

## REVELATION: CHAPTER 8

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### Seventh Seal

**Seven seals** = seven revealings- at the end of which begins the first of the seven trumpets.

**Rev 8:1** And when He had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in Heaven about the space of half an hour.

- The silence in Heaven here is like that of the delay before a jury announces its verdict; for about the space of half an hour means it wasn't a long delay ("*little season*"- 6:11) before the warning or announcement would come. Here the quiet is before the prayers of God's elect (*pre-70 AD*) were to come before Him. All of this after He opened the seventh seal.

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**Rev 8:2** And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

- trumpet- warning or announcement: Exo 19:11-13; Jos 6:5.
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- seven- complete, no other will be given after the seventh. It is a call for repentance to the enemy (*here the rebellious apostate Jew*) of God's people (*the faithful Jew pre-70AD*) but would not be heeded.

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**Rev 8:3** 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.

(6:10- read Heb 9:1-12)

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- An eighth angel had a golden censer that contained incense.

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- golden- indicates the censer was refined (3:18). This is a worship scene. In Luke 1:10 we find the time of the offering of incense as the time of the people's prayers. As the prayers went up, so did the sweet-smelling odor which made the prayers acceptable: Exo 30:34-38; Lev 16:12-13.

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- The altar here is the altar of burnt incense. Read Exo 30:1-10.

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- It is the "anti-type (*shadow*)" for the "type"; Old Testament act of worship which stood as an example (*shadow*) of worship in the New Testament (*Heb 9:9*).

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- much incense- many prayers of the saints which included those of 6:10.

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**Rev 8:4** And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

- The prayers ascend (*after the servants of God are sealed -7:3-10*), the angel here mediating just as Holy Spirit does for faithful saints (*Rom 8:26*).

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**Rev 8:5** 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.

- fire of the altar- of burnt sacrifices; prayers offered with "strange fire" are unacceptable to God, therefore the prayers of the saints today are to be those offered from a life of sacrifice and sobriety and are thus the only prayers that He will accept: Lev 10:1-2; 9-10; 16:12-13.

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- The smoke from the altar of burnt incense went through the veil (*"that is, through His flesh"- Heb 10:20*) into the Holy of Holies, representing the prayers of the saints under the Old Testament. Now comes

God's response (6:10). Their payers gone up, His judgment coming down (*cast it into the earth*), just as was done in the following verses: Act 4:29-31; Exo 19:16-18. God's 'visitation' brings disruption (*voices, thunderings, lightning, earthquake*) to the disobedient powers that were in Jerusalem.

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**Seven Trumpets**

**Rev 8:6** And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

- The seventh seal opened introduces the seven trumpets. The silence of verse one ended and the angels prepare to sound. This refers to what happened directly before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

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**Rev 8:7** 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 first warning sounded.**

With a vision of the Old Testament plagues in mind, the faithful Jew understood God's response to Jerusalem would be as it was to Egypt. The first warning sounds. Read Exo 9:22-26; Isa 28:2.

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- hail and fire- Old Testament plague. (*Eze 13:11-16*) Here it is a warning since it is a...

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- third- partial. Full judgment on Jerusalem comes in chapter 11.

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- hail and fire mixed with blood- death and destruction caused by this uprooting storm of civil war.

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- earth- Gk.1093-world. Those Jews who disregarded the Law and Prophets (*Rom 3:20-22*): Lk 6:46-49.  
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- trees- Gk.1186-oak. Amo 2:9; Dan 4:10, 22. Here the authorities of Jerusalem (*Pharisees/Sadducees/O.T. priesthood*) being brought down (*12:4*). This is also Acts 2:19-21.  
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- all green grass- Gk.5515/5528-green pastures. Rest is taken away: Psa 23:2.  
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**Rev 8:8** 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;

- **The second warning sounded.**

Jer 51:25 "Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, declares the LORD, which destroys the whole earth; I will stretch out My hand against you, and roll you down from the crags, and make you a burnt mountain. (*ESV*)

The destroying mountain of Jerusalem was Babylon.  
In this context it **is** Jerusalem.

- mountain- rule: Zec 8:3.  
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- cast into the sea- See notes next verse.  
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- third- again, partial.  
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- sea became blood- See notes next verse. Read Exo 7:14-22.  
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**Rev 8:9** 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.

- creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died- Thayer: “used specifically of the Mediterranean Sea or the Red Sea”.

"In July 67 Vespasian attacked Joppa. The people of Joppa took to the sea, but a pre-dawn storm wrecked the ships. Many drowned, others killed themselves. Those who survived the wreck, numbering about 4,200, were killed by Romans. Joppa was destroyed once again." *Wikipedia/Josephus*

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- ships- transportation of goods. Commerce is affected (*as in chapter 18*).

