

Revealing The Soon-Coming All-Powerful Sovereign World Ruler

[Part 10]

Revelation 8:1 [NIV] *“When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.”*

Do **not** expect me to even try to explain this period of silence.

No scriptures that I know of reflect what this means.

John himself does **not** try to explain or interpret the heavenly silence, instead, he proceeds to the next event in his vision.

Revelation 8:2 [NIV] *“And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.”*

Why this blowing of trumpets?

The blowing of trumpets is mentioned over 100 times in scripture.

God instructed His people Israel to use trumpets for:-

Warnings:-

Jeremiah 4:5-6; Jeremiah 6:1; Amos 3:6; Jeremiah 51:27; Ezekiel 7:14; Ezekiel 33:3-6.

Assembling the people:-

Exodus 19:16; Numbers 10:4.

Announcement of God’s presence or intervention:-

Exodus 20:18; Revelation 1:10; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Military purpose:-

Judges 7:16-18; Numbers 10:9.

Announcing feast days and call to worship:-

Psalms 81:3; Isaiah 27:13; Numbers 10:10; Joel 2:15.

Announcing impending judgement:-

Hosea 5:8; Hosea 8:1; Joel 2:1; Zephaniah 1:16.

Revelation 8:3-5 [NIV] *“Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. **He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne.** The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel’s hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.”*

Before we come to God’s judgements John is shown something we all need to know about our prayers.

Frequently I have heard, as a minister of Jesus Christ, Christians admit *“I am discouraged, I have prayed and prayed and nothing has happened.”*

John sees an angel with a golden censer, a vessel for carrying burning incense, linked to the prayers of God's people.

It is right and proper that we as God's people should give ourselves to prayer, including for the return of Jesus Christ so that God's Kingdom may come in its fullness.

Matthew 6:9-10 [NIV] *“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’”*

Part of Jesus Christ's guide to our prayers was to pray for God's Kingdom to come to earth.

As yet such prayers that have been uttered by faithful Christians have **not** been answered in full.

Why?

God's Kingdom **cannot** come on earth until God has shaken loose the usurpers who hold this world in their power and control.

In this picture given to John he sees that some of our prayers have been acknowledged, but God has purposely delayed His response.

These prayers are awaiting on God's altar to be mixed with the divine incense and so become effective before the throne of God.

John sees in vision that time arriving.

A time for burning coals and our prayers to be hurled to the earth as God's judgements continue.

Based on this event our prayers are accepted and used by God, but in His own time and way as our Sovereign God, so be patient.

Think of it this way:-

A farmer plants seed grain in the autumn, yet he sees **no** sign of growth through the cold winter.

Does the farmer lay awake at night worrying that the seeds he placed in the ground might be ineffective?

No, because the farmer knows that spring will come and the seeds will break out of their invisible bed in the earth and eventually produce waving fields of corn. The farmer's faith is justified.

Likewise, God wants us to be patient with every prayer and petition we sincerely send to that heavenly throne, knowing they are within His will.

Why should we be talking about impending judgement?

Genesis 2:15-20 [NIV] *“The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.’” The LORD God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.’ Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.”*

God once walked and conversed with the humans He had created.

God spoke to them in the Garden of Eden and they responded in a personal and intimate way.

Genesis 3:6-8 [NIV] *“When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, **and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.**”*

After their disobedient sin the first humans hid from God when He came to talk with them.

Since this event most of their human descendents have chosen **not** to listen to God’s voice.

Humans have always been able to hear the voice of their Creator and Sustainer if they chose to.

By their own choice humans have mostly ignored the voice of God.

The resulting rebellion against God and His way of living has brought on humanity all the violence, oppression, and all types of evil.

2 Chronicles 16:9 [NIV] *“For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war.”*

King Asa was typical of all human beings, what confidence they ever had, if any, slipped in the face of problems, and they *“do their own thing.”*

The result of this was conflict and death.

God has been watching humanity throughout human history as He sees their *“cup of iniquity fill up.”*

Then suddenly the cup overflows leaving humanity helpless to reverse the deadly situation.

It is then that God brings His judgements upon humanity, to eradicate all the evil and save humanity from itself.

Matthew 24:21-22 [NIV] *“For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now, and never to be equalled again. **If those days had not been cut short, no-one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.**”*

Jesus Christ’s dialogue about the end of the age of human rule.

He tells us that God will have to intervene in human history to stop the human race from exterminating itself.

God does this because of those who have faithfully continued to listen to Him, and submit to His Sovereign guidance in their lives.

This is the background to what John saw in vision.

The judgement of God against the evil that grips the majority of human beings in its captivity.

Revelation 8:7 [NIV] *“The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.”*

People have always loved to use fire to harm one another, so God gives them all the fire they will ever want.

Revelation 8:8-9 [NIV] *“The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.”*

Humans have always been prone to shed the blood of other humans, God replies, blow the trumpet and give them all the blood they can take.

Revelation 8:10-11 [NIV] *“The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water, the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.”*

Wormwood is a plant with a very bitter taste.

People have always dealt with each other in bitterness.

God says give them bitterness, even more than they want.

Revelation 8:12 [NIV] *“The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.”*

People have always loved their deeds of darkness, God will say, blow the trumpet and give them darkness.

Revelation 8:13 [NIV] *“As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in mid-air call out in a loud voice: “Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!”*

Remember all of these woes are being poured out before Jesus Christ and all the resurrected faithful Christians waiting in the clouds for the time they can return to earth and begin to rule the earth purged of evil.

John 11:35 [NIV] *“Jesus wept.”*

I'm sure that Jesus, God the Father, the Holy Spirit and all who are waiting in the clouds will be shedding tears by the bucketful as they see the pain and suffering.

These suffering humans are those who have **not** been reached with the gospel message or who have rejected it, allowing the veil of Satan's deception to blind them.

I wonder if God will have to reject those in the present church congregations who have heard Bible truths over and over again in order to find willing and responsive listeners elsewhere to fulfil His end time commission to humanity.

Remember it was the religious leaders and their congregations who rejected Christ's message when He preached it on earth.

My personal response is this website and I pray daily God will use it to bring about revival in the Christian churches today.

Today we are hearing an entirely different voice than depicted in these judgements of God

The voice of God the Father is resounding through the words of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Matthew 11:28 [NIV] *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”*

It is God's will and God's plan that we hear His gentle voice today before He pours out His judgements.

Luke 21:33-35 [NIV] *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth.”*

We should **not** be deafened by the complexities and cares of our daily life to the voice of Jesus and the voice of the Holy Spirit Whom He has sent to give us the counsel of the Holy Scriptures in the Christian Bible.

Ephesians 5:6-16 [NIV] *“Let no-one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: “Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” Be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”*

It was the church of Ephesus who had forsaken their first love for Jesus and His commission, [**Revelation 2:4-5**].