

THE REVIVAL OF ALL REVIVALS

Revelation Chapter 8

Q: Do you believe that ALL the problems of the world, environmental problems, climate change, massive flooding, war, sickness, death, poverty, greed, and all others, are not always directly, but ultimately, MAN-MADE?

When God made the universe, He made everything “good”, and when He made human beings He called them “very good”. He made a good creation and made man to be the steward over that which God had made.

Their rebellion, and your rebellion today, introduced sin into the world and infected everything, including the environment, the earth, all the way down to man’s heart and soul. From that time forward until now, all creation suffers and groans, waiting for the day when God will redeem creation and make it good again. But until that day comes, nature will sometimes become violent.

For all the destruction and death that has come from nature since Adam and Eve until now, the earth has never experienced what is to come.

The Seventh Seal : Prequel to the Seven Trumpet Judgements

Revelation 8:1-6

Q: What three things happen when Jesus breaks the seventh seal?

- **Silence in Heaven for Half an Hour:** The moment the seal was broken, all the praising in heaven suddenly grew eerily silent. This was the collective “GASP” of heaven. The seventh seal was broken, and the seal was completely unrolled, and everybody could see what was about to take place on earth--- and it took their breath away.
- **Seven angels and seven trumpets:** Think of all the times trumpets were used in the Bible as a symbol of God’s intervention in human history.
 - a. To gather people for journeys
 - b. To call people for war
 - c. To celebrate holy days
 - d. To announce the new year
 - e. To bring down the walls of Jericho
 - f. For the coronation of a new king
 - g. To signal the great Rapture of the church
 - h. **The trumpets in Revelation 8 signify the beginning of war. These angels are going to sound the trumpet to announce God’s war on earth.**
- **The angel with a golden censer:** In the OT temple, there were two altars. One was called the altar of sacrifice, which was busy day and night offering sacrifices for sins.

The other was called the Altar of Incense. This altar stood in the holy place, right in front of the veil that separated the holy place from the holy of holies. It was made of gold, hallowed out, and held burning coals. Once a year, on the day of atonement, the high priest would fill the censer with incense and sprinkle it onto the hot coals, releasing a fragrant aroma that would rise up signifying how pleasing the sacrifices were to God.

The angel added the incense – the prayer of the saints (your prayers) – to the burning coals and the smoke rose to God as a pleasing aroma. What does this tell you about the importance of prayer in God’s eyes? Prayer is a sacrifice to God. In prayer we die to ourselves, our wills, and our desires, and enter God’s world, mingling our minds and wills with His.

What does the angel do next with the censer? He fills it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth, followed by peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

Verse 5 also states it was followed by “voices”? What is this? The silence in heaven was broken!!

What have people been praying about for thousands of years? What is the hope that you hang on to while you are on the circle of this earth? What is God now fulfilling that we all have longed for since we were saved?

- YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN (Matthew 6:10)
- Christians in every age have prayed for Justice, for an end to suffering, for the return of Jesus Christ, to be with their loved ones that have went to heaven

This angel is now pouring out all those prayers onto the earth as a way of saying, “Those prayers are about to be answered!” The prayers of the martyrs and the tribulation saints we’ve already heard from earlier in Revelation are about to be answered!

The Seven Trumpet Judgements

As we begin the trumpet and bowl judgements, we will see certain “plagues” come upon the earth. Does anyone remember any series of “plagues” that occurred in history that the bible documents? These judgements parallel the ten plagues against Egypt during the time of Moses. The plagues that are coming are just as real and literal as the ones that were sent down on Egypt in response to the Pharaoh.

What did the Pharaoh do that caused the plagues to hit Egypt? The Pharaoh hardened himself against God and literally said, “Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice?” Who does the Pharaoh think he is talking too? I can imagine God saying, “Oh, I can answer that for you.” God demonstrated who he was to the Pharaoh and put him in his place for such rebellion and animosity.

At this point in the judgements, after all the Christians disappearing in the Rapture, and after the results of the six seals we have already discussed, do you think anyone can rightfully deny God's existence? In the sixth seal judgement, what were the people saying? Why would they rather have the mountains fall on them and kill them? What does it say they were afraid of? These people know God exists, and know who he is, and they still choose to live rebelliously. They are the ones now saying, "Who is God that I should submit my will to His?" just like the Pharaoh did. God will now demonstrate that in the coming judgements.

The First Trumpet: Fire on Earth

Rev 8:6-7

The first four trumpet blasts came in short, rapid blasts and targeted the natural world. The destruction was not total, but was a prelude to the end. There was still time for people to turn to God. It was no longer an issue of belief but will!!

What was this first trumpet directed at? Vegetation. We are not sure exactly what John was seeing; Meteor shower, worldwide volcanic activity, etc. All we know is that the fire was real, and the results were devastating.

What do you think would result from a third of the world burned up? What would happen losing an estimated three trillion trees? How would this effect the ecological system and animal life? What would happen with all the green grass burnt up? Massive mudslides wiping out towns, topsoil erosion, etc..

