

SEVENTH SEAL

The seventh seal noted in the Book of Revelation contains the three woes which brings to an end God's punishment on humanity for their refusal to repent of their wickedness.

The events that take place on earth after this final seal is opened could be avoided if humanity would believe the things that the prophets, Jesus and the early church taught and would believe the warning and witness of Sovereign God's servants during the end times.

However, considering human nature the chances of mankind changing from rebellion against God and his ways, to obedience to him and his ways is extremely remote. As sure as the sun rises and sets the seventh seal will be opened. Therefore, you might want to pay careful attention to the information about the seventh seal contained in this broadcast, because there is a way of escape if one will follow God's instructions .

Revelation chapter 8, verse 1 says this:

"And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour" (Rev.8:1 KJV).

We are not told why there is silence in heaven, but if we assume that this half hour is in the context of the prophetic hour for a day, there would be about 7½ earth days of silence in heaven.(Num.14:34; Ezk.4:6)

Continuing in verse 2:

"And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given to him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand" (Rev.8:2-4 KJV).

Here, we see each of the seven angels standing before God given a trumpet to blow. While they are waiting to blow their trumpets, another angel comes forth and stands at the altar and is given incense and the prayers of the saints, which he offers to God on the altar.

This scene is reminiscent of the high priest in the earthly temple offering incense to God, and it seems to be connected to the thanksgiving of the saints and their request to the Sovereign Father that he send his Son to rule the earth (Matt.6:9-13). Also see Psa.141:1-2; 1.Pet.3:12; Rev.5:8.

Verse 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 lightning, and an earthquake" (Rev.8:5 KJV).

After presenting the incense and the prayers to God, the angel reaches down and fills his censer with the fire from the altar. Normally, the censer was used to present something that smelled sweet to God. It was also used as an act of worship and supplication for God's mercy and/or intercession on behalf of his people. Here, we see the censer is symbolic of judgment, because fire is symbolic of a purification agent and punishment.

After filling the censer, the angel will cast it to the earth. As this literal fire of God or the energy that it represents enters the earth from the spirit dimension, there will be a tremendous earthquake along with thunder and lightening as this physical dimension is torn apart prior to the sounding of the first trumpet. See Gen.19:16-25.

The first angels prepares to sound in verse 6:

"And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound" (Rev.8:6 KJV).

The blowing of these trumpets announce and send forth seven specific plagues that will devastate the earth and terrify its population in preparation for the first and second return of Christ.

The First Angel Sounds in verse 7:

"The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mixed with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of the trees were burnt up, and all the green grass was burnt up" (Rev.8:7 Para.).

Here, we see hail and fire mixed with blood raining upon the earth. This is reminiscent of the hail and fire that was poured out on the Egyptians for their refusal to release the Israelites. See Ex.9:22-26.

In this first plague, a third of all the grass and trees will be burned up. A fire this size will cause tremendous problems in the atmosphere and will shroud the earth in a cloud of smoke and ash. The blood that comes along with the hail and fire is both literal and symbolic. It is literal, in that it is real blood that will cause disease and other problems as it rots upon the earth, and it is symbolic because it pictures the wrath of God and vengeance for the blood of the saints. See Isa.28:1-8; Ezk.13:9-16; 14:19; 16:38.

The Second Angel Sounds in verses 8 and 9:

"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; 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" (Rev.8:8-9 KJV).

A large flaming object pierces the atmosphere and crashes into the sea. Whether this flaming object is an angel or the manifestation of his power, a third of the sea will become literal blood, a third of the life in the sea will die, and a third of the ships will be destroyed. It also seems very likely that the impact of this large object will cause large tidal waves that will cause massive destruction to coastal cities.

The Third Angel blows his trumpet in verses 10 and 11:

"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 water; 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" (Rev.8:10-11 KJV).

In this punishment, there is a parallel to the plague upon the Egyptians in Exodus chapter 15. This star named wormwood, is more than likely an angel who fulfills the prophecies in Deuteronomy chapter 29 and Jeremiah chapter 9 to punish Israel for their rebellion against the Creator God and the breaking of the covenant that they had with him. This star poisons a third of the available drinking water at its source, killing a great number of people. See Ex.7:17-25, Psa.78:44; 105:29.

