

THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM

Revelation 8:1-13

Introduction:

- A. We must remember that our God is sovereign – He is always in control. All things happen within His will, either ordained of Him or permitted by Him.
- B. We also must remember that God uses evil beings as His servants to punish His disobedient people – saved and lost.
- C. The first six seals of the planned conquest to bring the physical creation back into harmony with God have been opened.
- D. God has also given us a parenthetical view of His protection of His redeemed people through that which is to come and His promise of final victory.
- E. Now, the time has come to settle the issue of who is the rightful ruler of the creation.
- F. The seventh seal is about to be opened. This seal covers all that shall transpire from the time it is opened until God's LITTLE LAMB is seated upon His throne.
- G. In the study of Bible Numerics, 7 and 3 stand for perfection and completion. The seventh seal includes the 7 trumpets; the last 3 are named the 3 woes. The third woe contains the 7 plagues and the seventh plague contains the 7 vials of the wrath of God.
- H. Let us look at the opening of the seventh and last seal.

I. LEARN THAT THE OPENING OF THE SEVENTH SEAL IS GREATED WITH A TIME OF SILENCE AND PREPARATION FOR BATTLE.

- A. The very thought of the storm of destruction that is about to engulf the physical creation; akin to unbelief, a calm before the storm.
- B. During the calm, the seven angels are given the seven trumpets that will sound to announce continuing destructive actions ending in total victory for the God of all creation.
- C. All of God's saints who are still on earth will be praying – praying as Jesus taught them – praying "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- D. An angel with a golden censor came and stood at the golden altar before God. Much incense was given him and he offered these incense together with the prayers of all the saints upon the altar of God.
- E. The smoke of these incense and the prayers of all the saints ascended up before God.

II. LEARN THAT THE ANGEL OF GOD LAID DOWN HEAVEN'S CHALLENGE BEFORE THE ANTICHRIST. V.5

- A. The angel filled the censor with fire off the altar, fire that had been blessed by the prayers of the saints, and cast it onto the earth.
- B. There followed a demonstration of God's power over the physical creation – voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

III. LEARN THAT THE WAR TO END ALL WARS BEGINS IN EARNEST. VS. 7-12

- A. Keep in mind that Satan is referred to as the prince of the power of the air and the god of this world. Also remember that Paul wrote of this in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-9. *3. for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4. who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God or*

that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 5. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? 6. And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed IN HIS TIME. 7. For the mystery of iniquity doeth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taketh out of the way. 8. And then shalt that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming. 9. Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with power and signs and lying wonders.

- B.** The work of the antichrist that was begun in chapter 6 with the opening of the seals is now continued with the opening of the seventh seal.
- C.** We must also keep in mind that Satan only work within the permissive will of God and now as the servant of God in punishing the world that has cast God aside to worship the creation rather than the Creator.
- D.** V. 7 the first trumpet reveals the Antichrist dealing a hard blow against the unconscious life on the earth.
- E.** Vs. 8, 9 the second trumpet reveals the Antichrist dealing a devastating blow against the seas and ships of the seas.
- F.** Vs. 10, 11 the third trumpet reveals the Antichrist poisoning the waters and causing the death of many men.
- G.** V. 12 the fourth trumpet reveals the Antichrist smiting the heavenly bodies.
- H.** If you find it troubling to accept this as the work of the Antichrist, remember that Satan is extremely powerful; he is next to God in power and only God can handle him. God is using him in all of this to punish the world that has denied Him as Creator and turned to worship the creation.

IV. LEARN THAT THE WORST IS YET TO COME. V. 13

- A.** After living through the horror brought on them by the sounding of the first four trumpets, the inhabitants of the earth are confronted with the loud voice of a heavenly messenger.
- B.** The message is Woe, Woe, Woe to you who dwell on the earth.
- C.** Woe used as an interjection express grief, regret, or distress.
- D.** Woe as a noun expresses a condition of deep suffering from misfortune, affliction, or grief.
- E.** The next three trumpets will bring woe on the people of the earth.

CONCLUSIONS:

- A.** Brethren, things are really going to get bad before the return of the Lord Jesus to this earth.
- B.** What can we do to be prepared for that time? Be sure of your salvation and then pray for the grace to stand strong for God when the testings come.

