

1 A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

LESSON 29

2 FLOOR PLAN GRAPHIC

3 RECAP

- We are still in the portion that is the view from heaven
- We have seen the breaking of the first 6 seals which is the first 3-1/2 years time period which is the Great Tribulation
- In the 8th chapter of the Book of Revelation we are entering the second 3-1/2 year time period and the breaking of the 7th seal
- During this time period we see God's judgement only
- There is no more grace, there is no more mercy
- With the opening of the 7th seal we see 7 plagues that are represented by 7 trumpets (heaven view) and 7 vials (earth view)

4 RECAP cont.

- We looked into the Old Testament example of Joshua and how God used trumpets to take the fortified city of Jericho

Revelation 8:3-4

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.

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

5 ANGELS AND SAINTS

- The angels mentioned here in verses 3 and 4 are not the created angels
- The word *angel* means messenger, and in Revelation, is used of ministers, resurrected saints, and Jesus, as well of created angels
- The way we have learned to tell the difference is by the descriptions

used in the Scriptures

- The saints, when they are the messengers, are always identified by their descriptions; clothed in linen pure and white, victorious over the beast, they offer prayers of the saints to God as sweet incense, they execute the judgements of God upon the earth

6 **ANGELS AND SAINTS cont.**

- Some other descriptions of the saints include that they wear golden girdles which are associated with the work of the priesthood
- In the New Testament Jesus says the bride will be kings and priests with Him for eternity (Revelation 1:6 and 5:10)
- Seven angels (saints) appear and to each is given a trumpet or vial, as seen from heaven they are trumpets
- The sounding of the trumpet is not heard on the earth
- To the people on the earth it appears as if a vial were poured out upon the earth

7 **TRUMPETS AND VIALS**

- The trumpets and vials are one and the same, they are seen from different viewpoints; trumpets in heaven and vials on the earth
- The same censer in verse 3 that carried the prayers of the saints to the throne of God brings calamity to the people on the earth in verse 5
- The same fire that burned the incense on the alter in verse 3 causes destruction in the world in verse 5
- Judgement here is grace reversed
- For example; fire, when properly used, is a blessing but when misused it may destroy those whom it was meant to benefit

8 **TRUMPETS AND VIALS cont.**

- The very elements in the nature of God that make grace possible, make sin, or the abuse of grace, disastrous

Hebrews 2:2-3

2 For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every

transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;
 3 how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

9 **TRUMPETS AND VIALS cont.**

- The trumpets and the vials need to be studied at the same time to show that they are one and the same

<u>Heaven</u>	<u>Plague</u>	<u>Earth</u>
8:7	1 st Trumpet/Vial – The Earth	16:1-2
8:8,9	2 nd Trumpet/Vial – The Sea	16:3
8:10,11	3 rd Trumpet/Vial – The Rivers	16:4-7
8:12-13	4 th Trumpet/Vial – the Sun	16:8-9
9:1-12	5 th Trumpet/Vial – Locusts	16:10-11
9:13-21	6 th Trumpet/Vial – Euphrates Evil Spirits	16:12

- The 7th trumpet/vial is different and will be studied separately at a later time

10 **TRUMPETS AND VIALS cont.**

Revelation 8:5-6

5 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.

6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

- The praise and worship went up before God before this great event was to take place
- This takes place after the half an hour of silence in heaven which in awe of the great calamities which were about to happen to the earth and its inhabitants under this 7th seal

11 **RAPTURE TO ARMAGEDDON TIME CHART**

12 **THE FIRST PLAGUE – THE EARTH**

Revelation 8:7

7 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.

- The trumpet is blown in heaven and effect is felt on the earth
- Remember things are never symbolized in heaven so this is actually what it was
- This is the supernatural power of God in His anger and judgement upon the earth

13 **THE FIRST PLAGUE – THE EARTH cont.**

- This is taking place after the first 3-1/2 years of tribulation when those saints, that will not take that mark of the beast, his number 666, or his name, are martyred
- The first 3-1/2 years right after the Rapture is the tribulation period that is God's grace mixed with judgement
- When this period is finished, the second 3-1/2 year period then comes about by opening the 7th seal
- At this time there is no more grace mixed with judgement, it is judgement only
- There is no record of anyone being saved in these last two 3-1/2 years periods (7 years total)

14 **TRUMPETS AND VIALS**

- It is at this time that God uses many of His supernatural powers
- This period can also be considered the end of time
- The earth itself is the first this that is affected by the opening of the 7th seal and the first plague
- All of the plagues we will see have the element of fire in them
- The plagues are centered on the area where Antichrist has his kingdom but they reach to the ends of the earth
- Antichrist's kingdom is centered in the same area as the old Roman empire

15 **OLD ROMAN EMPIRE MAP**

16 **TRUMPETS AND VIALS cont.**

- Notice the progress of these plagues as we look closer at them
- The first one is on the earth, the land itself
- The heat for this plague is so intense that the earth itself is hot
- The heat is a result of the hail mingled with fire
- This plague covers the earth but not all parts with the same intensity
- Places where the influence of the beast, the Antichrist, is greatest will receive the greatest amount of fiery hail

17 **TRUMPETS AND VIALS cont.**

Revelation 16:1

1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

- This view or scene parallels that of chapter 8 verses 2 & 6
- Chapter 8 is the heaven view and chapter 16 is the earth view of the identical event
- What happens on the earth is a direct result of the action taken in heaven

18 **FLOOR PLAN GRAPHIC**

19 **THE FIRST PLAGUE – THE EARTH cont.**

Revelation 16:2

2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

- This is the result of the event in heaven in chapter 8 verse 7
- The greatest amount of the fiery hail is concentrated in the area of the Mediterranean

20 **THE SECOND PLAGUE – THE SEA**

Revelation 8:8-9

8 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;

9 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.

- This is a third part of the entire world; one-third of the animals in the sea and one-third of the ships

21 **THE SECOND PLAGUE – THE SEA cont.**

Revelation 16:3

3 And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.

- One-third of the animals in the sea die and one-third of the ships and the people on them are destroyed
- All the people that seek refuge in the water because of the fire on the earth are caught in the fiery, bloody water and die, every living soul in the sea dies

22 **TRUMPETS AND VIALS cont.**

- The trumpets and the vials need to be studied at the same time to show that they are one and the same

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- There is no salvation once this begins

23 **CLOSING REMARKS**

- The tribulation saints had to give their own blood for their salvation
- How much easier it is now to come to God under grace
- It is no wonder that the Scriptures tell us that this period is described as woe, woe, woe!
- It is also no wonder that there is that 30 minutes of silence in heaven preceding the sounding of these trumpets
- At this time there is no grace, there is no help and there is no escape
- We must fully appreciate the grace we have right now

24 **CLOSING REMARKS cont.**

- Right now all mankind has the chance to be in heaven while all this is taking place
- God offers this to whosoever will during this period of grace
- If you abuse this grace and continue in your sins then you will be under this judgement
- Judgement is the reverse of grace
- There is no Scripture that tells us Jesus Christ died that we may continue in our sins
- The Scriptures tell us He died to save us from our sins
- He gives us power through the Holy Spirit that we might become the sons of God (John 1:12)

25 **CLOSING GRAPHIC**