

As we enter into chapter 8 of Revelation we continue to see two things...the judgments of God against those who hate him and have persecuted and martyred his children.... I want to pick up on something to bring us understanding that Matt shared last week to put the 8th chapter in perspective...One of the character attribute of God is Justice....

ESV Micah 6: 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

He requires this of his people...for it is a reflection of him..

NLT Ezekiel 14 tells of The Certainty of the Lord's Judgment against evil in Jersulam...but the principles is the same always...God will Judge evil...and bring Justice

NLT Ezekiel 14:12 Then this message came to me from the Lord: ¹³ "Son of man, suppose the people of a country were to sin against me, and I lifted my fist to crush them, cutting off their food supply and sending a famine to destroy both people and animals. ¹⁴ Even if Noah, Daniel, and Job were there, their righteousness would save no one but themselves, says the Sovereign Lord.

¹⁵ "Or suppose I were to send wild animals to invade the country, kill the people, and make the land too desolate and dangerous to pass through.

17 “Or suppose I were to bring war against the land, and I sent enemy armies to destroy both people and animals.

19 “Or suppose I were to pour out my fury by sending an epidemic into the land, and the disease killed people and animals alike.

22 Yet there will be survivors, and they will come here to join you as exiles in Babylon. You will see with your own eyes how wicked they are, and then you will feel better about what I have done to Jerusalem. 23 When you meet them and see their behavior, you will understand that these things are not being done to Israel without cause. I, the Sovereign Lord, have spoken!”

This is the reason that God is acting. The souls of the martyrs call out for Justice, and God alone can provide that, and along with it, redemption for the rest of His people.

This is the call of God’s saints from the beginning Adam after murdered by Cain...when God asked Cain...“What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. Genesis 4:10

This blood is precious to God; the blood of His Image Bearers. We were created in God’s Image, so that we could reflect that image to the rest of creation. Because of this, God demands that we respect that life and that blood.

ESV Genesis 9:6 “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.

NLT Deuteronomy 32:43 “Rejoice with him, you heavens, and let all of God’s angels worship him. Rejoice with his people, you Gentiles, and let all the angels be strengthened in him. For he will avenge the blood of his children; he will take revenge against his enemies. He will repay those who hate him and cleanse his people’s land.”

Including those murdered in the tribulation

*NLT Revelation 6:⁹ When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of all who had been martyred for the word of God and for being faithful in their testimony. ¹⁰ **They shouted** to the Lord and said, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, **how long before you judge** the people who belong to this world and **avenge our blood** for what they have done to us?” ¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them. And they were told to rest a little longer until the full number of their brothers and sisters—their fellow servants of Jesus who were to be martyred—had joined them.*

- The souls of the martyrs during the tribulation...**call out for Justice**, and **God alone can provide that**, and along with it, redemption for the rest of His people.
- 1) **They shouted** Have emotions 2) **how long before you judge** ...aware of time 3) **avenge our blood** ...they know what happened to them, they have memory..
- They are “**under the altar**”? In Exodus 29, the High Priest and his sons are instructed, to anointing the horns of the Altar of

Sacrifice with the blood of a bull, then **pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the Altar.**

- the **lives of these martyrs**, are a **sacrifice unto God** and now their blood, **their very souls cry out to God.**
- **They are the ones saved through the tribulation so far...for their murders seem to be still alive...We are the bride of Chirst saved from the great tribulation...**

ESV Rev 3:10 *Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.*

- The Lord is the **redeemer, restorer, and avenger of blood.**

Last week Six of the seven seals of God's restoration plan of the earth for his people and bring Justice against evil is already in play..... **Today we see the opening of the seventh seal.....which has seven more judgments attached to it...**

ESV Rev 8:1 *When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.*

- The sealed scroll was introduced in [Revelation 5](#), and the seals were opened one by one up to the sixth seal in [Revelation 6](#).
- We waited for the last seal to be opened and the contents of the scroll to be revealed – but then were given a pause with [Revelation 7](#), the revealing of the 144,000 and the great multitude of believers to come out of the great tribulation.

