

Apocalypse Now: The Challenge of Revelation
Week 5—Revelation 8-11
October 13, 2022

I. Review

A. A prophetic letter written in apocalyptic genre.

1. We see the exalted Lord in the heavenly throne room

B. Revelation 6: a vision of a scroll, sealed with seven seals

1. The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

2. The 5th seal: the Saints Cry “how long” & receive hope

3. The 6th seal: run for cover & from wrath of the Lamb

C. The Seal Interlude (Chapter 7). Two consolatory visions.

1. The Church on Earth (militant) 7:1-8

2. The Church in Heaven (triumphant) 7:9-17.

3. Seal 7 The Coming of the End 8:1

II. Chapter 8

A. 8:1-5. The prayers of the saints.

B. 8:6 Trumpets

1. Warning (very common in OT; Joel 2:1; Ezekiel 33:3-6); favorite apocalyptic instrument.

2. Standard sign of end: Isa., Matt., I Cor., I Thess.

C. 8:7-13 The first four trumpets belong to a group,.

1. Note the pattern that the trumpets follow.

2. Devastation from above (#'s 1-4)

a) Land, Sea, Rivers/springs, solar system; cf. Plagues in Egypt

3. Earthly judgments in response to cries of martyrs.

4. The judgment is not total. Five months; one third.

III. Chapter 9 (another set of heavenly, cosmic judgment visions)

A. 9:1-12 5th Trumpet. Devastation from below. Demonic locusts (Ex. 10:12; Joel). First woe.

1. v. 1—"was given"—permitted by sovereign God.

2. v. 4--Those who bear God's mark preserved *through*.

B. 9:13-19 6th trumpet, second woe: 200 million cavalry on fire-breathing horses.

1. Plays on Romans' fear of Parthians (again)

C. 9:20-21 No repentance!?! cf. Pharaoh's refusal to let Israel go.

D. Summary: 6/7 trumpets. Still waiting for Kingdom of God

IV. Chapters 10 & 11 Interlude: The Church of Prophets and Martyrs. The angel with the little scroll seal up what is said; wait. Two mysterious witnesses; killed by beast; resurrected; 7,000 die. The final trumpet

A. 10:1-4 The little scroll. John told not to write.

B. 10:5-7 Daniel 12 imagery. Question: How will we know what the mystery of God is?

C. 10:8-11 Answer: By eating the book

1. Trumpets alone do not bring about repentance.

2. We have to eat the book, digest its contents, and then declare the truth contained in it.

D. 11:1-6 (the example of prophetic witness)

1. Imagery from Daniel 12 and Ezekiel.

2. Measuring a metaphor for preservation.

3. Both viewed as ideal forms of prophet (Moses, Elijah; Law & Prophets).

E. 11:7-14 God's protection symbolized by marking off the temple

F. 11:15-19 7th Trumpet (finally!). What is the status of the kingdom of God?

1. What is the relationship between Christian witness and the coming of the Kingdom of God?