

## SERMON OUTLINE

In Revelation 8:1-12 we are shown 4 details concerning God's partial judgment upon idolaters of the earth.

- I. The preparation for judgment is silence.
  - A. The Lamb opens the 7<sup>th</sup> seal (v. 1).
  - B. The 7 angels are given 7 trumpets (v. 2).
- II. The catalyst for judgment is the prayers of the saints rising to God (vs. 3-4).
- III. The origin of judgment is heaven (v. 5).
- IV. The announcement of judgment is made by angels blowing trumpets (vs. 6-12).

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 19, 2018

Passage: Revelation 8:1-12

Memory Passage: Revelation 8:1-2

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Revelation 8:1-12.** What does the 7<sup>th</sup> seal contain? What did you expect it to contain?
- (b) What is the meaning & purpose of the silence (cf. Hab. 2:20; Zeph. 1:7; Zech. 2:13 and surrounding context for each)?
- (c) Why do you think the silence was “for about a half an hour” (v. 1)?
- (d) Consider what was going on in heaven just before this silence fell (all of chapter 7) and how deafening this silence was. If you were in John’s place, what would you be thinking and feeling? Would you want to break the silence with a question?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 8:1-12.** What connection do you find between verses 3-5 and 5:9-11 and how does this connection help us understand what is happening as the angels begin to blow their trumpets?
- (b) Why is the angel given “much incense” (cf. e.g. Ex. 29:24-25; Lev. 2:1-2; 16:12-13; Ps. 141:1-2), and why is the passive “was given” important?
- (c) What was thrown from heaven to earth (v. 5) and why is both the origin and destination important?
- (d) Review: Where have we seen the thunder, lightning, and earthquake before and where will we see them again? Why is this important for our understanding and interpretation of Revelation?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 8:1-12.** What is the purpose of the angels being introduced in v. 2 but their mission not described until v. 6ff? Or to put it another way, why are verses 3-5 inserted in the middle of the angel’s introduction and their mission?
- (b) Compare and contrast (i.e. what is the same, what is different, and why) the first 4 trumpets with the first 4 seals (6:1-8).
- (c) Considering this analysis, when do the events pictured in the first 4 trumpets occur in relation to the events pictured in the first 4 seals? Explain and support your answer.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 8:1-12.** Read Ex. 7-11 with the first 5 trumpets in mind (we will look at the 5<sup>th</sup> next week, but look ahead to what it entails in 9:3ff). What similarities do you see?
- (b) Are the fire events of God’s judgment in the first 4 trumpets literal or figurative? What contextual clues from Revelation influence your decision? What OT clues influence your decision (cf. e.g. Jer. 51:25-27; 63-64; Is. 14:12ff, Jer. 15:9; Joel 2:1-10; et. al.)?
- (c) What purpose do the limitations serve (repetition of “a third of . . .”)?

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 8:1-12.** It is difficult to cover a passage such as this in what amounts to 20 questions, and I know we’ve flown high over this passage this week, but let’s take a day to consider application. What does this passage teach you about the priority of prayer, of God’s commitment to hear and answer prayer, and of the power of prayer? How do these facts encourage you to be more passionate and diligent about your own prayer life? How do these facts encourage you during difficult times?
- (b) What do these verses teach you about the certainty of God’s judgment of unrepentant idolaters? How does this fact encourage you as you endure to the end and conquer in this life? How does this fact affect your prayer life?
- (c) Knowing these visions describe events of God’s judgment that come upon the world in between the advents of Christ (the same time as the first 4 seal judgments), how are you better equipped to process catastrophic events today? How, in concrete terms, does knowing the “fire (is) from the altar” in heaven provide perspective?
- (d) In what ways do you see God’s mercy expressed in these verses? His holiness? His sovereignty? His justice?

DATE: August 19, 2018

PASSAGE: Revelation 8:1-12

*Answered Prayer*