

REVELATION SURVEY – Chapters 8-11

INTRODUCTION

By way of reminder:

1:19 – “**the things which shall take place after these things**”
Chapters 4-22

4 – the **Sovereign** (Throne) – God the Creator

5 – the **Scroll** – God the Redeemer

6 – the **Seals** – God the Vindicator

7 – the **Sealed** – God the Savior

READ Rev 8:1-5; 11:15-19

8:1-5 → **Silence, Supplication, and the Seventh Seal**

8:1 – “**silence in heaven**” – **Hab 2:20** – “the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him.”

What is taking place here? Reverence for the Lord, awe and anticipation. → Prayer?

8:3 – “**altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne**”

- Prayers of vengeance – God as the Vindicator

Luke 1:9-11 – **Zacharias** enters the holy place and pours incense out of his censer onto the golden altar before the veil of the temple. The incense burns and the clouds of fragrance fill the air.

8:5 – “**threw it to the earth**” – **Ezek 10:2** – “He spoke to the man clothed in linen and said, ‘Enter between the whirling wheels under the cherubim, and fill your hands with coals of fire from between the cherubim and scatter *them* over the city.’”

4:5 – “flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder.” – **10:3; 11:19; 16:18**

Exod 19:16 – “it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who *were* in the camp trembled.”

This is the tremendous and awe-inspiring power of God.
→ God’s coming judgment

Application – This includes 6 of the 7 churches in chapters 2-3, even the 4 that were very imperfect

Illustration – **Thomas Watson** – “*The angel fetched Peter out of prison, but it was prayer fetched the angel.*”

Application – Beloved, gives a whole new perspective on: **James 5:16** – “The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”

The prayers of the here and now are important and right ... but they pale in comparison to the ultimate eternal purpose of ushering in eternity.

→ Your fervent prayers usher in final judgment, prevailing mercy, and eternity. As we consume this week’s serving of our 72-ounce steak ... chew (meditate) on this for a while ☺.

“The plain things are the main things and the main things are the plain things.” I agree with my covenantal brothers, but they completely ignore the rest. Because in their hermeneutic, they have absolutely no way whatsoever to make any sense or do anything with the details of the text, let alone the nuances.

So, we have **two cautions**:

- 1) We don’t overly focus on the details of the prophetic text
- 2) We don’t ignore the details of the prophetic text

1st Trumpet – 8:7

Land

“hail and fire, mixed with blood” – Exod 9:23ff – Ezek 38:22

- Possibly volcanic explosions from the earthquake in v. 5
- One thing is clear is that this is judgment in the land

“a third of the earth ... a third of the trees ... all the green grass was burned up” – from the lava storm

“third” – we see this 13 times in 8:7-12

Illustration – Think of the judgments that came upon Egypt; “Let my people go!” God said to Pharaoh, and when he refused judgment came upon them. As Pharaoh hardened his heart, a worse one, and a worse one still, until finally the firstborn were killed and God’s people were delivered.

2nd Trumpet – 8:8-9 Sea

“*something* like a great mountain burning with fire”

- possibly meteorite/asteroid → fiery mass

^{7c}“a third of the sea became blood” – Exodus 7:17 – “Thus says the LORD, ‘By this you shall know that I am the LORD: behold, I will strike the water that is in the Nile with the staff that is in my hand, and it shall be turned to blood.”

⁸“and a third of the creatures, which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed”

- possibly a tsunami

3rd Trumpet – 8:10-11 Fresh Waters

“a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch”

- “star” – any celestial body/mass → perhaps a comet

4th Trumpet – 8:12-13 Heavens/Air

“a third of the sun ... the moon ... the stars were smitten, so that a third of them might be darkened and the day might not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way.”

The sun’s output is reduced → **Rev 16:8-9** will be intensified

8:13 – “Woe, woe, woe, to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”

- Bad enough, but now ... things are kicked up several notches → Satanic and Demonic

For the **seals**, **trumpets** and **bowls**, there is a distinction between the first four and the last three. With the 5th and 6th trumpets we have **demon locusts** and a **demon army**

5th Trumpet – 9:1-12

Demon Locusts

9:1a – “a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth”

- most likely Satan
- grammatically, it is the perfect tense in the Greek

Job 38:7; Isa 14:12-15; Luke 10:18 – we will see Satan again in **Rev 12:4, 7-9**

Of the spirit beings that God created, there are the holy angels and unholy angels_– some of the unholy are imprisoned (chained), some are not

Jude 6 – “angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.”

