

I. Overview for Chapter 7

- A. Chapter 7 is the first _____ chapter in Revelation. Remember Parenthetical means that we are stopping the main action to explain some things before continuing on with the story. God is answering the question raised at the end of chapter 6, “Who can stand.”
- B. As an answer God gives John a vision to set him at peace and remind him of God’s sovereignty and ability to _____ his people. However, it’s important to remember that from heaven’s vantage point, the issue of survival is not as much about who can survive physically as it is who can survive spiritually.

II. VERSE BY VERSE – CHAPTER 7

A. (Rev 7:1-8) 1 *After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.* 2 *And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea,* 3 *saying, " Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."* 4 *And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:* 5 *from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand,* 6 *from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand,* 7 *from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand,* 8 *from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.*

1. “After this” signifies that after he saw the first 6 seal judgments, John was taken into a _____ vision.
2. At the beginning of this new vision 4 groups are introduced to him. 1) Four Angels, 2) Four Winds, 3) The Angel with the Seal of God, and 4) the 144,000
3. The Four Angels
 - a. John describes them as being at the four corners of the earth. He is using an idiom that was popular even back then when referring to the four cardinal directions north, south, east, and west. This speaks of the _____ nature of their authority and effect.
 - b. The angels are standing and holding back the four winds of the earth. They are empowered and assigned by God to hold back these winds, to keep them from harming the earth. The Greek words for *standing* and *holding* both emphasize the idea of _____ standing and holding, unceasingly for a long period of time. Thus, these four angels are likely, even now holding back these winds until Jesus releases them from their task in these last days.
4. The Four Winds
 - a. The term *four winds* is used in 2 distinct ways in scripture. In Daniel 8:8 we see it used to refer to the four cardinal directions. In Zechariah 6:1-5 it refers to _____ beings that move upon the earth, shaping it and stirring it up, much as wind does.
 - b. In deciding which winds these are, it’s important to look at the context clues in Zechariah. There, the four winds are described as four horse drawn chariots colored red, white, black, and dappled or pale. The angel tells Zechariah that these *are the four spirits of heaven, going forth after standing before the Lord of all the earth* (v. 5). The Hebrew word for *spirit* here is the same as the word for *wind*. Thus, these spirits or winds are four angelic horsemen and are the means by which God initiates certain judgment events on the earth.
 - c. This is what John just saw in the previous _____! (1st four seals of chap 6)

5. The Angel with the Seal of God

- a. Next John sees an angel coming out of the rising of the sun with the seal of God. His job is to _____ everyone who is God's servant before the release of the final judgments of God on the earth.
- b. Two questions arise here:
 - i. Firstly, what is this seal?
 - i. It is either a _____ or physical marking that sets those who serve God apart from the rest of humanity.
 - ii. The word seal is used many times in the New Testament in referring to the indwelling of the _____ identifying us as belonging to Jesus (2Cor. 1:21-22, Eph. 1:13-14, 4:29-30).
 - iii. Thus, the mark that we are truly servants of God and the one who keeps us from falling away is the Holy Spirit who takes up residence within us.
 - ii. Secondly, why would an angel seal God's servants with the Holy Spirit?
 - i. It seems like the Holy Spirit wouldn't need an angel to seal Him onto a person.
 - ii. As a whole, the gospel, throughout history has progressed from _____ to west. Wherever God is at work, His angels are at work as both ministers to the saints and messengers of the Lord.
 - iii. This is the angel who oversees the spreading of salvation throughout the earth. His work must be completed before Jesus takes the scroll and opens the seals (Matt. 24:14)
 - iv. It seems clear from the context that the angel is doing this before the release of God's judgments as a _____ from them.

6. The 144,000

- a. Who are the 144,000?
- b. The text says that they were 144,000 people from the tribes of Israel. They are literal people of _____ heritage.
- c. It is true that the 9 tribes of Israel who made up the Northern Kingdom in the Old Testament were conquered by the Babylonians and _____ throughout the nations. However, it is no small thing for God to know who descended from who.
- d. Old Testament law required the High Priest to wear a golden plate bearing the _____ of God engraved on it upon their foreheads when approaching the Holy of Holies (Ex. 28:36-38). In the same way these 144,000 Jewish men from every tribe are priests before the Lord. Since they are not all Levites, however, this means that they must be saved through Jesus Christ.
- e. The protection of these 144,000 is profound as well, for we find them again in Revelation 14 at the end of the Great Tribulation, all _____ and well.

