

## Revelation Chapter 8:1-13

**Revelation 8:1-13** –(**SCENE**: Heaven to earth) -God's Judgment through the Lamb begins:

**8** When *the Lamb* broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

Odd??? All we have heard about for four chs. is the constant refrain of worship/songs/praise...

**-Heavenly moment of silence:** All of heaven understands the seriousness of sin/consequence of sin is certain death. -The pending Judgment on the earth/mankind is overwhelming; sobering; horrifying – and ALL of heaven is silent in reverence to what is about to happen to people/creation  
**\*\*This is an eternal reminder that God hates sin; God judges sin; and innocent creation pays the highest price on our sin (our sin never just affects us: our family; community; church)**

**\*Remember: God's Judgment** in Gen. 6 with a world-wide flood: everything on this earth destroyed (all humans; all animal life; most sea life; birds; Total destruction of the known world:

**WHY?** -Gen. 6:5-7 “Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of mankind was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of <sup>1</sup>their hearts was only evil continually. <sup>6</sup> So the Lord was sorry that He had made mankind on the earth, and He was grieved <sup>2</sup>in His heart. <sup>7</sup> Then the Lord said, “I will wipe out mankind whom I have created from the face of the land; mankind, and animals as well, and crawling things, and the birds of the sky. For I am sorry that I have made them.” -In our depravity, rebellious, wicked, unfaithful sinful hearts = we hate God; we want to be our “own” God. We rebel and run to our own idols; habits; destructive beliefs =SIN

=So God wipes out the whole earth; =**Reboot** **\*But notice in His judgment/divine wrath (He always leaves room for the remnant to escape: His grace/mercy provide for salvation of some)**

-Ps. 22:24 “For He has not despised nor scorned the suffering of the afflicted;

Nor has He hidden His face from him; But when he cried to Him for help, He heard.”

-**Flood** = The **ARK**; **Sodom/Gomorrah** = **Lot's** family; **Destruction of Jericho** =**Rahab** & Family  
The killing of the **firstborn in Egypt** = The **Passover**; **Jonah's** punishment =prov. a **whale**;  
The destruction of **Jerusalem** 586BC = The **remnant** taken to Babylon (Daniel/Shadrach/Meshach/Abednego)  
The Sin of **family** = put on an innocent ewe **lamb**; the sin of all the **Earth** = put on **Jesus** (=ARK)  
Matthew 24: The **End Times destruction** = God spares a **remnant** of the **Jews** (144K + more)

**\*\*The Destruction of the earth = The Rapture** (God spares His Bride/Ch); **& others saved in Trib.**

-[Key rapture texts: 1 Th. 5:9; 4:13-18; Lk. 17:34-36; 1 Cor. 15:50-54; 1 Jn. 3:2]

-God is a God of **Justice**: (He *will* judge the guilty & innocent things die in that wake) = sad!!!

-God is a God of **mercy**: (He will also provide hope; truth; witness; a way of escape in grace)

-And **now** Heaven sees the preview (Ch. 6 of the seal judgment) and what is coming in the

**7 Trumpet judgments**. This is so sobering/horrifying & out of reverence for the destruction of life, creation, and pity of God's glory being wasted bc of sin =produces heavy silence for 30 min.

**2** And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. The Trumpet has always been used to announce something significant: The King's arrival; an important imperial message; the Trumpet heralds important news. = **Get ur Attention**

**-7 Seals = 7 Seal judgments** (4 riders: False peace; War; Famine; Death/Martyrs/Day of Lord)

**-7 Trumpet Judgments**. An Angel blows a Trumpet to announce judgment/wrath on earth

<sup>3</sup> Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer (incense container **PIC**); and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. <sup>4</sup> And the smoke of the incense ascended from the angel's hand with the prayers of the saints before God. -Many times we are told that our prayers rise to the Lord like fragrant incense -filling heaven with our praise/worship/requests

**1. Prayer matters to God: He commands it** -1 Th. 5:17 "Pray w/o ceasing"

-Phil 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God".

**2. Prayers get to Heaven. God hears and responds in His perfect timing.** Our prayers are never wasted; heavenly investment! BUT: **right heart; right motivation; in Jesus Name**

**3. Prayers are the means/mechanism by which God chooses to act (His design)**

God chooses to act for His glory through the prayers of His saints/through YOU!!

<sup>5</sup> Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and hurled it to the earth; and there were peals of thunder and sounds, and flashes of lightning and an earthquake. **That was unexpected.** =Ch. 6 prayers of the martyrs asking God for vengeance for their life/persecution/blasphemy/destruction of life by Antichrist & antisemitic armies;

-Ch. 7 [**Interlude**: We see the Lord's response and timing to bless them; wash them white in His blood; clothe them white; pull them close to Him/throne; and cover them tabern & shepherd 'em

-Ch. 8: God answers the prayers of saints w/His response & timing for Vengeance/Divine wrath:

<sup>6</sup> And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.

-**Destruction of this earth and those upon it.** No one exempt from pain/loss/suffering from this judgment (*except* those who have been sealed by God & protected: 144k; 2 witnesses)

<sup>7</sup> The first sounded, and there was hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. Fiery Meteors = earth on fire; choking smoke; where hide???

