

Revelation 8 Part 1

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, and we are coming along with part nineteen at our look of the book of Revelation. We're up to chapter eight, and we're starting at verse one.

'And when He had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.'

The seventh seal is a secret. It isn't to be revealed. It isn't broadcast. In Matthew chapter twenty-four the first six seals are quite clear, but the seventh seal isn't mentioned at all, because, of course, it's a secret. It is the seal of God. We know that it has to do with the coming of the Lord. We know also that it has something to do with the millennium where Christ rules for a thousand years. It's the sealing of the Christians and the Jews and so on, but we don't know the details, we can't put it all together. At least I can't. And our prophet William Branham didn't complete it either. So best left alone.

Verse two, *'And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.'*

Now, trumpets are, in Israeli terms, items for gathering the people, preparing for war, getting ready for moving, or whatever. They are a form of signalling. And, of course, one of those trumpets has been sounding for some time. The gathering trumpet has been gathering Israel back to her homeland for some years now. So, the seven trumpets are all to do with Israel. They have nothing whatsoever to do with the church. God deals with the Jews as a nation. He deals with Gentiles, that's us, non-Jews, as individuals. He wants to lead each one of us individually by His Holy Spirit. But, for the Jews, He has a trumpet which operates throughout all the true people in the nation of Israel.

'And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.'

'And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.'

'And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.'

The prayers of the saints over the years have been held, and now, all of a sudden, they are mixed with the coals from the altar. The altar is where the sacrifice is burnt, and it is where judgement is complete. And judgement is now hurled back from the throne of God onto the earth.

And then there follows the other angels.

'The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.'

'And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;'

Sounds rather like a volcanic eruption that goes into the sea, but I have nothing specific on that at all.

'And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.'

Obviously a worldwide event.

'And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;'

This, of course, is one of the concerns, whether this is physical, an asteroid or a meteor, a large meteor or something, hitting the earth, we again don't particularly know. But it's certainly destruction and it's certainly a major problem for the world.

'And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.'

There can be, of course, other interpretations, and often in an interpretation there's more than one interpretation for any particular prophecy.

The name Wormwood, funnily enough, is also the name of a town that translated is Chernobyl, and well, interesting isn't it?

'And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.'

We're dealing with massive judgements here. We do know, of course, that there was a third of the angels went with the devil, two-thirds stayed with God. So maybe this is a spiritual interpretation as well as a physical, but often the two can be combined.

'And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!'

Woe, woe, woe. World War I, World War II, and World War III.

Here we appear to have, in chapter eight, a description of problems and troubles for the world. Destruction and judgement falling from heaven, falling from God, on the earth. Now the church, as I say, is not a part of this. The rapture has already happened. This is the time of the Jews. This is the time of the end.

As a matter of interest, of course, for those concerned about the rapture. If we are Christians, if we have already accepted Christ, if we have allowed the Holy Ghost to guide and lead us, then we are just. There is no judgement for us. That's the whole point of the Christian message. Christ died to cover our sins. So when we are faced with the issue of coming before God, He doesn't see us, He sees Christ in our place. And He was perfect. So there is no judgement for the true church. The church that is raptured and taken away out of the earth.

God bless you.