The Fourth Angel Sounds in verse 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" (Rev.8:12 KJV).

When the fourth angel sounds, a third of the solar, lunar, and stellar radiation will cease to fall upon the earth. Besides causing great terror among the earth's population, a one-third reduction in radiation upon the earth will have an adverse impact upon the earth's temperature and weather, which will cause havoc with food production. See Amos 8:9.

The Three Woes begin in verse 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!" (Rev.8:13 KJV).

These next three punishments called woes, are extremely severe. The sounding of the last three angelic trumpeters will bring tremendous devastation on the earth. The number three is often symbolic of divine fulfillment, perfection, or completeness, and these three woes complete this phase of God's wrath toward the earth and its

inhabitants.

The Fifth Angel Sounds in chapter 9, verses 1 and 2:

"And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven to the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit" (vs.1-2).

The fifth angel blasts his trumpet and a star, which is probably another angel, falls from heaven to earth with the keys and authority to unlock the abyss. Note that this punishment on mankind does not come from God's dimension of time and space, rather, it comes from beneath the earth. As soon as the angel opens up the abyss, thick smoke issues out and obstructs the sun causing darkness in that area of the world.

Out of this smoke comes a swarm of strange creatures (see verses 7-10), which have the sting of a scorpion.

Continuing in verses 3 and 4

"And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads" (vs.3-4).

Notice also that they are not to destroy the vegetation of the earth, but they are to inflict pain on all the people who do not have God's protection. The prophet Joel graphically describes these prophetic events in the second chapter of his prophecy. Joel says:

"Blow the trumpet; sound the alarm on Zion, God's sacred hill. Tremble, people of Judah! The day of the Lord is coming soon. It will be a dark and gloomy day, a black and cloudy day. The great army of locusts advance like darkness spreading over the

mountains. There has never been anything like it, and there never will be again" (Joel 2:1-2 GNB).

"And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army; for his camp is very great; for he is strong that executes his word; for the day of the Lord is great; and very terrible; and who can abide it?" (Joel 2:11 GNB). See also Joel 2:3; 11; Rev.9:11.

Continuing in Revelation chapter 9 verse 5:

"And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he strikes a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and will not find it; and will desire to die, and death will flee from them . . . And they had tails like to scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months" (Rev.9:5-10).

The sting of these creatures will be so severe that a person would rather die than endure the agonizing pain inflicted by them.

Verse 11, "And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew language is Abaddon, but in the Greek language has his name Apollyon" (v11).

We are told that the angel who rules these creatures is named Abaddon or Apollyon, which means, The Destroyer.

The Sixth Angel Sounds in verse 12:

"One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter. And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God. Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates" (vs.12-14).

With the completion of the first woe, the sixth angel blows his trumpet to release the four angels being held at the Euphrates River, which is the eastern border of the land promised to the ancient Israelites.

Continuing in verse 16:

"And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like to serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt" (vs.16-19).

This tell us that God is going to use his great army of two hundred million strange looking creatures to kill a third of mankind.

Verse 20 and 21:

"And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts" (vs.20-21).

After two-thirds of mankind has been killed by the fifth and sixth punishments, those who are left still will not believe that it is Christ who is punishing and killing them with these supernatural beings; therefore, they will refuse to repent and worship the Sovereign God of heaven and earth.

Just before the seventh angel sounds his trumpet, another powerful angel will announce that there will be no more delay, and that the mystery of God has come to an end.

Revelation chapter 10 verses 5 through 7 says this:

"And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And swore by him that lives for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and

the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he will begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he has declared to his servants the prophets" (Rev.10:5-7 KJV).

This angel announces the end of one phase of God's plan for mankind and the beginning of another. The great mystery he refers to is the plan and purpose of God for creating mankind. It is now time for the next phase in which all of humanity past, present, and future will be given an opportunity to understand this great plan, and be given an opportunity to decide whether or not they want to take part in it.

Just before the seventh angel blows the seventh trumpet to announce the third woe, there is a major event that must take place prior to the initiation of these final punishments.

