



REVELATION
MADE SIMPLE
WITH DAVE WELLS

Lesson 2.2

Revelations Class #4

The Seventh Seal: Rev 8:1-6 – read

The seventh seal contains no plague or judgmental content. When the seventh seal is broken the seven angels prepare to blow their trumpets. This suggests that the seven trumpets in fact make up the contents of the seventh seal. The six seals relate to forces leading up to the end while the seven trumpets relate the beginning of the events of the end itself, particularly the time of the great tribulation which will introduce the end itself.

The seventh trumpet also has no plague or woe like the preceding six but only an announcement of the end and is followed by seven bowls. The content of the seventh trumpet is the seven bowls.

“Silence in heaven”

“The altar and the angel with the golden censor”

The plagues of the first four trumpets involve natural catastrophes and the last three plagues fall directly upon men. The first four plagues are all partial in their effect, afflicting only one third of nature. These plagues are similar to the plagues that happened in Egypt and it gave people a chance to respond in repentance.

Verse 7: The first trumpet

Exodus 9: 22

Verse 8-9: The second trumpet

Verse 10-11: The third trumpet

The Greek word for "wormwood" is *apsinthos* which is a poisonous plant. In any case a third of the freshwater on the earth is contaminated and undrinkable.

Jer. 9: 13

Verses 12-13: The fourth trumpet

Rev. 9: 1-12: The fifth trumpet

The next two are plagues on the people themselves, *but only those who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads*. These plagues do not come against Christians who are "bond slaves."

These locusts refer to demons not natural locusts.

In **verse 11** we see that these creatures have a king over them which is the angel of the abyss. They are not normal locusts. The name of the king is given in Hebrew and Greek and simply means "Destroyer".

Rev. 9: 13-21 – The sixth trumpet.

v. 13 – John hears a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God. It is the altar of incense which symbolizes the prayers of the saints who constantly cry out for deliverance, for vindication of the divine justice and for establishing divine rule upon the earth. Again the prayers of the saints are factors in the judgments that are taking place upon the evil on the earth.

The plague of the sixth trumpet is similar to the fifth in that both involve judgments upon the pagan world by demonic hosts. The difference is that the plague of the fifth trumpet inflicted only torture and suffering while the plague of the sixth trumpet caused torture and death.

I believe this will be a time of tremendous anarchy and lawlessness. Yet I believe that Christians will live in victory and protection in the midst of all this.

Before the seventh and last trumpet:

Rev. 10: 1-7 – the little scroll

We have another interlude before the blowing of the last trumpet. There is a pattern here. Between the sixth and seventh seals there was an interlude and between the seven trumpets and the seven bowls there is another one.

This interlude prepares us for the continuation of the trumpet visions.

One of the purposes of the interlude is to announce that “in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the

seventh angel, the mystery of God, as he announced to his servants the prophets should be fulfilled”.

1Cor 15: **50** “Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God ; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. **51**Behold, I tell you a **mystery** ; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, **52** in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet ; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”

Mystery does not mean something secret or mysterious but a divine purpose revealed to men. The mystery is God’s total redemptive purpose which includes the judgment of evil and the salvation of His people. Without the elimination of evil God’s people can never experience the fullness of fellowship with God and each other. Pain, oppression, suffering, and death to God’s people needs to be purged from the universe.

The mystery is going to be finished or completed during the period of the seventh trumpet sounding. We don't know *when* during that period, but we do know that it will be completed then.

Rev. 10: 8-11 – eating the scroll

A similar episode is recorded in Ezekiel:

Ezekiel 2: 8 -10

Ezekiel 3: 1-3

I believe John saw the sweetness of the Lord's coming and the bitterness of the time of wrath and extreme tribulation. He was proclaiming judgment with a broken heart as a prophet of God.

Rev. 11: 1-2 – Measure the temple

I believe that John is not talking about measuring a physical temple. The whole aspect of measuring is a symbol of setting a city aside for either preservation or for destruction.

I believe he is talking about measuring those who are devoted to Christ.

Zech 2: 1-5

In other places measuring is a symbolic act indicating destruction rather than preservation. [2Kings 21:13; Isa. 34:11; Lam. 2:8]

In Revelation, God enlists John to measure the believers part of the temple in the holy city so that He can protect those who are in the temple and are dedicated to God, while the outer court and the rest of the holy city suffer destruction.

The outer court and the holy city are going to be trampled underfoot for 42 months or 3 1/2 years. We get the feeling that the time period from the measuring of the temple to the end of the tribulation is 3 1/2 years. This 3 1/2 year period gives the time where Satanic power will be

present in the world. These will be the final days of the Anti-christ. Only the believers will be protected.

Rev. 11: 3-13 – The Two Witnesses

During this final period God will not abandon His people. He will send them two witnesses to prophesy the word of God to an afflicted people.

Who are the two witnesses? We do not know whether they are two individuals or two companies of witnesses. I personally think it will be two companies of witnesses.

The two witnesses, who are going to witness for three and a half years are said in Revelations 11:4 to be the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

Zech 4: 1-3; 11-14

“Sodom and Egypt” – symbolic of hostility to God and God’s people. Sodom for the way its inhabitants tried to treat Lot’s angelic visitors and Egypt because she had enslaved God’s people. Sodom was a symbol of wickedness.

Rev 11: 15 – 19 – the seventh trumpet

The time of the seventh trumpet will be the time of the end but before the end John has been given assurance that God's people will be preserved during this final judgment period. This is an extended period and includes the seven bowls of wrath poured out by God. The plagues of the last three trumpets make up the three "woes".

The "woe" of the seventh trumpet is the seven bowls of wrath described in 16: 1-21.

John describes the end here but the snapshots in the chapters that follow describe the "woe" of the seventh trumpet and give us greater details of the conflict between the God and the powers of evil.

The Announcement: Rev. 11: 15-19

This is like a pre-announcement describing the end of the tribulation period. But before this becomes a reality the bowls of wrath and Armageddon which is part of the seventh trumpet have to take place.