

Revelation Chapter 8 - The Seven Trumpets

The seventh seal launches the seven trumpets

Rev 8:1-13 NIV When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

- Remember chapter 7 was somewhat parenthetical - that is the six seals were opened in Chapter 6, then in chapter 7 John saw the 144,000 sealed (the firstfruits), and after that a great multitude that no one could count (they who have come out of the great tribulation)
- Now in chapter 8 we are back to the opening of the seventh and final seal - but before it is opened - there is a solemn moment - perhaps because of the nature of what is about to be unleashed upon the earth

2 And I saw **the seven angels** who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

The seven angels seem to be assigned to carry out God's wrath

- Rev 8:6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.
- Rev 15:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, **seven angels having the seven last plagues**; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.
- Rev 15:6-8 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. 7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the **seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God**, who liveth for ever and ever. 8 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**.
- Rev 16:1 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**.

The seven angels show John two women (the great whore) and (the bride, the Lamb's wife)

- Rev 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, **Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters**:
- Rev 21:9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, **Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife**.

Interestingly, seven trumpets were used in the judgement of Jericho (Joshua 6)

3 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 God's people**, on the golden altar in front of the throne.

4 **The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people**, went up before God from the angel's hand. 5 **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. 6 Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.

The golden censer offered prayers unto God, and it was also used to hurl fire upon the earth

- In some way, the prayers of the saints are linked to the judgement of God

The martyrs were crying out to be avenged - (maybe the silence in heaven was their realization that that time was about to begin

- Rev 6:9-11 NIV When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. 10 They called out in a loud voice, "**How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?**" 11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.

In a similar way the children of Israel cried out to God when they were in bondage in Egypt, and the LORD came down to rescue them

- Exo 3:6-9 NIV Then he said, "**I am the God of your father**, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. 7 The LORD said, "**I have indeed seen** the misery of my people in Egypt. **I have heard** them crying out because of their slave drivers, and **I am concerned** about their suffering. 8 **So I have come down** to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey--the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.

Jesus taught a parable that indicates His avenging those who cry out to Him

- Luk 18:2-8 KJV Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: 3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, **Avenge me of mine adversary**. 4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; 5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, **I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me**. 6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. 7 And **shall not God avenge his own elect**, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? 8 I tell you that **he will avenge them speedily**. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

There is the YEAR of the LORD's favor, and the DAY of His Vengeance

- Isa 61:1-2 NIV The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the

prisoners, 2 to proclaim **the year** of the LORD's favor and **the day of vengeance** of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

The 1st Trumpet

7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

The 2nd Trumpet

8 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; 9 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.

The 3rd Trumpet

10 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 waters; 11 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.

The 4th Trumpet

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. 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!

The plagues of Egypt

Some of the plagues of Egypt were similar to judgements brought on by the blowing of these trumpets as well as the seven bowls that will be covered in a later chapter.

	<i>PLAGUES</i>		<i>TRUMPETS</i>		<i>VIALS</i>
Hail	Exodus 9:22-26	1st	Revelation 8:7	1st	Revelation 16:2
Water turned to Blood	Exodus 7:17-22	2nd	Revelation 8:8-9	2nd	Revelation 16:3
Fresh Water Polluted	Exodus 7:17	3rd	Revelation 8:10-11	3rd	Revelation 16:4
Darkness	Exodus 10:21-23	4th	Revelation 8:12	4th	Revelation 16:8-9
Locusts	Exodus 10:4-6	5th	Revelation 9:1-3	5th	Revelation 16:12-14
Frogs	Exodus 8:1-7	6th	Revelation 9:13-19	6th	Revelation 16:12-14
Hail	Exodus 9:22	7th	Revelation 11:15-19	7th	Revelation 16:17-21

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¹ <http://www.ritualabusefree.org/BS20-Plagues%20of%20Egypt.htm>