

Revelation Chapter Eight

- The 7th seal is broken and a period of silence takes place before the wrath begins to unfold [8:1-5].
 - Seven angels are given seven trumpets [8:2].
 - The seven trumpets are trumpets of additional wrath to be unleashed in the Tribulation.
 - These seven angels stand before God which is how Gabriel described himself to Zacharias [Luke 1:19] probably indicating that they are high ranking angels.
 - It is interesting to note that there are seven angels mentioned in the apocryphal book of Enoch (20:1-8).
 - An eighth angel then appears [8:3-5].
 - This angel holds a golden censer and is given incense which is added to the prayers of the saints [8:3].
 - The smoke of the incense goes up before God [8:4].
 - The golden censer is then filled with the fire of the altar and thrown to the earth [8:5].
 - The thunder, lightning and earthquake which ensue precede the seven trumpets and may occur in the spiritual world rather than the physical world.
- After the silence seven trumpets are blown resulting in intensified wrath of God on the earth [8:6 – 9:21].
- The first four trumpets bring about world-wide destruction through the direct acts of God [8:7-12].
- The final three trumpets are called “woes” [8:13].
 - An eagle flying in midheaven (the point at which the sun reaches its highest point in the sky – at noon) pronounces these three woes.
 - A “woe” (ὠαί in the Greek) is an interjection warning of impending pain or displeasure.
- The first trumpet sounds sending hail, fire and blood to the earth [8:7].
 - The focus of this trumpet’s destruction is directed upon the earth’s vegetation.
 - 1/3 of the earth (12.2 billion acres) is burned up.
 - 1/3 of the trees (3.66 billion acres) are burned up.
 - All of the green grass is burned up (Note that the green grass comes back [9:4]).

- The second trumpet sounds sending something like a burning mountain into the sea [8:8-9].
 - 1/3 of the sea becomes blood.
 - 1/3 of the sea creatures perish.
 - 1/3 of the ships – civilian, commercial and military – are destroyed.
 - There were 38,988 commercial ships worldwide in 2010 – 12,996 of these would have been destroyed.
 - The U.S. Navy would be most affected today with more tonnage than any other navy in the world.
- The third trumpet sounds sending a great star into the rivers and springs [8:10-11].
 - 1/3 of the water becomes bitter and many men die.
 - The rivers and springs represent fresh water sources on the earth.
 - Only 3% of the water on the earth is fresh water.
 - Roughly 2/3 of the earth’s fresh water is frozen in glaciers and polar ice caps.
 - Most of the unfrozen fresh water is underground – only 0.3% is on the surface.
 - About 7/8 of the surface fresh water is held in lakes.
- The fourth trumpet sounds affecting celestial light sources [8:12].
 - We now understand that the effects of the 6th seal [6:12-13] are temporary in nature.
 - The heavenly bodies are darkened by 1/3.
 - This could mean that 1/3 of the stars disappear.
 - This could mean that all stars are dimmed by 1/3.
 - This could mean that 1/3 of the sky is obscured so that the sun/moon/stars cannot be seen for 1/3 of the day.
 - In any case, all of these celestial bodies are “struck” such that their light on earth diminishes by 1/3.