2 Pet 2:4 – “God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;”

9:1b – “the key of the bottomless pit was given to him”

- original Greek word is ἄβυσσος
- we get our English word ‘abyss’ from it
- → **Luke 8:31** – “they were entreating Him not to command them to depart into the abyss.”

The “**key**” belongs to Christ

→ **Rev 1:18** – “I have the keys of death and of Hades.”

9:3 – “**locusts**” – 8th Plague over Egypt – Exod 10:12-15

9:4 – “**grass**” – apparently is growing back (**8:7**)

9:4 – “**seal of God on their foreheads**”

– **7:2-3** – 144,000 witnesses that we saw previously and others saved in the tribulation

– there is a tremendous harvest of souls during this time

9:6 – God will supernaturally not allow suicide during this time

9:7-9 – **Joel 1:6; 2:1f** –

9:11 – “**Abaddon**” – this name means destruction

9:11 – “**Apollyon**” – this name means destroyer

→ **Agur** reminds of the obvious in **Prov 30:27** – “The locusts have no king” → the locusts you and I know don’t have a king

→ These are supernatural demon locusts (different from the locusts in the plague of Egypt)

6th Trumpet – 9:13-21

Demon Horsemen

9:13 – “**a voice**” – could be Christ or Angel

9:13 – “**golden altar**” – **6:9-11; 8:3**

Incense → Old Testament is more closely tied to the mercy of God, in Revelation it is more closely tied to the judgment of God.

9:14 – “**Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.**” – unholy angels because they were bound

- demons, Old Testament Tower of Babel, 1780 mi. long from Mt. Ararat to Persian Gulf

Illustration – The Roman Empire stretched all the way to the great river Euphrates. There was a measure of law and justice within the empire. But there were forces of primitive chaos, brutality, and stone-age darkness outside the empire boundaries.

The people in the Empire feared what would happen if their world were invaded by the lawless unconquered savages outside their boundaries. John is telling them their worst fears are going to be realized. One day their cozy world is going to be invaded from the outside. But the savage forces which will accomplish this are far worse than their nightmares.

9:15 – “**might kill a third of mankind**” – ¼ of humanity died (6:8) - so now we 75% left - X $1/3 = 1/2$ of humanity has died so far.

9:17 – “**out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone**” – Sodom and Gomorrah – **14:10; 19:20; 20:10; 21:8**

9:20 – “**the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent**”

9:21 – “**they did not repent**”

Why?? → **John 3:20** – “everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light”

Jer 17:9 – “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?”

For us ...

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God – 3rd stanza

*And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.*

For the **seals, trumpets, and bowls**, there is an interlude between the 6th and the 7th (last).

Point – Purpose of biblical eschatology is: to warn, to exhort, to encourage. Beware, be discerning, be ready, be strong. The purpose is to give believers clarity and encouragement, not complexity and anxiety. It is to give practical teaching, relevant teaching, important teaching.

The **angel** and the **little scroll**:

10:1 – “**And I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud** (the cloud reminds us of God’s presence); **and the rainbow** (reminds us of God’s faithfulness after the flood) **was upon his head, and his face was like the sun** (the glory of God), **and his feet like pillars of fire** (the judgment of God)”

10:2 – “**his right foot on the sea and his left on the land**”

- huge size of this angel
- God will take back what is His

This strong angel stands like a massive Colossus, straddling land and sea, one foot on the ocean and the other on the land. → He dominates the whole of mankind; he overshadows all the earth.

10:3 – “**he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars**”

Isa 31:4 – “As the lion or the young lion growls over his prey ... so will the LORD of hosts come down to wage war on Mount Zion and on its hill.”

Hos 11:10 – “the LORD ... will roar like a lion; indeed He will roar, and *His* sons will come trembling from the west.”

10:4 – “**Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken, and do not write them.**”

Dan 8:26 – “the vision of the evenings and mornings which has been told is true; but keep the vision secret, for *it* pertains to many days *in the future*.”

