

Revelation ch 8-9

Chapter 8

Note:- *Manifold views are held in interpreting this book. The view I will present is that where the clear text makes sense literally, seek no other sense. Based on this principle, I have not treated the text as symbols or allegories unless clearly stated, a tree is a tree, the sea is exactly that, not nations as some suggest, the sun moon and stars are those celestial objects we observe every day. In ch 9 the star is given a key to open the abyss, quite clearly a literal star is not intended. At Sinai in Exod 19 and 20 we have thunders, lightning, smoke, the mountain quaking and we take that quite literally, so there is no need to use imagination and apply such in this book to political powers etc.*

One other point is the order of the seals, trumpets and vials. Some treat them as consecutive, and others as concurrent.

If we treat them as concurrent, then we will see the 6th seal. The 7th trumpet and the 7th vial as similar although perhaps increasing in intensity as seen in ch 16.18 where the earthquake was greater than had ever taken place since men were on the earth.

It would appear then that the seals cover the complete week, The middle of the week would seem to be after the 4th horseman, the trumpets the 2nd part of the week, and the vials the latter part of the 2nd half of the week. It is important for this study to be aware of Daniel's prophesy and the Lord's teaching in Matt 24 among many other scriptures.

As we suggested at the beginning of our study on revelation, ch's 4 to 11 present a panoramic view culminating in the reign of the Lord Jesus. See ch 11.15, 17 and the judgement of the nations. Ch 12 through ch 19 revisits those scenes with a detailed look at those involved and the activities unfolding. For example in ch 6 we have the four horsemen depicting the activities of the man of sin, in ch 13 we have the appearance of the man of sin and the false prophet.

- 1) *Ch 8.1 7th seal opened*
- 2) *v1 30 minute silence in heaven*
A silence depicting the end of the judgements
- 3) *v2 Seven angels with trumpets*
- 4) *v3/4 Another angel with a golden censer*

Some suggest this is the Lord Jesus in His high priestly activity, but does not the incense speak of the fragrance of Christ to God, if so how could it be given to Him? Again, in this book there is no other reference to the Lord as an angel, His titles are Son of man, Lord, King, Christ, Lamb, Lion of the tribe of Judah.

- 5) *v5 Contents of censer cast into the earth*

Generally this is taken as an expression of wrath, but the fire on the brazen altar was not the fierce fire of the sin offering. Could it be similar to Isa 6 which was for the purpose of cleansing Isaiah and fitting him as witness to Israel.

- 6) *v6 Seven angels with seven trumpets prepared*
- 7) *v7 1st trumpet: - Hail, fire mingled with blood, 1/3 trees burnt up, all green grass burnt up.*
- 8) *V8/9 2nd trumpet: - burning mountain cast into sea, 1/3 sea blood, 1/3 sea creatures die,
1/3 ships destroyed*
- 9) *v10/11 3rd trumpet: - Great star fell from heaven: Fell upon rivers and fountains of waters
Name of star: - Wormwood. 1/3 part of waters became wormwood. Waters bitter and many men died. Wormwood: - bitter, poisonsness, suggestive of calamity.*
- 10) *v12 4th trumpet: - 1/3 sun moon and stars smitten. No light for 1/3 part of day and night*

This is not the depletion of part of these orbs, but rather the reduction of the length of time they will cast light upon the earth.

To teach they are political powers or authorities based on Joseph's dream is another line of thought.

These four affect nature while trumpets No.5 and No. 6 unleash the forces of the pit. The 7th trumpet in Ch 11 shows the culmination of events on earth, the judgement of nations and the reign of Christ

11) v13 *Acclamation of 3 woes. See 9.12; 11.14 & 11.15*

These three woes are associated with the last three trumpets

Chapter 9

12) ch9.1/2 5th trumpet:- 1st Woe. *Star falls from heaven. Given key to bottomless pit.*

It is obvious this star is a creature and in the context of the book many suggest it is Satan. Ref Isa 14 12-15. Lu 10.18

13) v3-10 *Demonic creatures unscosed, characteristics of locusts and scorpions*

Men tormented 5 months. Unable to die although they seek to die. 144 000 preserved Earth preserved.

14) v11 *King revealed. Hebrew name Abaddon, or in Greek, Apollyon*

Hebrew speaks of Jews and Greek, the gentiles. The name means destroyer.

We are not clear who this king is. He may be satan or as some suggest, a subordinate endowed with the awful power of satan and evil intent.

15) v13 6th trumpet 2nd Woe. *Voice from the golden altar to loose the four angels*

This is the altar of incense before the veil in the tabernacle. Is the voice that of the Lord, 4 is universal and such is the judgement to take place. Similarly we have 4 angels

16) v15 *4 angels loosed for an hour, a day, a month and a year. Purpose:- 1/3 men to be slain*

The article comes before the term 'hour' signifying this is not length of time, but rather an appointed time.

The angels will be unloosed from bondage, perhaps similar to the angels bound in 2nd Peter 2.4

The river Euphrates is a large river flowing through Turkey, Syria and Iraq to the Persian gulf. It formed a natural boundary of the Roman Empire and the land of Israel. Under the 6th vial it is dried up to permit the travel of the eastern Kings.

17) v16 *200 000 000 horsemen*

In 1965 China claimed to have a militia of 200 000 000 men and women. However v15 and v20 speak of men, to suggest these horsemen are men is difficult. If we look at them as from the abyss, issuing deadly fire, smoke and brimstone, many difficulties in interpretation are negated.

18) v17 *Characteristics of horses and horsemen. Fire smoke and brimstone from mouths of horses.*

19) v18 *By these three were 1/3 men slain*

20) v19 *More characteristics of horses, Power in mouths and tails. Tails as serpents with heads to do hurt.*

21) v20-21 *No repentance among survivors.*

22)

Note:- Ch11.14-15 Third woe is in 7th trumpet

Therefore as ch 7 is seen to be parenthetical coming between the 6th and 7th seal, so ch 10 to ch 11v13 is parenthetical coming between the 6th and the 7th trumpet.