

- **INTRODUCTION**

1. The challenge of interpreting Rv. Recognize the literary structure of Rv.
  - i. 7 units, each cycle back, overlapping present Church-Age.
  - ii. Presents church on earth & in heaven.
2. Rv 8:1-6 v2 seems out of place - why? Also the significance of silence.

**1st: The Literary Stitching of Rv 8:1-6 - Back and Forth**

1. Rv 8:1-6 7<sup>th</sup> seal completes 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle: end of this age. Final Judgment [FJ] seen from heaven; 6<sup>th</sup> seal depicted FJ from vantage point of earth. 6:12-17
  - i. 6:12 earthquake on earth originates in heaven - 8:5 judgment
  - ii. Chpt 8: 7<sup>th</sup> seal stitches back to 6<sup>th</sup> seal: both concern FJ
2. 8:2 stitches forward to v6ff wh/ begins 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of trumpets - v6. Why use this literary stitching device? [cf. 15:1ff as well]
  - i. All the cycles are interconnected - an internal cohesion in the unfolding of God's sovereign purposes. Cycles not sequential but unified, conveying basically the same message to you who overcome.
  - ii. God is preserving us - see us in heaven? We must persevere - see us on earth? It is an apocalyptic way of teaching us to overcome.

**2nd: Final Judgment Begins with Stunning Sobering Silence**

1. Chpt 7 = interlude. 8:1 follows 6:17. 6:12-17 is loud!
2. 8:1 Lamb breaks 7<sup>th</sup> seal: sudden silence. FJ seen from heaven: v3-5
3. Hear this silence as defined by OT: execution of judgment.
  - i. Isa 41:1 approach Lord to be judged - then speak: Mat 12:36-37. There are many similarities tw/ Isa 41:2-14 & Rv 6:12-17.
  - ii. *Be silent before the Lord God for the day of the Lord is near* [Zeph 1:7]
4. Silence of a death sentence: Ps 115:17; Ps 31:17; 1Sam 2:9 Sheol, darkness
5. Hab 2:20 the sound of war, taunt songs - silenced
6. Rm 3:19 v10-18 cites OT - 'total depravity', v9 *both Jews & Greeks all under sin* [some OT indicts Gentile nations & some indict OCov Israel].

- i. If we are not *under grace*, we are *under law* [Rm 6:14]
  - ii. *all the world, every mouth be closed, all accountable to God.*
7. What of - *for about 1/2 an hr?* References to *the hour* in Rv 18
- i. v10 *1 hr = time of judgment; v17 & v19*
  - ii. v22 - sounds of Babylon are silenced
  - iii. 8:1 *about 1/2 hour* - preliminary to FJ? [Jn refers to FJ 6 more times in Rv [chpt 17, 18, 19, 20] - remember Rv 3:10

#### **Applic #1: We Must Read Scripture "Intelligently"**

1. Rv 1:3 I want us to be *blessed*. Literary structure is key to interpretation.
2. Lk 24:44-48 different kinds of literature in Bible: but one Author.
3. Rv 8:1. Who is the Actor? *The Lamb* - Jn 5:21-22. See the structure but do not lose sight of Jesus.

#### **Applic #2: In Final Judgment, Jesus Will Silence All Other Voices**

1. Hab 2:20 Let all the earth be silent before Him: "Hush!" Be still.
2. We live in a noisy time. God's enemies are very noisy before judgment silences them. Gn 18:2-21 Lord hears *the outcry* of Sodom = sound of injustice, violence, wickedness. [Jer 51:54-55; Zeph 1:7].
  - i. Sleeping disciples - not know how to answer Jesus [Mrk 14:40]
  - ii. Silently awaiting sentence of the Judge.
3. Xn's cries are also silenced - Isa 65:17-19 [Rv 7:16-17; 21:3-4]
4. Why? B/c Jesus was silent for us - Isa 53:7 [Mrk 14:60]
5. Prospect of FJ is sobering - but FJ will be a day of rewards for the overcomers - sober seriousness. Then all that we have said will have been said. May we not be silent about the gospel. But sober - 1Pt 1:13.