

The book of Revelation

Chapter 8

The seventh seal and beginning of the trumpets

1. The seventh seal is now opened (8:1-5)

-The breaking of the seventh seal brings _____ to heaven for about half an hour. This is the first-time silence in heaven is mentioned. “The silence is introduced to prepare us for the terrible character of the judgements that are about to be related.” (131) Several times silence is referenced in Scripture as that which directly comes before judgement. “The silence makes the manifestation of the wrath of God all the more impressive.” (131)

-Seven angels are given seven trumpets. God is sovereign. God gives the angels the trumpets of judgment. Trumpets are given because it was common for the watchmen to sound the trumpet to _____ of impending danger (Ezek. 33:3).

-“The purpose of the trumpet cycle are to sound alarms, warning the complacent and calling them to repentance, and to summon the church to holy warfare...the plagues associated with the trumpets proclaim God’s supremacy and prefigure coming judgment, but they also leave time to _____.” (Johnson, 141)

-Another angel is seen with a golden censer which contains the prayers of the saints. This angel presents these prayers to the Lord and they rise to Him. The angel then fills the now empty censer with fire from the alter and throws it upon the earth. The response of God to the prayers of His suffering saints is _____ upon the wicked earth. “God has heard the prayers of the saints, and the judgements upon earth are His answer to them.” (132)

“In the silence imposed by the seventh seal God hears His embattled church’s cries, which rise before Him as a sweet savor. From the same altar the angel fills the censer with fire, and he throws it on the earth. The imagery is powerful: Christian’s _____ are integral to the downfall of the gospel’s enemies.” (Johnson, 142)

2. The first four trumpets (8:6-12)

-The trumpets of judgement are similar to the seals in that they refer to events that take place throughout the _____ of the world between the advents of Christ. They do not refer simply to a future time of judgment on the earth.

“The trumpets of judgement (chapters 8-11) indicate series of happenings, that is, calamities that will occur _____ and _____ throughout this dispensation. They do not symbolize single and separate events, but they refer to woes that may be seen any day of the year in any part of the globe. Therefore, the trumpets are synchronous with the seals.” (130)

-“The trumpet visions portray limited disasters and distresses in the midst of history, events that are bitter foretastes of the final, unrestrained destruction of all opposition to God’s reign at the end of the present world order.” (Johnson, 139)

-The first trumpet-The blowing of the first trumpet brings hail and fire mixed with blood. This judgment affects the _____ of the earth. “In all probability this first trumpet indicates that throughout the period extending from the first to the second coming, our Lord, who now reigns in heaven, will afflict the persecutors of the Church with various disasters that will take place on earth, that is, on the land.” (133)

-The second trumpet-The blowing of the second trumpet brings forth a burning mountain that is hurled into the sea. This judgment affects the _____ of the earth. “Not only does our ascended Lord use calamities on land as instruments to punish and warn the wicked; He also employs the sea as a tool against them.” (133)

-The third trumpet-The blowing of the third trumpet brings the falling of a star (named Wormwood) that disturbs the rivers and springs of the earth. This judgement affects the other _____ sources of the earth (the fresh water). The name of the star indicates how bitter this judgment will be.

-The fourth trumpet-The blowing of the fourth trumpet brings devastation to the heavenly bodies. This judgement affects the bodies of light _____ of earth. “Thus, even the stars in their courses fight against the enemies of God’s Church.” (134)

-Purpose of trumpets-The purpose of these trumpets is not to give us exact details that we can calculate or record but rather is to show us that in the present history God brings _____ judgments upon the earth in _____ ways. These judgements serve three purposes: 1. They serve to show that the Lord hears the prayers of His afflicted, 2. They serve to be a foretaste of that total and all-consuming final judgment, 3. They serve to warn the wicked and to show them their need of repentance

“If we try to pin down such details, we misunderstand the visionary genre.” (Johnson, 146)

3. *Brief pause to prepare for the most severe judgements (8:13)*

-There is now a brief intermission between the first four trumpets and the last three. An eagle is seen and heard proclaiming a threefold “woe” and warning those who dwell on the earth of the coming _____ of the next three trumpets. “The voice is loud and clear so that it can be heard everywhere. The meaning is plain; the three remaining woes will be worse than the first four.” (134)

-“Whereas the first four affected the spheres surrounding and supporting human life, the last three will target rebellious humanity _____.” (Johnson, 147)