

"The Seal Judgments"

Part 10

Revelation 6:1-17

Introduction: Today we return to our study in the book of Revelation and as we do we are coming to Revelation 8. Before we step into this chapter however I want to walk you through a review since it has been a while since we have looked at Revelation.

In Revelation 6 we looked at the 6 of the Seal Judgments and as we looked at those judgments we were able to see that as the seals were opened the judgments increased with severity. Let me walk you through the Seal; Judgments quickly.

1. **The Anti-Christ.**
2. **The Wars.**
3. **The Famines.**
4. **The Death of a Quarter of the World's Population.**
5. **The Persecution of the Tribulation Saints.**
6. **The Earthly and Cosmic Disturbances.**

After these 6 Seal Judgments we then stepped in Revelation 7. It was in chapter 7 where we were given a view of the earth during the Tribulation through the eyes of God. The 6 Seal Judgments in chapter 6 are seen through the eyes of John but chapter 7 blesses us with a view from the eyes of God.

It is in chapter 7 that we were able to see the GRACE OF GOD. We were able to see that while God is pouring out the Seal Judgments on the earth He is at the same time doing all He can to reach the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that they will be saved. When we came through the letters to the 7 churches there was a verse there that pointed to the GRACE OF GOD. Let me show you what Jesus said to the Church at Philadelphia.

Revelation 3:10

¹⁰ *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

The Tribulation will be a time in which God will purge the earth in preparation for the Millennial Kingdom and at the same time it will be a last opportunity for ALL WHO DWELL UPON THE EARTH to turn to God.

In Revelation 7 we were able to see who God will use to spread the Gospel. It will be 144,000 Jewish men, 12,000 from each tribe. These men will be needed because the church will not be here for we will be raptured away before the Tribulation. This can be seen in Revelation 3:10. The Church will be kept from the hour of trial.

Most likely the 2 witnesses of Revelation 11 will come on the scene after the Rapture and it will be through their testimony that the 144,000 will come to Christ and they will go across the earth spreading the Gospel. The result will be amazing.

Revelation 7:9, 13-14

⁹ *After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;*

¹³ *And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?*

¹⁴ *And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

The revival during the Tribulation will be amazing for many will turn to Jesus Christ. When they do however they will basically sign the death warrant as followers of Jesus Christ. The souls which John sees in Revelation 7 have died during the Tribulation and most likely the majority have died as martyrs.

Now let me pull this all together. Revelation 7 is here to remind us that God has not abandoned mankind during the Tribulation but He has made a way for those of the Tribulation to hear the Gospel because He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:7-9

⁷ *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

⁸ *But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

⁹ *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

Now as we come to Revelation 8 the Holy Spirit will get our focus back upon the Judgments.

I. The 7th Seal Judgment

Notice Revelation 8:1

Here we see that when the 7th Seal is opened there is silence in heaven for about a half an hour.

Let me give you something to consider here. In the Temple there was the sound of music and singing could be heard while the sacrifices were being offered but when it came time to offer the incense silence would then fill the Temple. The offering of incense was a solemn time for it represented the time of prayer.

With that said let us notice a few more verses.

Notice Revelation 8:2-3

Here we see the offering of incense in heaven.

Now I want to go back to verse 1 to consider the half an hour of silence again. Zephaniah spoke of a time of silence that would come when the Day of the Lord was at hand and he gives us a little more detail.

Zephaniah 1:6-8

⁶ *And them that are turned back from the LORD; and those that have not sought the LORD, nor enquired for him.*

⁷ *Hold thy peace [KEEP SILENT] at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests.*

⁸ *And it shall come to pass in the day of the LORD's sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel.*

Zephaniah speaks of a silence that will come when the DAY OF THE LORD is at hand. Zephaniah goes on and he tells us that the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice and has invited His guests.

Let me read the words of Tony Garland on Zephaniah's words and what is recorded in Revelation.

