



## The One Year Bible Club



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**December 17**

**Revelation 8:1-13**

#### **Seventh Seal: Prelude to the Seven Trumpets**

8 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. <sup>3</sup> Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. <sup>4</sup> And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. <sup>5</sup> Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw *it* to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

<sup>6</sup> So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

#### **First Trumpet: Vegetation Struck**

<sup>7</sup> The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

## **Second Trumpet: The Seas Struck**

<sup>8</sup> Then 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. <sup>9</sup> And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

## **Third Trumpet: The Waters Struck**

<sup>10</sup> Then 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 water. <sup>11</sup> The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

## **Fourth Trumpet: The Heavens Struck**

<sup>12</sup> Then the fourth angel sounded: 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 were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night. <sup>13</sup> And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

## **OKAY, HERE'S MY TEACHING COMMENTARY**

No one knows for sure why John observed a half hour of silence before the opening of the seventh seal. It very well may be the mercy of God extending time for sinners to repent. Even as the wrath of God begins to be poured out upon the earth, people will still have an opportunity to be saved and this is what we see as Gods highest priority the salvation of souls.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

We see that the prayers of the Saints are offered up with a large amount of incense from angel's hand that ascends before the throne of God. It seems that once again, God has chosen to use the accumulated prayers of his people to bring about the fulfillment of his prophetic purposes.

To me this is a great mystery, I mean if God is almighty and we know that he is why does he choose to include among the forces that seem to move him, the prayers of his people? I'm thinking that it's because we were created with free will and there's a percentage of Christians that have voluntarily aligned themselves with God through prayer and somehow God is glorified through this. An angel fills up the sensor with fire from the altar in heaven and cast it down to the earth which was followed by lightnings, thunders an earthquake and the opening of the next trumpets that pour out the wrath of God upon the earth, waters, skies and stars.

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