<sup>8</sup> The second angel sounded, and *something* like a great mountain burning with fire was hurled into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood, <sup>9</sup> and a third of the creatures which were in the sea <sup>10</sup> and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed. Fiery Asteroid =Tsunami

<sup>10</sup> The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. <sup>11</sup> The star is named Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the waters because they were made bitter. Fiery Comet = attacking & destroying 1/3 drinking water on earth.

<sup>12</sup> The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way. **Deep** Darkness for 16 hrs (only 8 hrs of light)

<sup>13</sup> Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who live on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!" A supernatural warning by a huge angel/Eagle to warn the world what is about to come "i.e. you haven't seen anything yet" =a warning =mercy =**repent!!!**  
**GOSPEL: As you read this; ponder it; process it =ARE YOU UNDER JUDGMENT? Is this 4 u???**

## Is that a discouraging passage or what??

\*\*\*Where can one find encouragement in such a judgment passage?

### What do we learn about God and His Truth in this passage?

- **God is always true to His WORD** -He means what He says; He will by no means let the guilty go unpunished. In OT. & in NT = Judgment is certain (=the cross was so severe)
- **Silence in Heaven Reveals the Gravity of God's Judgment**  
The half hour of silence (8:1) is not emptiness but awe—heaven pauses before the unfolding of divine judgment, emphasizing its seriousness, power, and inevitability.
- **God's Judgments Flow from the Throne, Not Chaos**  
The trumpet judgments proceed in ordered sequence from God's presence, showing that judgment is purposeful, measured, and sovereignly directed.
- **The Prayers of the Saints Shape History**  
The incense mixed with the prayers of the saints (8:3–4) reveals that human prayers are taken up into God's redemptive and judicial actions.
- **All Creation Is Affected by Human Sin**  
The earth, sea, rivers, and heavens are all struck, highlighting the biblical truth that sin fractures not only human relationships but the created order itself (cf. Gen. 3; Rom. 8).
- **In Ch 8. Judgment Is still Partial, Not Yet Final**  
The repeated fraction “a third” underscores restraint—God's judgments are severe but mercifully limited, aimed at warning and repentance. There is still time for the lost....
- **Judgment Precedes Final Redemption**  
Revelation 8 prepares the way for ultimate renewal, showing that evil must be confronted and dismantled *before* restoration can fully come.
- **Heaven Is Actively Engaged in Earth's Affairs**  
Angels, altars, trumpets, and fire reveal that heaven is not distant or passive but deeply involved in the unfolding of history.
- **God's Justice Is Ultimately Vindictory**  
The judgments answer the cries of the persecuted saints (cf. Rev. 6:10), revealing that God will publicly vindicate His holiness and His people.

## APPLICATION

1. **Let Silence Before God Cultivate Reverence.** The silence in heaven invites believers to recover holy awe—slowing down, listening, and recognizing the weight of God's holiness.
2. **Take Prayer Seriously—It Truly Matters.** Our prayers are not symbolic gestures; they are real instruments God uses in His sovereign work in the world.
3. **Do Not Mistake God's Patience for Indifference.** Partial judgments remind us that delayed judgment is mercy, not approval of sin.

4. **Repent Quickly and Continually.** Ch. 8 calls believers to live lives of ongoing repentance, not presuming upon God's restraint.
5. **Recognize the Cosmic Impact of Sin.** Our obedience or rebellion has consequences beyond ourselves—affecting communities, creation, and future generations.
6. **Trust God's Justice When Evil Appears Triumphant.** Even when injustice seems unchecked, Revelation 8 assures us that God sees, hears, and will act.
7. **Live with Eternal Awareness.** The trumpet judgments awaken us from spiritual complacency and call us to live with the end in view.
8. **Hold Creation with Sacred Responsibility.** Since judgment touches the earth itself, believers should steward creation as something precious and accountable to God.
9. **Endure Suffering with Hope.** For persecuted believers, Revelation 8 affirms that suffering is neither ignored nor meaningless—it is remembered before God's throne.
10. **Proclaim the Gospel with Urgency and Compassion.** The warning judgments of Revelation intensify the church's mission: calling people to repentance before final judgment comes.

## **Community Group Discussion Questions**

1. **What stands out to you about the silence in heaven (8:1)?**  
How does this moment challenge the way we usually think about worship, prayer, or God's presence? Why are the angels silent?
2. **What does Revelation 8 teach us about the relationship between prayer and God's action in the world (8:3–5)?** How does this shape the way you approach praying for justice, suffering, or evil?
3. **Why do you think God's judgments are described as partial ("a third") rather than total?** What does this reveal about God's character—both His justice and His mercy?
4. **In what ways do the Trumpet judgments show the seriousness of sin beyond personal consequences?** How does this passage expand our understanding of how sin affects creation, society, and future generations?
5. **How should believers respond when we see suffering, disaster, or upheaval in the world today?** What cautions should we keep in mind when interpreting current events in light of Revelation 8?
6. **Where do you see hope in this chapter, even though it is filled with judgment?**  
How does knowing that God hears the cries of His people change the way you endure hardship or injustice?
7. **What practical changes might God be inviting you to make in light of this passage?**  
How does Revelation 8 call us to deeper repentance, more urgent prayer, or a more faithful gospel witness?