"Zephaniah revealed that silence would attend the Day of the Lord in response to the solemn occasion where He will prepare a sacrifice and invite His guests. The sacrifice will consist of the men who oppose God and the guests are the birds of heaven who will feast upon them."

Let me show you the verses which he points to.

Revelation 19:17-21

¹⁷ And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

¹⁸ That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

¹⁹ And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

²⁰ And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

²¹ And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Let me get you back to the silence again.

When the 7th Seal is opened and the inhabitants of heaven are able to see the Judgments which are about to fall upon the people of the earth they are all reduced to silence. This silence seems to be an overwhelming awe that comes upon those who are in heaven. The silence can be seen as "A CALM BEFORE THE STORM".

Application:

This tells us how devastating the judgments of the Tribulation will be for they will be able to silence the praise of the angels and the saints who are round about the throne in heaven. This thought alone cries out for people to be saved.

Notice Revelation 8:1-2

This 7th Seal Judgment will contain within it 7 Trumpet Judgments. Seven angels are given 7 trumpets and as each one sounds there will be another judgment which will come upon the earth. These Trumpet Judgments can be divided into 2 different groups.

Group 1 - The Natural Systems

1. **The Earth**
2. **The Sea**
3. **The Waters**
4. **The Sun**

Group 2 - Men

The first 4 seem to be warnings. Let us understand that Revelation 7 is taking place while all of this is happening.

Notice Revelation 8:3-4

Here we see that the incense which was given to this angel was combined with the prayers of ALL the saints. Let me show you the prayers which were included here.

Revelation 6:9-10

⁹ And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

These people who were killed for their faith cried out to God and petitioned Him to bring judgment and their prayers were saved for this very time which we read about here in Revelation 8.

But it is not just the prayers of these saints but Revelation 8:3 tells us they are the prayers of ALL SAINTS. These would be the Old Testament Saints as well as the New Testament Saints who have cried out for God to avenge their suffering brought on by the inhabitants of the earth. Some of the prayers which are seen here are hundreds and thousands of years old. Let me show you how effective they will be.

Notice Revelation 8:5

Notice there is voices, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. The number 4 refers to GLOBAL judgment. The point to be seen here is that the prayers of the saints which have been offered over the years as they cried for God to avenge their suffering have not been words that were lost. They have been stored in heaven for this very time and now they will contribute to the Trumpet Judgments of the Tribulation.

Application:

The prayers which are mixed with the incense here are a reminder that our prayers WHEN OFFERED IN THE WILL OF GOD is not wasted words.

Psalm 141:1-2

Lord, I cry unto thee: make haste unto me; give ear unto my voice, when I cry unto thee.

² Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense;

Let me show you what Cornelius learned about his prayers in Acts.

Acts 10:1-4

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

² A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

³ He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

⁴ And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

Let me remind you what James wrote.

James 5:16-18

¹⁶ Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

¹⁷ Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

Listen to this poem by an unnamed author:

There is an eye that never sleeps
Beneath the wing of night;
There is an ear that never shuts
When sink the beams of light.

There is an arm that never tires
When human strength gives way;
There is a love that never fails
When earthly loves decay.

That eye is fixed on seraph throngs;
That arm upholds the sky;
That ear is filled with angel songs;
That love is throned on high.

But there's a power which man can wield,
When mortal aid is vain,
That eye, that ear, that love to reach,
That listening ear to gain.

That power is PRAYER, which soars on high,
Through Jesus, to the throne;
And moves the hand which moves the world,
To bring salvation down!"

Let me show you what Paul wrote to Timothy.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

² For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

⁴ Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Conclusion:

The Judgments which we shall start into next week will be the results of the prayers of the saints. Let me leave you with a statement by Seiss.

"All this occurs in answer to the prayers of the saints. There are those who think meanly of prayer, and are always asking: 'What profit should we have if we pray unto the Almighty?' The true answer is, 'much every way.'