THE FIRST RESURRECTION

At the end of the sixth punishment and the second woe, and as the seventh angel begins sounding his trumpet, which announces the last seven punishments on mankind, Christ sends his angels to collect his Heavenly Father's children and remove them from the earth in preparation for his return as the conquering King.

Only Sinners Left on Earth

After the Sovereign Father's children are removed from earth in what is called the first resurrection, there will be no human left on the face of the earth with the spirit of God. The elect of God will be with Christ in heaven as immortal spirit-beings (Rev.15:2-4) waiting to return with him as kings and priests to conquer and rule the earth.

Once this event happens, the sixth punishment, which is the second woe will be finished. And now it is time for the seventh angel to announce the seventh punishment, which is the third woe that contain the last seven plagues, which are more horrible and more destructive than any thus far.

The Seventh Angel Sounds in Revelation chapter 11, verse: 15-19:

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he will reign for ever and ever" (v15 KJV)

This angel will announce the end of human rule on earth and the imminent invasion of the earth by Jesus Christ, the heavenly hosts, and the Sovereign Father's children who are now immortal kings and priests in the Family and Kingdom of God.

Verses 16 and 18:

"And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshiped God, saying, We give you thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which are, and was, and are to come; because you have taken to you your great power, and have reigned. And the nations were angry, and your wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that you should give reward to your servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear your name, small and great: and should destroy them that destroy the earth" (vs. 16-18).

Again, we see the announcement that Jesus Christ is the ruler of the earth. After this announcement, the only thing that will remain to be done is for him to take physical possession of the earth and its inhabitants.

Verse 19:

"And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail" (v19).

As the temple of God in heaven is opened, there will be great atmospheric disturbances around the earth that are accompanied by earthquakes and hail storms. See also Rev. 15:5.

THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

The seven last plagues are the most horrible, terrifying, and destructive things that will have ever come upon the earth and humanity and are what Jesus spoke of when he said:

"For then will be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever will be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (Matt. 24:21-22 KJV).

Revelation chapter 15, verse 1 says this:

"And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God" (v1).

These last plagues prepare the earth for Jesus Christ and his vast army of spirit-beings. Remember that the nations of the earth will have already been devastated by the preceding punishments.

Continuing in verse 5:

"And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. And one of the four beasts gave the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled" (vs. 5-8).

Revelation chapter 16, verse 1:

"And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon

them which worshiped his image" (vs.1-2).

This seems to be a special punishment that is specifically designed for those who have received the mark of the Beast system and worship the image of its leader and who still refuse to repent and worship the true God even after living going through the preceding seven plagues.

The Second Plague

Continuing in verse 3;

"And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea" (v3).

The effect of all life in the sea dying is horrific, because without its cleansing effect on the air we breath, all human and animal life on earth would eventually die.

Verses 4 through 6:

"And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, You are righteous, O Lord, which are, and was, and will be, because you have judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink; for they are worthy" (vs.4-6).

As was done during the plague upon Egypt, we see that the source of the rivers will again be turned into blood. However, this time it is not only the rivers but the source of all water that will be turned to blood. This plague has the potential to destroy all human, animal, and plant life on the planet.

A Righteous Judgment

"And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are your judgments" (v7).

Why are God's judgments true and righteous? Because the penalty for sin is death (Rom.6:23) and after the first resurrection, there are only sinful

people left on the planet who are all worthy of death.

Verses 8 and 9:

"And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which has power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory" (vs.8-9).

The prophet Isaiah also speaks of a time when the moon and sun will radiate a tremendous amount of heat upon the earth. It is hard to imagine heat of this magnitude striking the earth and the damage that it will cause:

Isaiah said of this time:

"Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD binds up the breach of his people, and heals the stroke of their wound. Behold, the name of the LORD comes from far, burning with his anger, and the burden thereof is heavy: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire: (Isa.30:26-27 KJV).

A sevenfold increase in the sun's radiation would immediately ignite all the forests and grasslands and begin to combust and/or vaporize all materials on the earth's surface with a flash point under 600 degrees Fahrenheit. This plague will turn the earth into a raging inferno.