B. (Rev. 7:9-17) 9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands. 10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen." 13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15

"For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. 16 They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

1. The phrase *After these things*, once again, indicates a _____ in the time and place of John's vision. There he sees a great multitude of people worshipping Jesus.
2. We know both the identity of this multitude and the time that this is taking place because of what one of the 24 elders tells John. He says that they have come out of the great tribulation, never falling away from Jesus all the way until death or rapture.
3. That means that, unlike the 144,000, the seal placed on these believers secured them spiritually for eternity, but did not necessarily protect them _____ through the Great Tribulation. The judgments of God do not directly happen to them, as is seen in Revelation 9:4. However, the responses of the Antichrist and his followers to God's judgments are to persecute these believers unto death.
4. This Multitude is described in several ways. Firstly they are innumerable. Secondly they are from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation. This shows us that there is coming a massive end time _____ that will see power released throughout every nation.
5. The multitude is wearing white robes that have been washed in the blood of the lamb, showing that they truly are saved, and they are carrying palm branches. This is a connection to the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles (Lev. 23) celebrating the _____ of Israel from Egypt. This multitude is worshipping God for delivering them from the Antichrist and from the destination of his followers – the lake of fire.
6. This multitude cries out "Salvation belongs to our God." This is actually a quote from Psalm ____ which is prophetically lived out by each of them during the great tribulation.
7. As the multitude not only sing the elders and living creatures fall on their faces before God in worship.
8. After regaining himself, one of the elders addresses John and asks him about the multitude. The elder goes on to explain that they will not only get to be in the unhindered presence of God in His throne room forever, but that He who sits on the throne, the Father Himself, will _____ among them.
9. Having witnessed the horror of the seal judgments released upon the earth in chapter 6, John now discovers the answer to the questions of who can stand. Those who truly know the _____ will gladly stand and face anything for the sake of Jesus.

III. Overview of Chapter 8

- A. Chapter 8 begins the second _____ section, picking up where chapter 6 left off. We start with the last of the 7 seals.
- B. The 7th seal is the final seal, causing the scroll in Jesus' hand to open and calling for the seven angels to prepare to sound the seven trumpets. Remember the seals _____ the earth for the trumpets which prepare the earth for the bowls.
- C. It's interesting to note that while the antichrist's kingdom is on the offensive through the first 5 seals, the sixth seal puts him on the _____.

IV. VERSE BY VERSE - The 7th seal releases the Trumpets (Rev. 8:1-6)

1 When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. 3 Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. 5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed

peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake. 6 And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.

- A. *Silence in heaven* – Suddenly the worship, the shouting, the praying, and even the lightnings and noises from the Father Himself stop and complete silence is in heaven for a solid 30 minutes.
1. Why 30 minutes? Thirty minutes was the approximate time it took for the priest to offer incense in the Holy Place of the Temple. Here we see an angel attend the _____ altar of incense in the true Holy Place and offer it, mixed with the prayers of all the saints.
 2. Why silence? All heaven grows silent in awe of this moment and in _____ over what's about to happen.
- B. *Who stand before God* – These seven angels are set apart from the rest of the angelic hosts as possibly the _____ ranking angels in heaven.
- C. *Another angel* – Then, before the seven can blow their trumpets, another angel approaches the altar and offers incense mixed with the prayers of the saints. If incense is the prayers of the saints (Rev. 5) then how is this angel adding the prayers of the saints to all the prayer of the saints? What's happening here is that every prayer that every saint prayed on the earth throughout the ages is on the altar before the throne of God. To this, the angel adds the prayers being offered by the saints in _____.
- D. *Filled it with fire of the altar* – The angel applies the fire of God to the prayers before sending them down to the earth. The fire from the altar speaks of purifying the prayers, and igniting the _____ of those prayers.