“Soon the supplies in the city began to run out. A famine arose that was unbelievable. Women were even eating their own children.”- *The Destruction of Jerusalem-* by Ray Murray, Jr. - Pg. 15

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**Rev 8:10** And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

- **The third warning sounded.**

Isa 14:4 you will take up this taunt against the **king of Babylon**: "How the oppressor has ceased, the insolent fury ceased! (*Emp. added*) (*ESV*)

Isa 14:12 "How **you** (*king of Babylon*) are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! (*Emp. added*) (*ESV*)

- The king of Babylon was called “Lucifer” (*Day Star*) and is said to have fallen because of his arrogant pride (*v. 13*). **This great star** falling from the sky (*Gk.3772-heaven/sky, elevation*), refers to Josephus according to Arthur Ogden (*pg. 226*). He was born into one of the elite families in Jerusalem but after being “trapped in a cave with 40 of his companions in July 67 [AD]” “he

suggested a method of collective suicide” where “they drew lots and killed each other.” But after he and another of his companions were left they “surrendered to the Roman forces and became prisoners”. He was released in 69 AD after “predicting Vespasian would become emperor” and “acted as a negotiator with the defenders during the siege of Jerusalem.” “His critics were never satisfied as to why he failed to commit suicide” but “after his capture, accepted the patronage of Romans.” *Wikipedia on Josephus*

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- star- Gk.792/4776- a star as strewn over the sky.
- rivers ...fountains of waters- Josephus’ turning traitor affected not only Jerusalem but the authority she had over the Jews throughout the world as their fountainhead.

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**Rev 8:11** And the name of the star is called Wormwood; and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

- wormwood- Gk.894-bitterness, calamity. (*Ex 15:22-23- Marah/ Heb.4785- bitter.*)

Jer 9:13 And the LORD says: "Because they have forsaken My Law that I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice or walked in accord with it, 14 but have stubbornly followed their own hearts and have gone after the Baals, as their fathers taught them. 15 Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will **feed this people with bitter food**, and give them **poisonous water to drink**. (*Emp. added*) (ESV)

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- third- again partial, bitter because of the way in which Jerusalem fell (*11:2; Matt 24:21; Mk 13:19; Lk 21:23*). The surrender of Josephus and his then allegiance to Rome affected Jerusalem’s fall; “...after landing, however involuntarily, in the Roman camp, he turned his captivity to his own advantage, and benefited for

the rest of his days from his change of side.” *Wikipedia*.  
 This ultimately multiplied the death rate among Jews  
 as a result of his treason.

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**Rev 8:12** And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

- **The fourth warning sounded.**

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- This vision in its context is not the same as in 6:12. This is not speaking of authorities but of the shortening of time. Sun, moon and stars are mentioned as for the dividing of day and night (*Gen 1:14-18*). Day and night added here helps us understand the context.

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- third- shortening. Speaking of the fall of Jerusalem...

Mat 24:22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. (*ESV*) (i.e., *Christians would be given an opportunity to leave Jerusalem [18:4] before she was finally destroyed, ending the O.T. sacrificial system once for all. This was where Titus sent Josephus in to get the Jews to peacefully surrender when he withdrew the siege temporarily.*- *The Destruction of Jerusalem by Ray Murray, Jr. - Pg.15*)

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- In the context here, time for repentance was short.

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**Rev 8:13** And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

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- angel- (*Gk.105*) Here it is *Gk.32-a messenger; angel*. (*Interlinear – angel*) A flying angel represents swiftness (*4:7*) as it pertains to the repercussions of the

message if not heeded. The above warnings came swiftly because the days were short.

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- flying- Gk.4072-to *fly*. The midst of heaven-(*directly overhead*) they knew something was about to happen from the obvious signs, so near they were in view: Mat 16:2-3; Lk 17:24.

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- Woe, woe, woe- one to accompany each of the last three trumpets (*warnings*). The angels being yet to sound shows a brief pause between the fourth trumpet and the last three. Here, Vespasian returned to Rome to become Emperor after Nero committed suicide (*June 68 AD*) bringing the war to a brief halt. These woes were to affect the inhabiters of the earth. Specifically, on those Jews not sealed (*7:3*).

#### Worksheet

### **Revelation: Chapter 8**

1. Explain the “silence” that existed “when the Lamb opened the seventh seal”. (*v. 1*)
2. What was “given” to the “seven angels”? Explain the number “seven” here. (*v. 2*)
3. What does the presence of a “trumpet” represent? (*v. 2*)
4. When “another angel came”, what did he have and what does it represent? (*v. 3*)
5. Explain the duty of the priest under the Mosaic Law as it pertains to prayer. (*v. 3*)
6. After the “first angel blew his trumpet” what “followed”? Explain. (*v. 7*)
7. What did the “great mountain” and “sea” represent when the “second angel blew his trumpet”? (*v. 8*)
8. Once the “third angel blew his trumpet”, who does the “great star” represent and what did its falling affect? What was the name of “the star” and what became “of the waters” because of its fall? (*vs. 10, 11*)
9. When the “fourth angel blew his trumpet” what happened to the “sun”, “moon” and “stars” and what do they represent? (*v. 12*)