Verses 10 and 11 speak of the fifth plague;

"And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain. And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds" (vs.10-11).

Amazingly, there will still be people alive on the planet after the fourth plague; therefore, we can assume that the fourth plague will not last long. The

fifth plague is specifically tailored for the geographical area where the nations comprising the Beast system are located. See Ex.10:21-23.

Notice that those who sit in darkness are in great pain. Although some of this pain is partly due to mental anguish, it is clear that most of this pain comes from injuries sustained in the previous four plagues and, specifically, the plague of sores with which they are still being afflicted. Nevertheless, they will continue to blaspheme God and refuse to turn away from the things that have caused God to punish them.

The Sixth Plague begins in verse 12:

"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared" (v12).

The Euphrates River will be dried up to allow a vast army from the East to cross over it.

Verses 13 and 14:

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty" (vs.13-14).

Not only are the evil spirits who lead the nations to the east of the Euphrates River going to gather their forces to fight Jesus Christ, but also they will gather a great army from among all nations and assemble them in a place called Armageddon to fight Christ:

"And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon" (v16).

The Seventh Plague begins in verse 17:

"And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightning; and

there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give to her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found" (vs.17-20).

Here, we see great atmospheric disturbances as the greatest earthquake in human history shakes the entire earth causing massive destruction on a worldwide scale.

God will remember the evil political, governmental, and religious system of Babylon that has caused so much pain, suffering, and agony to humanity. And he will begin the final process; whereby he will totally eliminate it and the evil spirits who rule it from the earth.

Verse 21:

"And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great" (v21).

This plague contains hailstones that weigh approximately 120 pounds. Once this final plague is finished, the entire earth will be in shambles; its land will lie ruined, its cities will be destroyed, and its people will be demoralized and living in terror, wondering what horror the next day will bring. Yet, they still will not acknowledge the true God and his Son Jesus Christ and repent of their evil ways; instead, they will curse God for punishing them.

The prophet Isaiah said of this time:

"Scream in terror, for the Lord's time has come, the time for the Almighty to crush you. Your arms lie paralyzed with fear; the strongest hearts melt, and are afraid. Fear grips you with terrible pangs, like those of a woman in labor. You look at one another, helpless, as the flames of the burning city reflect upon your pallid faces. For see, the day of the Lord is coming, the terrible day of his wrath and fierce

anger. The land shall be destroyed, and all the sinners with it. The heavens will be black above them. No light will shine from stars or sun or moon. And I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sin; I will crush the arrogance of the proud man and the haughtiness of the rich. Few will live when I have finished my work. Men will be as scarce as gold—of greater value than the gold of Ophir. For I will shake the heavens in my wrath and fierce anger, and the earth will move from its place in the skies" (Isa.13:6-13 LBP).

According to the prophet Joel chapter 2 verse 32, anyone who calls on the Lord during the seven last plagues, will be saved, just as ancient Israel was protected from most of the plagues of Egypt.

THE INVASION BEGINS

Revelation chapter 19, beginning in verse 11:

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon it was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he does judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns;. . . and he was clothed with a garment that had been dipped in blood: and his name was called The Word of God" (vs.11-13 KJV).

In this vision, John sees Jesus Christ in battle dress, ready to invade the earth and make war with the nations who have not heeded the warning to repent of their wickedness.

Continuing in verse 14:

"And the armies that were in heaven followed upon white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and pure. And out of his mouth goes forth a sharp sword, that with it he might smite the nations: and he will shepherd them with an iron rod: and he treads the winepress of the anger of God Almighty. And he has on his garment and on his right thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (vs.14-16).

With the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords, a whole new era of peace and prosperity will emerge. From the death and destruction caused by the wrath of God on an evil and corrupt world will come a people who will have the opportunity to live in a great time of peace and prosperity.

I see that my time is up, but if you want to know more about the prophecies concerning the end times or more about the other subjects that I have briefly touched on in this in this broadcast, Write to me at the at the address given in the following announcement. Until next time this is Bud Cocherell for Bible Research .org..

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