

# The Revelation of Jesus Christ: The plan of eternity

## Chapter 8



OPENING OF THE SEVENTH SEAL.  
Rev. viii. 1-6.

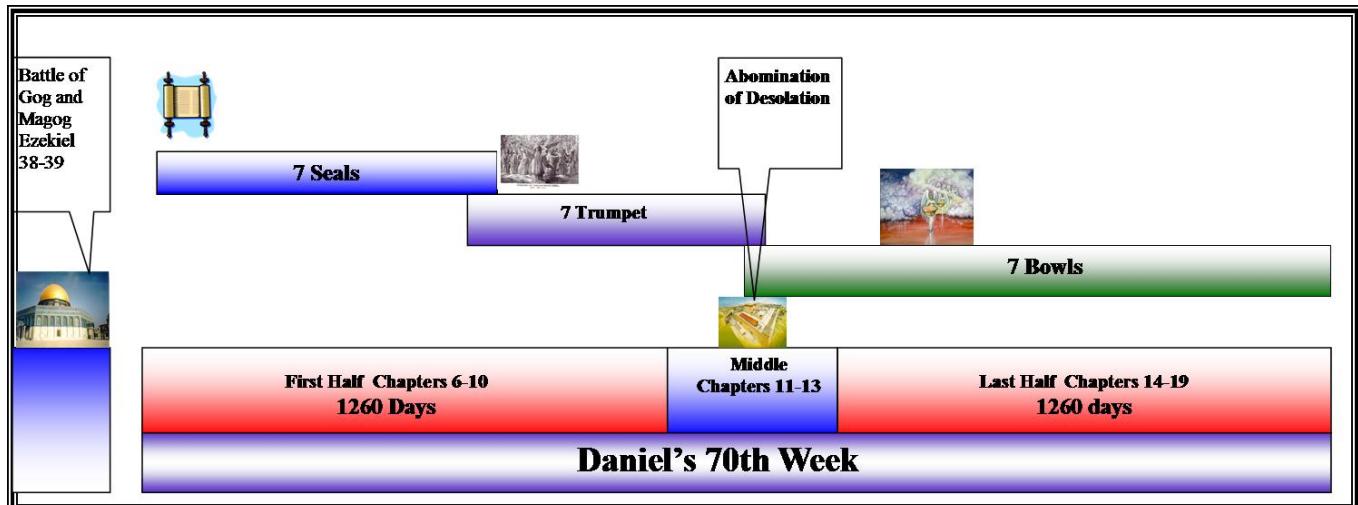
### *Introduction to Chapter 8*

The opening of the seals on the scroll stretch from Revelation chapters 6 to 8. Chapter 7, is placed between the opening of the sixth seal and the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> seals. The 144,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel spread the Gospel, either before or after the 6<sup>th</sup> seal, the great earthquake. The great earthquake of the 6<sup>th</sup> seal, opens up the world for further evangelism.

The break of time, between the sixth seal, and the opening of the seventh seal, allows humanity to contemplate their eternity. In chapter 8, the seventh seal is opened (Rev. 8:1), this brings forward the seven trumpet judgments, in the seventh trumpet are the seven bowl judgments. The seventh bowl judgment concludes with fall of the cities of the earth and the return of Christ in Revelation 19.

Prior to the opening of the seventh seal, the evangelism of the 144,000 and the “Two Witnesses” in Jerusalem, calling down God’s judgment on the earth turn many to salvation in Christ. With an increase in saved souls, there is also an increase in persecution, as the Antichrist and his servants pursue those who turn to Christ. It’s the prayers of these new “Saints” that are heard in Heaven, causing God’s wrath to commence on the earth. However, even in the Trumpet Judgments, God’s mercy is demonstrated, by the limited extent of the judgments. The Trumpet Judgments are limited in their scope as opposed to the bowl judgments in the second half of the tribulation, which are more encompassing. One of the main purposes of the tribulation is bring people to a point of decision.

In chapters 8 and 9, the trumpet judgments are carried out when the 7 angles blow their trumpets causing God’s judgments to fall on earth. In the book of Joshua, there is a prophetic foreshadowing of the events taking place in Revelation. In Joshua, we have 7 priests with 7 trumpets who circle the city of Jericho 7 times, followed by the *Arc of the Covenant*, led by Joshua. This foreshadowing is ultimately fulfilled in Revelation’s *Trumpet Judgments*.



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## *The Seventh Seal Opened*

Revelation 8

1 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.  
2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

**Revelation 8:1-2**

**He** At this point, the Lamb is still opening the seals on the scroll. Chapter 7 was a break between the 6<sup>th</sup> seal, which resulted in a great earthquake and the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal.

**Seventh Seal** The 7-sealed scroll represents the title of the earth, The seventh seal is the final seal on the scroll. In the seventh seal, are the seven trumpets and under the seventh trumpet, is the *Seven Bowl Judgments*.