V. Overview of the Trumpets

- A. In verse 7, the trumpet judgments begin. Trumpets in the Bible are always used to _____ people to God's presence or to call God's people to war. These trumpets announce to the earth that the fullness of God's wrath is about to be poured out and "the Kingdoms of this world will be become the Kingdoms of our God and His Christ!"
- B. Whereas the seal judgments are God's judgment against man's desire to provide for himself apart from God, the trumpet judgments are God's judgment against man's belief that _____ is his provider (ie mother earth and other false gods).
- C. The trumpets take place over about a _____ year span. With the first 4 taking one month each, Revelation 9:10 makes it clear that the 5th trumpet is 5 months long. That would then leave 3 months for the horrible events of the 6th trumpet and the final trumpet calling forth Jesus Himself on the scene.

VI. VERSE BY VERSE – The first 4 Trumpets (Rev. 8:7-13) *7 The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. 8 The second angel sounded, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood, 9 and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed. 10 The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. 11 The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter. 12 The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way. 13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"*

- A. At the sounding of the first trumpet hail and fire begin falling from the sky mixed with blood burning up 1/3 of the trees and all the grass of the earth. This is not some symbolic imagery. This will _____ happen at this point. It is similar to the hailstorm God released on Egypt in the 7th plague of Exodus (Ex. 9:23-26).

1. This will have a severe effect on the atmosphere as the sky fills with even more smoke from burning plants and oxygen production seriously decreases.
 2. This will cause the greatest _____ disaster in human history. With massive forest fires ravaging the planet, mankind will have no answer apart from God. This truly is a judgment against man looking to nature for provision.
- B. At the second trumpet a burning mountain, likely a _____, is thrown into the sea causing 1/3 of the sea to become blood and 1/3 of the sea life and ships in the sea to die and be destroyed.
1. This will also have another major ecological effect on the earth. More food supplies, more man made systems of provision, and more oxygen providers will be removed.
 2. There is a specifically _____ element to this judgment. 1/3 of the sea is actually turned to blood by the mountain. This is not to be taken symbolically for there is precedent in the Bible for God doing something similar with Moses turning the Nile to blood in the first plague on Egypt (Ex. 7:17-21).
 3. It's important to note, too, that the mountain doesn't kill the animals in the sea which pollute the waters with their own blood. The mountain turns the sea to _____, which causes the death of the sea creatures and the destruction of the ships.
- C. Then, as if things couldn't get any worse, a great burning star causes 1/3 of the pure water sources of the world to become bitter.
1. Here we see a meteor, containing some chemical element that is _____ to humanity hits the atmosphere and breaks up, dispersing it's deadly contents over 1/3 of the globe.
 2. This is a _____ of Jeremiah 23:15 "Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts concerning the prophets: 'Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall; for from the prophets of Jerusalem profaneness has gone out into all the land.'" It may be that this judgment is released against false prophets who serve the antichrist.
 3. It is also likely that during this time, the believers who are on the earth will, just as Moses and Elisha, be able to _____ the waters for the sake of God's people.
- D. Then, after all of this, the 4th trumpet causes the sun, moon, and stars to only give off 2/3rds of their light and to only shine 2/3rds of the time, leaving 1/3 of every 24 hour period with no light and the other 2/3rds in twilight or less.
1. This means that 4 hours out of each day and 4 hours out of each night, the planet will suffer total darkness, with no natural light. The sun gives the earth light and energy. Without the full strength of the sun, many plants would die or suffer strongly and the energy of the planet would decrease dramatically.
 2. There are several light and darkness sequences throughout the book of Revelation. The sun is darkened at the 6th seal. It is darkened even more here at the 4th trumpet. It is temporarily covered in smoke at the 5th trumpet. Then the 4th bowl dramatically increases the heat of the sun, scorching the planet. Then finally, at the 5th bowl the sun is blocked entirely as darkness envelopes the kingdom of the antichrist.
 3. This means that just before Jesus returns in body, the sky is completely _____. In the midst of this darkness a great light will break forth from heaven and Jesus, in blazing fire and glory will illuminate the earth and sky for all to see. Truly ever eye will see Him!
- E. We're going to have to stop here for today. But before we go, it's important to see past the horror of these judgments to the _____ of God being manifested. Notices that each of the 1st four trumpets are limited to 1/3 of the earth. God is limiting his judgments even still so that men can survive and have an opportunity to repent. On top of this, the next trumpet actually kills 1/3 of humanity. In God's mercy and goodness, he is warning humanity with each of the first four trumpets that 1/3 of them are about to die and they need to choose him quickly. Our God is truly amazing – perfect in his judgments and abounding in loving kindness!