

REVIVAL NEWS

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THE TRUMPETS ARE SOUNDING – The Mystery of God is finished A journey through the Book of Revelation – Part 4

The seventh seal releases seven messengers

The first six seals deal with the conquering gospel going forth amid much turmoil and tribulation. In the sixth seal we saw that there is a company of saints, sealed by God, that comes through the tribulation! With the opening of the seventh seal *“there was silence in heaven for about half an hour”* Revelation 8:1. This gives the impression of something dramatic about to happen! John then saw *“seven angels [literally “messengers”] who stand before God”* Revelation 8:2a. The seventh seal loosed by Jesus the Messiah, the Root of David who prevailed, releases seven messengers! Are these the same messengers mentioned as the *“seven stars”* which are *“angels [messengers] of the seven churches”* (Rev.1:20)? They *stand before God!* This is where all God’s messengers are meant to stand. Elijah stood before Yahweh and spoke the word of God to his generation (1 Kings 17:1).

The seventh seal releases seven trumpets

“And to them were given seven trumpets” Revelation 8:2b. The trumpets speak of a proclamation being made. Jesus said that *“He will send His angels [messengers] with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other”* Matthew 24:31. We are in the time of the gospel being proclaimed loudly for all to hear so that all those *“who are appointed to eternal life”* (Acts 13:48) will hear and be gathered together in One Body! John heard Jesus’ voice as a *“loud voice, as of a trumpet”* Revelation 1:10. The trumpet prophetically speaks of a voice warning, heralding or proclaiming something. *Seven trumpets* speak of the full message of the gospel. The complete message is being trumpeted by the full complement of God’s messengers! The seventh seal releases the full message, *“the whole counsel of God”* (Acts 20:27), to be trumpeted into all the nations by the apostolic messengers being sent out!

The altar of incense and the prayers of the saints

John then saw another messenger who at the altar *“was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of the saints upon the golden altar which*

was before the Throne” Revelation 8:3. The golden altar is referring to the altar of incense that was before the veil and the mercy seat in the Old Covenant Tabernacle and Temple. Prophetically this altar speaks of the place of prayer (Psalm 141:2, Rev.5:8). It is awesome to see that our Spirit-led prayers “ascend before God” (Rev.8:4). The seventh seal unlocks the prayers of the saints to come before God and to avail. “The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” James 5:16b. We are to “pray without ceasing” (1Thess.5:17), “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” (Eph.6:18), “that God would open a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ” (Col.4:3), “for kings and all who are in authority” (1 Tim.2:2). In the New Covenant, with the seals opened, there comes a time for God to answer the prayers of the saints!

The prayers are answered

Jesus taught us to pray, “Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” Matthew 6:10. In Revelation 8 we see that God answers this by releasing His judgements in the earth through our prayers! Paul taught us to pray for “all men, for kings and all who are in authority” 1 Timothy 2:1-2. He then shows that the answer to those prayers was, “for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle...a teacher of the Gentiles” 1 Timothy 2:7. The answer to the prayers was to raise up more messengers of the gospel – preachers, apostles, and teachers! John saw that the answer to our prayers was messengers with trumpets that bring God’s judgements in the earth!

“Then the angel [messenger] 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. So, the seven angels [messengers] who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound” Revelation 8:5-6. The prayers of the saints came down on the earth! There comes a time for our prayers to be answered. Let our prayer be to Him as incense so we can see more of the message preached through His messengers, bringing God’s will and judgements in the earth as it is in heaven!

The first four trumpets

The trumpets are heralding the message and warning the inhabitants of the world to turn to God. “When Your judgements are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness” Isaiah 26:9b. The first four trumpets bring on judgements that happen in the physical creation like “natural disasters”: “a third of the trees were burned up” (Rev.8:7); “a third of the sea became blood...living creatures in the sea died...ships were destroyed” (Rev.8:8-9); “a third of the waters became wormwood” (Rev.8:11); the sun, moon and stars were affected in their ability to give light (Rev.8:12). Awesome cosmic disturbances affecting the natural world. The common thread is that a third of these things were affected. It was big, but only partial judgement. A “wake-up call” to bring the inhabitants of the earth to repentance. God’s judgements in the natural world do happen and we have witnessed some. The message of these is for us to learn righteousness – to trust in Jesus for salvation and be changed into a new creation!

Demonic attack but the sealed unharmed

In the unfolding revelation, an angel warns the world of the proceeding trumpets that are about to sound, *“Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels [messengers] who are about to sound”* Revelation 8:13. The fifth trumpet takes us out of the natural into the spiritual. Revelation 9:1-12 speaks of a release of demonic power on the earth from *“the bottomless pit”* (v.1). There is an army of locusts that were *“given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power”* (v.3).