**Silence** Heaven in chapters 4 and 5 is a place where the angels and the redeemed loudly proclaim God's glory, rejoicing. At the start of the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter, we have silence for half an hour. The silence warns of the storm about to envelope the earth. The first six seals resulted in unprecedented destruction and death of ¼ of the earth population, the events to follow are more horrific in scope. All Heaven stands in silence at what is happen when the 7<sup>th</sup> seal is opened.

**Seven angels** In Heaven seven angels stand in the presence of God by His throne, waiting the command, we know one them is Gabriel. Gabriel told Zacharias the priest, he would have a son named John (Luke 1:19) Gabriel was also dispatched from the throne to give Daniel understanding, about the timing of the death of Messiah and what would precede the Messiah's return. (Daniel 9:23)

Gabriel and the six other angels are now to herald the coming judgments on the earth.

**Seven trumpets** The purpose of the trumpet is to draw attention, so people take notice. In Exodus (Exodus 19), we see the trumpet of God proclaim God's presence to Israel. The trumpet is also used to call up the saints in the rapture. (I Thes. 4:16).

Here seven trumpet are given to seven angels to herald the judgments of God on the Earth. In a prophetic foreshadowing of this event, before Israel entered the promised land 7 priests held seven trumpets. Joshua, commands Israel how Jericho is to be taken.

4 "And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.

5 "It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."

**Joshua 6:4-5**



## **The Seven Trumpets of Joshua and Revelation**

	<b>Joshua Conquest</b>	<b>Jesus' Conquest</b>
<b>Commanders Name</b>	Joshua (Joshua 5:13)	Joshua (Jesus) (Mat 24:30-31)
<b>Trumpets</b>	7 Trumpets (Joshua 6:6)	7 Trumpets (Rev 8:2)
<b>Days of Conquest</b>	7 days	7 years (Dan 9:27)
<b>Location of Trumpets</b>	Before the Arc (Joshua 6:6)	Before the Throne (Rev 8:2)
<b>Silence</b>	Silence until the sixth day (Joshua 6:10)	Silence in Heaven for ½ and hour (Rev. 8:1)
<b>Invading army</b>	Children of Israel (Joshua 6:1)	Saints with angels (Rev 19; 14,Mat 24:31)
<b>Time of Invasion</b>	End of 7 <sup>th</sup> Trumpet (Joshua 6:15-18)	End of 7 <sup>th</sup> Trumpet (Rev 10:7)
<b>Holders of Trumpets</b>	7 Priests before arc (Joshua 6:6)	7 Angels before Throne (Rev 8:2)
<b>People's reaction to 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet</b>	Shout by Israel (Joshua 6:16)	Loud voices in Heaven (Rev 11:15)
<b>Inhabitants spared</b>	Rahab & all in her house waiting for Joshua's invasion (Joshua 6:17)	Inhabitants on Earth waiting for Jesus' Return (Matt 25:31-41)
<b>Description of Rahab &amp; Israel before invasion</b>	Prostitute (Joshua 6:17)	Prostitute (Ezekiel 16:33-36,Ezekiel 23, Hosea 1:2.2:4,4:10)

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## *Another Angel*

3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.  
4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.  
5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.  
6 So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

**Revelation 8:3-6**

**Another Angel** The identity of this angel has been a point of debate among Bible scholars, since this angel seems to intercede with the prayers of saints. Some argue this is Jesus Christ appearing as an angel, interceding on the behalf of saints because he offers the prayers on the golden altar. This was the function of the priestly office in the Old Testament.

Tim LaHaye disagrees with this view for two reasons,

1. The Lord Jesus, when appearing in the Old Testament to the children of God, is never referred to as "an angel." Instead, he is always introduced as "The angel of the Lord" or "The angel of God."
2. We have no record of the Lord Jesus appearing on earth as an angel after His incarnation and ascension to heaven.<sup>1</sup>

Also, the 24 elders have 24 golden bowls with incense which we are told is the prayers of the saints (Revelation 5:8). The angel could very well be merely administering and not interceding.



**Golden censer** In addition to the scene, from the battle of Jericho (Joshua 6), Revelation 8 also corresponds to the shadow of the Temple worship (Hebrews 9:4,10:1, Exodus 37:25-28). The censor would hold the fire when combined with incense, a fragrant smoke would ascend upward. This was a picture of the priestly office, and the smoke represented the prayers and worship going toward heaven.

**Altar** The altar of incense before the holy of holies was a picture of the original located in Heaven.

**Prayers of saints** During this time in the tribulation, many of the new believers are being pursued and killed. Their prayers have come before God's throne.

**Fire from the altar** God is now about the answer the persecution of his saints with His judgment.

## *The Plagues on Egypt and the Trumpet*

In Exodus 7-11 through the hand of Moses, God sends 10 "Literal plagues" on Egypt resulting in the release of the children of Israel from their captivity. Four of those plagues are again found here in the Trumpet judgments. Just as in Egypt, these are literal plagues on the earth. One point to be revealed in Revelation 11 is these plagues are being called down on the earth by the "Two Witnesses" who are in Jerusalem during this time. They are witnessing to the world about the true "God", another demonstration of God's grace. Still, despite the evidence of God's power and grace, the earth rejoices at the death of these two individuals at the hands of the Antichrist.

