the rivers and springs.

Biblical Note: A Great Star

Some scholars believe that the description of the star fits with a comet or meteor. The star is called Wormwood.

2. The result (8:11)

a. The star’s name

- The star is called Wormwood.

Biblical Note: Wormwood

Wormwood is a bitter desert plant mentioned only once in the New Testament. It is mentioned seven times in the Old Testament where it represents sorrow and bitter judgment

See: Deuteronomy 29:18; Proverbs 5:4; Jeremiah 9:15; 23:15; Lamentations 3:15, 19; Amos 5:7; Revelation 8:11.

b. The star’s affect on the water

Hope for The Future: A Study in the Book of the Revelation

- The water is contaminated resulting in the death of many people.

G. The Fourth Trumpet (8:12)

- The fourth trumpet results in a third of the lights of the sky being darkened.

II. The Sounding of the Fifth Trumpet (Revelation 8:13-9:12)

A. The Announcement of the Three Final Trumpets (8:13)

1. The flying angel

- John sees another angel that is flying through the midst of Heaven.

2. The announcement

- The angel announced woe upon the remaining inhabitants of earth.
- This is because of the nature of the remaining trumpets.

B. The Fifth Trumpet (9:1-11)

1. The fallen star (9:1)

a. The identity of the star (9:1a)

- The star is a person or angelic being.
- This person is more than likely Satan.
- Because John did not see this star fall, the text implies that the star “had fallen.”

Scripture Isaiah 14:12-17

¹² “How you are fallen from heaven,

O Lucifer, son of the morning!

How you are cut down to the ground,

You who weakened the nations!

¹³ For you have said in your heart:

‘I will ascend into heaven,

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;

I will also sit on the mount of the congregation

On the farthest sides of the north;

¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,

I will be like the Most High.’

¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,

To the lowest depths of the Pit.

¹⁶ “Those who see you will gaze at you,

And consider you, saying:

Hope for The Future: A Study in the Book of the Revelation

‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble,
Who shook kingdoms,
¹⁷ Who made the world as a wilderness
And destroyed its cities,
Who did not open the house of his prisoners?’

b. The key (9:1b)

- To this fallen star was given authority over the bottomless pit.

Biblical Note: The Bottomless Pit (The Abyss)
The bottomless pit or the Abyss refers to the prison of disobedient or fallen angels. It is full of smoke and fire. The demons have a great dread of being sent to the Abyss.
See: Luke 8:31; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 9:11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1-3.

Scripture: Luke 8:31
And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

2. The Bottomless Pit (9:2)

a. The pit is opened (9:2a)

- The fallen star is allowed to open the bottomless pit.

b. The smoke (9:2b)

- Out of the pit comes a smoke that affects even the light of the sun.

3. The Demonic Plague (9:3-11)

a. The Locusts (9:3a)

- Out of the smoke a great horde of locust-like creatures comes upon earth.

b. Their purpose (9:3b-5)

- They are to torment all humanity who had not been sealed by God.

Scripture: Exodus 8:20-23

²⁰And the Lord said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he comes out to the water. Then say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Let My people go, that they may serve Me. ²¹Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of *flies* on you and your servants, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of *flies*, and also the ground on which they *stand*. ²²And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of *flies* shall be there, in order that you may know that I *am* the Lord in the midst of the land. ²³I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall be.””

Hope for The Future: A Study in the Book of the Revelation

- They are not to harm the vegetation of the earth.
- They are not to kill anyone, but simply to torment.
- c. The result (9:6)
 - The torment will be so great that men will want to die, but they cannot.
- d. Their description (9:7-10a)
 - The picture is one of Satan's awesome supernatural power.
- e. The duration of their terror (9:10b)
 - They are to afflict humanity for a period of five months.
- f. Their leader (9:11)
 - The leader of this demonic horde is Satan himself.
- 4. The proclamation (9:12)
 - The writer proclaims that one woe has past but there are still two more.