- Now the idea of a pause between the sixth and **the seventh seal** is emphasized by this **silence in heaven for about half an hour**.
- This **silence in heaven for about half an hour** demonstrates a sober, awestruck silence at the judgments to come, now that the seals are off and the scroll can be opened.
- If a preacher were to stop his sermon and remain silent for ten minutes, it would seem like an eternity. Since heaven is a place of constant praise and worship to God, **silence for about half an hour** is a long time...**like the dead silence in a courtroom when the Jury foreman gives the verdict to be read**

8:2 Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

- **The seven angels who stand before God:** apparently these are seven powerful are seven angels who stand in God's presence.
- **And to them were given seven trumpets:** In the Old Testament, **trumpets sounded the alarm for war** or gave directions for an attack army... often threw the enemy into a panic, or they called an assembly of God's people for an official and important announcement ..
- Here These **seven trumpets will sound as God's battle-siren signaling the next judgment in the great tribulation.**
- **But before they sound...**

3 And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of

all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, ⁴ and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. ⁵ Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

- **Then another angel:** Greek word for **another** means “another of the same kind.”
- **A golden censor and golden altar...the altar of incense... the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God:** So here, before anything *happens* at the opening of the seventh seal, the prayers of God’s people come before the Lord God.
- **All the prayers of the suffering saints during the tribulation. Have come before God...the angel throws them back to earth as they will be answered Judgment has come!**
- Significantly, the prayers of God’s people set in motion the coming consummation of history. “More potent, more powerful than all the dark and mighty powers let loose in the world, more powerful than anything else, is the power of prayer set ablaze by the fire of God and cast upon the earth.” (Torrance)
- **Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth:** As God’s people pray for the resolution of all things, their prayers were touched by the **fire from the altar** in heaven, and then “thrown” back down to earth. All things will not be resolved on this earth until judgment

comes, and when the prayers of God's people "come back" to earth, they bring the groundswell of judgment (**noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake**).

⁶ Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.

- **So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound:** The seventh seal sets in motion **seven trumpets** that would **sound** upon the earth.
- **These first four trumpet judgments could describe a Nuclear holocaust...***never in History have weapons systems not been used at some point. When the nuclear bomb was detonated on Bikini Island in the Pacific...winds of 250 mph and fire were unleashed destroying everything in their path...the fire ball ascended 1000's of feet in the air, froze and came back down as devastating hail...*

Now listen to The first trumpet

⁷ The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

- **Hail and fire followed, mingled with blood:** **Blood** may indicate the *result* of the mixing of the blood of those who died ,...vaporized...blood mixed with the frozen hail

- **Result A third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up:** Because of this **hail and fire**, trees and grass are destroyed – one-third of the vegetation of the planet is **burned up** during the great tribulation.
- **Similar to *ESV Exodus 9: 24*** *There was hail and fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail, very heavy hail, such as had never been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. 25 The hail struck down everything that was in the field in all the land of Egypt, both man and beast. And the hail struck down every plant of the field and broke every tree of the field*
- **The second Trumpet...**

ESV 8:8 The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. ⁹ A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

- **Something like a great mountain:** not an actual mountain (note the use of **like**), but it was a blazing mass as large as a **mountain**.
- **A third of the sea became blood:** This disaster perhaps **a meteor** that crashes or the crashing down of a **nuclear mushroom cloud** falling back into the sea and results in great oceanic upheaval
- Here, the result is that **a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed**. The **blood** may be either the cause or the effect of the widespread death in a third of oceans..salt water... of the world.

the third Trumpet...Rev 8:10 *The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. ¹¹ The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.*

- ***A great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch:*** *We may easily associate this with a comet or meteor crashing into the earth and bringing ecological disaster to the fresh water supply.*
- ***The name of the star is Wormwood:*** *Wormwood is a very bitter substance, and proverbial for bitterness and sadness.*
- ***A third of the rivers... a third of the waters:*** *The proportion of ecological disaster stays the same. In each one of the trumpets, a third of an ecological system is destroyed in judgment.*

Rev 8:12 *The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.*

- ***A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night:*** *This does not describe a one-third lessening of light, but one-third of the day and night are plunged into absolute darkness. **A Nuclear winter?** As Jesus said: the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light ([Matthew 24:29](#)).*
- ***Observations on the first four trumpets.***

- *These first four trumpets reveal the severity of God's judgment. He attacks all the ordinary means of subsistence, such as food and water; and He attacks all the ordinary means of comfort, and knowledge, such as light and the regular rhythm of days.*
- *Man has come to see these aspects of the created order as impersonal, perpetual forces. During the great tribulation, God proclaims His Lordship through their agonizing disruption.*
- *The first four trumpets also reveal the mercy of God's judgment; these are partial judgments striking only one-third, and are meant to warn and lead a rebellious world to repentance before the final curtain. For now, God spares more than He smites.*
- *But alas to no avail*

NLT Rev 9:20 But the people who did not die in these plagues still refused to repent of their evil deeds and turn to God. They continued to worship demons and idols made of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood—idols that can neither see nor hear nor walk! ²¹ And they did not repent of their murders or their witchcraft or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

- **But it will only get worse...**

¹³ Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!"

The angel's woes are well founded, as the demonic will face judgment and one-third of the earth's population will die in the next three trumpets.

Our salvation becomes more precious as we know God will restore the earth...and we are will never be under the wrath of God!

NIV Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

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