6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

**Revelation 11:6,10**

We know from Malachi 4:5 one of these two witnesses is Elijah, the other is either Moses or Enoch. Moses appeared with Elijah on the Mountain of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:3), and Enoch like Elijah never suffered death. The story in Exodus in fact is foreshadowing of this event which results in Israel being freed again after God's judgments fall on the world and not just Egypt.

<sup>1</sup> Revelation Unveiled, Tim Lahaye, Zondervan, 1999 Pg. 165

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Plagues on Egypt	Plagues on Earth
1. Waters turned to blood (Exodus 7:17)	Sea becomes blood (Second Trumpet Rev. 8:8)
2. Frogs from the rivers (Exodus 8:3)	
3. Lice (Exodus 8:17)	
4. Flies (Exodus 8:21)	
5. Disease on livestock (Exodus 9:3)	
6. Boils and blisters (Exodus 9:9)	
7. Hail (Exodus 9:18)	Hail (First Trumpet Rev. 8:7)
8. Locusts (Exodus 10:14)	Locusts from the earth (Fifth Trumpet Rev. 9:3)
9. Darkness over Egypt (Exodus 10:21)	Darkness (Fourth Trumpet Rev. 8:12-13)
10. Death of the firstborn (Exodus 12:29)	

## The First Trumpet

7 The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. **Revelation 8:7**

**Hail...fire... blood** The first four trumpet judgment are judgments against the physical earth. In the first trumpet we see hail, fire and blood. A couple of events could be described here, this very well could be space matter impacting and showering the earth, burning trees and grass as the earth is struck.

Another option is volcanic, Earthquakes and volcanoes both are part of the geophysical earth. The earthquake in the 6<sup>th</sup> seal, could very well put in motion events to shower the earth with hot debris burning the grass and trees in the process. Joel points to this day of tribulation, and its purpose of bringing salvation to the lost.

30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.

32 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the Lord has said, Among the remnant whom the Lord calls.

**Joel 2:30-32**

## The Second Trumpet

8 Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.

9 And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. **Revelation 8:8-9**



**Great mountain** John is describing what he sees, he describes what most people would see as a meteorite or asteroid crashing into the sea. In fact, scientist today explain the disappearance of dinosaurs as a result of a huge meteorite that struck the earth, causing the death of vegetation, resulting in the death of 75% of life.

**Sea** This meteorite lands in the Sea, now which sea is up for debate. Most feel the sea referred to hear is the Mediterranean Sea. This could also be the Ocean, which is struck by a meteorite causing tidal waves destroying 1/3 of the ships. The material from the Meteorite could also be highly toxic causing 1/3 of the living creatures in the sea to die or the underwater impact could be deadly to sea life.

## The Third Trumpet

10 Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.

11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

**Great star** The words used by John here are *megas astēr* Aster, literally "Mega Asteroid" unlike the burning mountain which fell on the sea. This meteorite falls on 1/3 of the drinking water.

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This meteorite could very well be part of the first one, also being toxic in nature. This meteorite as it enters earth's atmosphere could break up causing its toxicity to cover hit the drinking waters.

Areas such as the great lakes and amazon river, could then carry the toxic waters downstream causing 1/3 of fresh water to become bitter.

Scientist today try to keep tabs of all "Near Earth Objects" (NEO's) because the threat is real quoting from a recent conference called *2004 Planetary Defense Conference* which met in Garden Grove California in February 2004, the issue was the defense of the planet from what is described in

the book of Revelation. Quoting from David Morrison (NASA Ames Research Center) at the conference.



An object half a mile across packs a one-million-megaton punch, enough to threaten the globe, but objects this large are rare. "Tunguska-class" objects, that is, those measuring about 195 feet (60m) across, strike Earth far more frequently. Indeed, the class itself refers to an object that exploded above the Siberian taiga in 1908 with an estimated force of 10 megatons or more.<sup>2</sup>

**Many men died** The result of this was the death of those who dwelt on the earth.

### *The Fourth Trumpet*

12 Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

**Revelation 8:12**

**third of the sun** The results of the first three trumpets, results in what happens in the fourth. With the increase in volcanic activity and the burning of grass and trees, the earth being struck by two asteroids the billowing smoke fills the outer atmosphere.

These events could be limited to portion of the earth atmosphere causing 1/3 of the sky to be darkened. A great example is Mt. St. Helens, which caused the earth to appear pitch dark in the middle of the day as volcanic ash covered the sky. The events spoken about here are much greater than a single volcanic event.

### *Woe to the Earth*

13 And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

**Revelation 8:13**

#### **Woe**

**Inhabitants of the Earth** The inhabitants of the earth as opposed to the inhabitants of Heaven. Those who trust in the Lord and die on the earth become inhabitants of Heaven.

**Remaining blasts** These first four trumpets all involve environmental catastrophies, the next two trumpets are God's judgments against man as opposed to the environment.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.astronomy.com/>