Dan 12:4 – “as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time”

2 Cor 12:4 – “was caught up into Paradise, and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.”

Job 37:5 – “God thunders with His voice wondrously, doing great things which we cannot comprehend.”

10:5 – “**lifted up his right hand to heaven**” – Oath

Dan 12:7 – “I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half *a time*;”

10:7 – “**the mystery of God is finished**” – the mystery of God was hidden in the Old Testament but is now revealed in the New Testament.

→ Turn to: Rom 16:25-26

10:9 – “**bitter ... sweet**” – judgment and vindication

- two sides of the same coin – **Ezek 2:8-3:3**

Application – Beloved, we can’t be selective. We can’t pick and mix the parts of the Word of God we like.

Illustration – We can’t fashion a revelation from God in our own image. This food of God’s unveiling of Christ is not like a buffet where you pick the foods you like and reject the rest. We take and we eat of ALL truth in Scripture.

10:11 – **Ezek 33:7-9** - the Watchman

John 9:4 – “We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work.”

The Two Witnesses and the 7th Trumpet

These verses speak of Jews and Gentiles, not the Church (the church is in Heaven) → this is another reason why we have the pre-tribulational, pre-millennial viewpoint

Luke 21:24 – “they will fall by the edge of the sword and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”

11:1 – “**measuring rod**” –brings out God’s judgment, ownership and destruction

Ezek 40:3 – “behold, there was a man whose appearance was like the appearance of bronze, with a line of flax and a measuring rod in his hand; and he was standing in the gateway.”

Zech 2:1 – “I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, *there was* a man with a measuring line in his hand.”

→ Protection **11:2f**

Rev 21:15 – “the one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city, and its gates and its wall.”

11:1 – “**temple**” – there are 7 temples in Scripture:

1. Solomon’s
2. Zerubbabel’s
3. Herod’s
4. God’s (the church)
5. Tribulation
6. Millennial
7. Heavenly

11:1 – “**altar**” –

11:2 – “**court which is outside the temple**” –

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11:2-3 – “**42 months....1260 days**” – (360 days per year in the calendar at that time x 3/12 years = 1260 days)

1 week – Dan 9:27

time, times, ½ a time – Dan 7:25; 11:13; 12:7; Rev 12:14
– one year, two years, half a year – 3 ½ years

1260 days – Rev 11:3; 12:6 – 3 ½ years

42 months – Rev 11:2; 13:5 – 3 ½ years

- 42 months is 3 ½ years – which is half of 7 years

→ My covenantal brothers and sisters

... you can run from it, but you can’t escape it! ☺

11:3 – “**two witnesses**” – who or what are these two witnesses? Some say it’s the Law and Prophets, Old and New Covenants, Israel and Church, Elijah and Enoch, Elijah and Moses.... → I would say it is two men.

11:4 – “**These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.”**

Zech 4-5 – “These are the two anointed ones, who are standing by the Lord of the whole earth ... ^{5:1}scroll ...”

11:5 – “**fire proceeds out of their mouth and devours their enemies**” – Elijah in 1 Kgs 1:10-12

11:7 – “**the beast**” – 36 times in Revelation

11:9 – “**look at their dead bodies for three and a half days,**”

- the two witnesses are killed and all the world is celebrating for 3 ½ days
- shows the evil of the world
- then God supernaturally takes them up into heaven

7th Trumpet – 11:15-19

Picks up from 6th Trumpet in **9:13-21**

This was a big, long interlude between the 6th trumpet and the 7th trumpet.

Includes 7 Bowls in 16

11:15 – I do not at all like the terminology of some dispensationalists including two phrases dispensationalists will use:

1. the church is “a parenthesis in-between God’s dealings with Israel.” - not the best picture of God’s unfolding plan for all people of all times

2. And the kingdom is “postponed.” – makes it sound like God’s plan was thwarted – better to say God has eternal purpose and the Kingdom is being realized

11:18 – “**the time came ...**” –

- 1) **“for the dead to be judged”**
- 2) **“to give their reward to Thy bond-servants the prophets and to the saints and to those who fear Thy name, the small and the great”**
- 3) **“and to destroy those who destroy the earth”**

11:19 – “**earthquake and a great hailstorm**”

- We have seen this before
- Massive, significant coming of God’s judgment

CONCLUSION