While we ALL KNOW that we are to be good stewards of the earth and the environment, but where do you think this puts people that set "Mother Nature" up on a stand and put so much emphasis on the creation that they seem to have forgotten the Creator? In tribulation, these people will see the idol they have made of the world destroyed before their very eyes. Mother Nature is not a deity to be worshipped as God is.

Do you think there are people more worried about what we do to hurt the environment than what we do to anger and hurt God? The world, nature, the environment, are not eternal, only God and what he offers is.

The Second Trumpet: Blood in the Sea

Rev 8:8-9

What is targeted with this trumpet? The oceans. **What could this "great mountain burning" be?** We can't be sure of what John saw. I would think possibly a meteor shower of some sort but that is only speculation. In 2013, a meteor measuring only 65 feet across streaked across the Russian sky at 40,000 mph. It didn't hit earth, but burst midair with 20 to 30 times the energy of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

What do you think of the sea becoming blood? Maybe it became actual blood, became a blood-like substance, or simply looked like blood? **Regardless, how many dead sea animals would it be if a third were killed?** No one knows the exact number of creatures living in the oceans, but the number of species has been estimated between 700,000 and one million.

Has anyone ever seen in movies what happens when a large meteor or object hits the oceans going thousands of miles per hour? The movies are correct. It would cause devastating tidal waves and tsunamis swamping ships out on the sea and docked in ports. Not counting warships or privately owned seagoing vessels, in 2018 there were 53,000 registered merchant ships worldwide. A third of these means that 17,490 ships will be sent to the ocean floor.

What would this do to global trade and security of the oceans? Food and supplies could not be transported and the naval powers of all the nations would have been destroyed or badly weakened.

The Third Trumpet: Contamination of Fresh Water

Rev 8:10-11

What is now targeted? Fresh water. **What could John be calling a “star”?** We’re not certain, but could very well be a meteor or asteroid? **Where do this “star” strike? Just one place? Just everywhere randomly? Just in seas or oceans?** Multiple locations of rivers and springs, which means this star would have to break apart in the atmosphere. To only fall on a third of the rivers and springs would mean they were divinely directed to do so by a powerful being that could control this. Something only God could orchestrate.

What do rivers and springs provide? Fresh water. There are about 165 major rivers in the world and an unknown number of creeks and streams. One-third of 165 is 55 river system that could no longer be used as a water source. This would equate to tens of millions of people that would not have access to fresh water, which would lead to exponential death rates.

Did you know that God says he has a name for every star? Trillions and trillions of them spread throughout the universe. What name did he give this “star”? Wormwood, which means “bitter”. This water would become not just bitter, but become poisonous.

The Fourth Trumpet: Darkness of the Heavenly Bodies

Rev 8:12-13

What sort of judgement is brought with this trumpet? Darkness. **Where have we seen darkness as a means of judgement before?** God brought three days of darkness to Egypt in the 9th plague.

What could possibly cause this darkness? We can't know for sure, but keep in mind all of the previous judgements and how they could easily contribute to this. Maybe it was an eclipse, air pollution, or smoke from all the fires, but either way this reduction of sunlight will come and have devastating consequences.

What effect could this have on the earth's agriculture and ecosystem? What kind of emotional impact could it bring? A third of the day would mean a reduction of eight hours of sunlight. This would mean it would be dark for 16-20 hours of each day. Not counting the impact it would have on growing crops and many other ecological systems, widespread terror would occur, resulting in anarchy, rioting, looting, and much more.

What is this "eagle" or "angel" (depending on the translation) saying? Woe, Woe, Woe. In the Bible, when is the word "woe" often used? What does it indicate? This is a pronouncement of divine punishment. The judgements so far may have affected people, but was directed at the environment, but now the final three trumpet judgements will be against people. It will result in some of the worst human suffering the world has ever known.

Who exactly is the angel/eagle saying "woe, woe, woe" too? Most translations will say "earth dwellers" or "inhabiters of the earth". At first we may think that just means anyone and everyone that happens to be living on the earth at that time, but we need to take a close look at the Greek language for an "earth dweller".

The Greek language has two words to describe an earth dweller:

- *Paroikeo* which means "sojourner": This refers to someone who is passing through. This word was used to describe Abraham, who lived in tents, moving from place to place as God directed. The main point being, this world was NOT his permanent dwelling place or home. Abraham's eyes were always on the heavenly city as his home, he just wasn't there yet.
- *Katoikeo* which means "to settle down": This is someone who has not necessarily settled down in a geographical location but in a STATE OF MIND.

Here in Rev 8:13, which Greek word do you think is being used and why? *Katoikeo*. The people left on earth can no longer question the reality of God and His power. They literally just saw a mighty angel/eagle flying the sky proclaiming further judgements to come. They have made their home on earth and have willfully chosen to neglect God. They are so focused on the world and themselves, they have no desire of the ways and things of God.

Seeing this situation, we are forced to ask the same questions of ourselves:

- **What is the focus of your life?**
- **What do you spend a lot of your time thinking about?**
- **What do you find yourself talking about, watching, or reading most the time?**
- **Is your attention and energy mainly on the things of this world or the next?**

“The best indicator of your FUTURE eternal destination is your PRESENT focus”