

# 1 A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## LESSON 28

### 2 OPENING REMARKS

- We are going into the Book of Revelation, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter
- There is a great change that begins with this 7<sup>th</sup> seal
- The 7<sup>th</sup> seal completes the opening of the sealed book we have been studying in the preceding chapters
- At this change is much like the pause of events we saw in chapter 7 just prior to the sealing of the 144,000 Jews that was between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> seals

### 3 TRUMPETS AND VIALS

Revelation 8:1

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

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- As this final seal is broken and the book is now open we find the full force of God's wrath is now to be poured out
- Mercy is finished and the time of grace has ended
- With this event we see silence in heaven for the very first time
- Prior to this time there has been anything but silence in heaven

### 4 RECAP

- Prior to this silence the scene in heaven from the time of the Rapture until this point could be described as excitement, enthusiasm, and rejoicing
- We won't change very much when we're Raptured
- What we feel, what we do, how we worship is going to be just about the same as here except it will be with a glorified body
- You would certainly have to call the bride peculiar once they make it to heaven
- They would be considered fanatical as they sang and danced worshipping and praising God
- Just as down here we will not be observers, we will be participators

### 5 RECAP cont.

- As we have studied, there will be the reunion of long separated friends and relatives as a consequence of the Resurrection

(Rapture)

- We will meet new brothers and sisters and those we have known through the Scriptures
- There was then a great service of worship as they all gathered around the throne
- Then there was sung the song of redemption that had never been sung before in heaven
- This song reached out into space as far as there were created beings
- Following the singing of the redemption song was the intensive work of the 4 horsemen

6  **RECAP cont.**

- Accompanying the work of the 4 horsemen was the rejoicing in heaven whenever a soul was saved
- Then we see the combined meeting of the 144,000 of Mount Zion and the choir of heaven that filled the celestial spaces with music
- Then came the grand climax when the resurrected Tribulation saints arrived in heaven to join the throng of the redeemed
- All these events included much noise, shouting, and singing
- The only ones there will be God's people
- We will not be tired or worn out from all this rejoicing

7  **RECAP cont.**

- All through the 6 seals we see this noisome praise and worship
- Now suddenly in chapter 8 verse 1 there is the first and only silence we see in heaven
- This silence is only the space of half an hour
- The seriousness of this moment is sufficient to hush all rejoicing
- The 7<sup>th</sup> seal is the last one
- The book, the title deed to this earth, is at last open
- The climax of all the ages has arrived, there will be no more delay

8  **TRUMPETS AND VIALS**

- The Dispensation of Grace has been officially closed by the breaking of the last seal
- The time of Jacob's trouble has come

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Jeremiah 30:7

7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

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- This is the day that Jeremiah and all the other prophets saw, this time of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal (the Day of the Lord)
- As a result of the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal, the 7 last plagues are sent to the earth

#### 9 **TRUMPETS AND VIALS cont.**

- Here again, first there must be preparation in the form of a worship service one more time
- As we have seen previously, before every great event is to happen in heaven there is a worship service

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Revelation 8:2

2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

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- Let's look at the Old Testament which is a shadow of the New Testament or a natural example to show us a spiritual truth

#### 10 **TRUMPETS AND VIALS cont.**

- Most of us are familiar with the Scriptures telling us about the Israelites crossing the Jordan into the Promised Land
- They crossed the Jordan and prepared to take by force the Promised Land
- The occupants of the land were not going to give it up without a fight
- The key city to taking this land was the fortified, walled city of Jericho
- Although the Israelites were armed and ready for battle, the city was taken with trumpets
- Seven days they marched around that city as God had told them, once each day

#### 11 **TRUMPETS AND VIALS cont.**

- On the 7th day they marched around 7 times and blew their trumpets
- On the 7th time around, when the trumpets were blown, the walls fell down and the city was taken
- When God prepares to take the earth from Satan, 7 seal are broken

but the 7th seal has 7 trumpets

- The trumpets are sounded one at a time
- When the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet sounds, the cities of the nations will fall
- With this the kingdom of God is established on earth

12  **TRUMPETS AND VIALS cont.**

Revelation 8:3

3 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.

