

Chapters 7-9 – A World Without Repentance

Foundational Scripture: (Amplified Classic)

Ps 91:5 You shall not be afraid of the terror of the night, nor of the arrow (the evil plots and slanders of the wicked) that flies by day, Ps 91:6 Nor of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor of the destruction and sudden death that surprise and lay waste at noonday.

A. Chapter 6 Review – The rule of man.

1. Seal 1, which is conquering, shows men preparing to war with men.
2. Seal 2, which is war, shows men warring with men.
3. Seal 3, which is famine, is the result of both men's action and of nature responding to those actions.
4. Seal 4 is death, resulting from war, famine and beasts, over the fourth part of the earth.
5. Seal 5 shows the martyrs, who were killed by the tribulation above.
6. Seal 6 shows a massive earthquake with heavenly and earthly manifestations.

Rev 6:12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

Rev 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

Rev 6:14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

7. There are two themes beginning here.

First, **Theme 1 Replenish the Earth**: In chapter 6, unsaved man has made a mess of the world and in chapters 8 & 9 God begins to show them that, because of satan, man is incapable of ruling the world.

Second, **Theme 3 Living in the Likeness of God**: In chapters 7, 10 & 11 God begins to lead the very elect, his disciples who continue in the Word, into the time of the Glorious Church.

B. An unrepentant world.

As the world divides into the darkness of sin and into the light of God's Word, God brings/uses plagues and destruction to present to the unsaved a clear-cut choice as He did with Pharaoh. These are described in chapters 8 & 9.

1. Chapter 8:1 The Seventh Seal

Rev 8:1 And when he had opened the **seventh** seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

As we saw in Chapters 4 & 5, Heaven can be a noisy place. Silence in Heaven is very significant and is probably because there have been no salvations for a period of time.

Luk 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Luk 15:10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

No salvations mean that sinners are refusing to repent as seen in Rev 9:20-21.

Seal 7 shows that the earth is ready to be judged by God's wrath.

2. Chapter 8 The Trumpet Judgments 1-4

a. Prologue to the Judgments

Rev 8:2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

Rev 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer [it] with the **prayers of all saints** upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, [which came] with the **prayers of the saints**, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

Rev 8:5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast [it] into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

Rev 8:6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

b. Trumpets 1-4

Rev 8:7 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.

Rev 8:8 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;

Rev 8:9 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.

Rev 8:10 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;

Rev 8:11 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.

Rev 8:12 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.

c. Woes to come.

Rev 8:13 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!

3. Chapter 9 The Trumpet Judgments 5-6

a. Locusts

Rev 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

Rev 9:2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

Rev 9:3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Rev 9:4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those **men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.**

Rev 9:5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment [was] as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

Rev 9:6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

Rev 9:7–11 Description of the locusts

b. First Woe

Rev 9:12 One woe is past; [and], behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

c. War

Rev 9:13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

Rev 9:14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

Rev 9:15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

Rev 9:16 And the number of the army of the horsemen [were] two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

Rev 9:17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses [were] as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

Rev 9:18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

Rev 9:19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails [were] like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

d. Epilogue – **Unrepentant still**

Rev 9:20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

Rev 9:21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

e. The Second Woe

The time of the second woe extends from Trumpet 6 in Rev 9:13, which precedes war, to right after the great earthquake in Rev 11:14 and includes the rebuilding of the temple and the Two Witnesses. This war results in a peace treaty with Israel.

C. The End of the Age of Grace

As the world moves toward the time of the antichrist (i.e., moving under the Law and away from Grace), the 144,000 of the tribes of Israel are saved and the Glorious Church comes into manifestation. These are described in chapters 7, 10 & 11.

1. Last Action of Grace

It is very likely that the events of the Seals, especially #6, have affected the earth including the winds (Rev 7:1) However, the Trumpet Judgments of Chapter 8, wherein the earth is hurt, are clearly influenced by the actions of God's angels (Rev 7:3).

Rev 7:1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. Comment: No wind, no spreading of radiation or dust clouds, etc.

Rev 7:2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

Rev 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

Rev 7:4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: [and there were] sealed an hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Rev 7:4-8 *Specifies the sealing of 12,000 from each of the tribes of Israel.*

2. Supernatural Protection

Those who are sealed by God are immune to the trumpet judgments. Those sealed in Chapter 7 are the 144, 000 Israelites; note not necessarily Israelis.

Most likely, the sealing means that they have accepted Jesus. This is especially likely since the next time that these are mentioned, we see them with Jesus on Mt. Zion.

Remember that born again believers have the same protection because they are sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30) until the day of their redemption, which is probably in Rev 20. Believers are also sealed with the Spirit of Promise in Eph 1:13.

Rev 9:3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Rev 9:4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those **men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads**

3. Man child

Rev 12:5 And she brought forth a **man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron:** and her child was caught up unto God, and [to] his throne.

Rev 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred [and] threescore days.

4. Firstfruits

Rev 14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty [and] four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Rev 14:2-3 Singing a new song for the 144,000.

Rev 14:4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, [being] the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

D. Great Tribulation

Rev 7:9-12 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude praising God.

Rev 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

Rev 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of **great tribulation**, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Rev 7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

Rev 7:16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

Rev 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

1. Great Tribulation
 - a) The expression “The Great Tribulation” is not used in the Bible. “Great tribulation” is used three times, each in the context of and similar to “Great persecution”. In the New Testament, the Greek word, thlipsis, Strong’s 2347, is used 43 times, 19 as tribulation; rest as affliction, burden, trouble, persecution and anguish.
Act 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem.
 - b) Occurrences of “great tribulation”
Mat 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.
Rev 2:22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. **Note that Jesus said this.**
Rev 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of **great tribulation**, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. **Note** that this occurs long before the antichrist comes into power.
2. The martyrs, shown by Seal #5, were given white robes in Rev 6:11 matching Rev 7:14. The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse refer to the four riders in Chap 6 matching Seals 1-4. The great persecution of the saints is yet to come in Rev 12-14.