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Revelation 10:7

7 but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

13  **TRUMPETS AND VIALS cont.**

- This is just as when the Israelites finally came to the place where they were going to cross over the Jordan and take the promised land by force
- They were ready to do battle and they had done battle
- God had them march around 7 times and on the 7<sup>th</sup> day they marched around 7 times and blow 7 trumpets
- As we look at that in the Old Testament and the at these 7 trumpets under the 7<sup>th</sup> seal and that last trumpet is blown this earth will be established as the kingdom of God

14  **TRUMPETS AND VIALS cont.**

- Let us look more closely at this silence in heaven, for the first time, for the space of half an hour
- Let's go to the Book of Acts the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter
- When the Jews of the Old Testament prayed and when they traveled, you could hear them for miles
- Even in recent times at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, the sound of their praise and worship could be heard for miles
- The Jews, always when there was a time of rejoicing, would dance before God and play their musical instruments
- They would worship God in every way that there was to worship God

15  **PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

- They worshipped God in their dance, they worshipped God in their singing, they worshipped God with great tears and travelling
- They were a noisy people and still are today
- This is evident in all the nationalities of the Jewish people
- When it came to the New Testament church being established on this side of the cross we find this did not change
- Worship didn't change and it was the Jews who started it, wasn't it?
- They were all Jews; Jesus was a Jew, the 12 apostles were Jews, all the 1<sup>st</sup> believers who received the Holy Ghost first in the upper room were Jews

16  **PRAISE AND WORSHIP cont.**

- It wasn't until Cornelius, who was an Italian, that a Gentile received the Holy Ghost
- The Holy Ghost came because they worshipped the true God
- In the Old Testament they did not receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit instead it just came into their midst
- The Scriptures tell us that the prophets of the Old Testament, the old Jews, and the angels themselves desired to look into this New Testament worship and praise and power of the Holy Ghost (1 Peter 1:10-12)
- What we receive today is even greater than what they had

17  **PRAISE AND WORSHIP cont.**

- They had all of the joy, the worship, the tears, the signing, the dancing, even King David danced before the Arc with all his might; all this was just with the Holy Ghost coming into their midst
- How much more we have in this Dispensation of Grace something to shout about, to worship God about, to travail for others who have not heard of this salvation plan yet
- We cannot just sit here and wait for God to bless us
- They did not wait for the fire that shook them until they could no longer stand before they worshipped God

18  **PRAISE AND WORSHIP cont.**

- We will be worshipping God in heaven because we desire to
- Worshipping is when you love God with all you've got and you don't hold anything back

- We all have had the experience of jumping and shouting with all we have in our praise and worship of God
- Compare our praise and worship of God with that of the outlet of human emotions at sporting, entertainment, and political events
- Let's look at chapter 2 in the Book of Acts where we see the New Testament church being born

19  **PRAISE AND WORSHIP cont.**

- We don't want to be any different than they were then
- We want the same rewards, same blessings, same gifts, same callings that they had
- We should not be willing to sit and wait for it
- We should fight for it, praise Him for it, worship Him for it, and seek Him for it, everything we can do
- We must get rid of our own ways, our own will, our old nature; God has too much to offer
- What the first church did in their praise and worship is what we will be doing in heaven
- This is also what the bride will be doing when they are caught away

20  **PRAISE AND WORSHIP cont.**

- Let's think of this praise and worship as we come to the place in Revelation where they had the first silence in heaven
- We are so close to that time of the Rapture
- There is so much happening continuously that tells us we are in the last days
- How soon His coming back must be
- We will have to be so much like this first New Testament church; nothing else matters
- We may not fully understand what's happening in world events but Jesus tells us "...be not terrified..." (Luke 21:9)

21  **PRAISE AND WORSHIP cont.**

- These happenings are all part of God's plan that just brings us a step closer to the fulfillment of His coming back
- We do not have to worry when things happen in our midst
- Satan will do all he possibly can do to deceive God's people and to prevent the Rapture
- Jesus told Peter that "Satan desires to sift you like wheat" and Jesus prayed for him and he was going to make it (Luke 22:31-32)

- Satan is going to try to sift us but anyone who is shaken loose the apostle John says they were not a part of us to begin with (1John 2:19)

## 22 **THE HOLY GHOST ARRIVES**

- Our problems are so small as we have not resisted unto blood (Hebrews 12:4)

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Acts 2:1-4

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

## 23 **THE FIRST CHURCH**

Acts 2:5-8

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

7 And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans?

8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

## 24 **THE FIRST CHURCH cont.**

Acts 2:11-15

11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

15 for these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

25  **PROPHECY AND PROMISE FULFILLED**

Acts 2:16-18

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

18 and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

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- This was the beginning of the New Testament church and there was no silence there

26  **PRAISE AND WORSHIP**

- God's church: a power filled, Holy Ghost filled, lovers of God, assembly of worshippers is not a silent place!
- We, His church, will hold on to what we have and reach for more and be willing to fight every inch of the way
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