However, they were commanded to only harm those *“men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads”* (v.4). This speaks of great witchcraft and demonic attacks, but Jesus said, *“Behold, I give you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you”* Luke 10:19. The scorpion sting of the enemy is not able to harm the ones who are *sealed* with the Holy Spirit (Eph.1:13-14). There is a sealed company during these judgements! We are there! Those not in Christ will experience *“torment like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. In those days men will seek death and will not find it”* (v.5-6). This is a demonic army that is allowed to harm men for *“five months. And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon”* Revelation 9:10-11.

Distinguishing the sealed from the tormented

One of the main points of all this is to distinguish between the sealed of the Lord and those who do not belong to Jesus. We have authority over the spirit world, and we are seen to be unharmed by it. Do those around you see you able to walk in faith and authority, and not fear? Do you know your authority over the devil? Many are fearful of witchcraft, and suffer torment in their minds and hearts and feel imprisoned by it. There is to be a people on the earth in the midst of this that know their God and have authority over all the power of the enemy, showing the tormented ones why the devil cannot harm us. The *angel of the bottomless pit* has been disarmed and destroyed (Col.2:15, Heb.2:14-15)

Another demonic army released to kill

When the *“sixth angel sounded”* (Rev.9:13) another demonic army was *“released to kill a third of mankind”* (v.15). The purpose of the plagues to kill mankind is seen in v.20-21, *“But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone and wood...and they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts”*. The message of the gospel is sounding through these trumpets, and judgements are released. But people still do not repent. We are called to be sounding the trumpet in these days, warning the inhabitants of the world, telling them of the good news of

Jesus Christ and giving opportunity for repentance to whosoever will believe. But many do not and will not repent but remain blinded in their idolatry.

A Mighty Angel

Still amid the sounding of the sixth trumpet John sees ***“another mighty angel [messenger] coming down from heaven”*** Revelation 10:1. This ***mighty angel*** has the most amazing description. He has an awesome message for us as the church! His description was:

- ***“clothed with a cloud”*** (v.1) – like the ***bright cloud*** which overshadowed Jesus at the Mount of Transfiguration – **Matthew 17:5**
- ***“a rainbow was on his head”*** (v.1) – like the ***rainbow around the throne*** (Rev.4:3)
- ***“his face was like the sun”*** (v.1) – like Jesus again at the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt.17:2) and the description of the ***Son of Man*** in Revelation 1:16 ***“His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength”***
- ***“his feet like pillars of fire”*** (v.1) – like the ***Son of Man*** in Revelation 1:15 ***“His feet were like fine brass”*** and the ***Man*** on the throne in Ezekiel 1:27 ***“His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around”***
- ***“He had a little book open in his hand”*** (v.2) – this Messenger has a message! This is like Ezekiel 2:9-10, when Ezekiel saw, ***“there was a hand stretched out to me; and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. Then He spread it before me”***. In the midst of judgements coming in the earth at the sound of the trumpets, we need to stay focused on the message of the gospel that is given to us!
- ***“he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land”*** (v.2) – This Messenger has all authority and dominion over the earth! He is the One with ***“all authority in heaven and on earth”*** Matthew 28:18. Just like it says of Yahweh in Psalm 95:5 ***“The sea is His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry land”***
- ***“he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars”*** (v.3) – It says of Yahweh, ***“He shall roar like a lion. When He roars, then His sons shall come trembling from the west”*** Hosea 11:10 [see also Joel 3:16, Amos 1:2] and remember that Jesus is called ***the Lion of the Tribe of Judah*** (Rev.5:5). He is calling for His sons to come!
- ***“When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices”*** (v.4) – The ***“God of glory thunders”*** Psalm 29:3. [see also John 12:27-30 to see the voice of God as thunder]

Who is this Mighty Messenger?

Who is this awesome mighty messenger? He appears right in between the sixth and seventh trumpet blasts! He appears amid severe judgements in an awesome display of glory. In that moment that we need encouragement, help and strength to go on – He appears! What a revelation! God wants us to make it through! There is an awesome manifestation and revelation coming on the earth of His glory! He is revealing to us the necessary way that He will manifest His glory on the earth, and He comes to encourage us when it does not seem to be looking good! Could this ***mighty angel*** be a revelation of Jesus the Messiah, sent to encourage us during

the spiritual battle raging in the earth? It is often in the most difficult times that the most awesome revelations of Jesus take place in our lives!

The Mystery of God would be finished

John saw the *mighty angel* swear an oath by the God of all creation *“that there should be delay no longer, but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel [messenger], when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets”* Revelation 10:6-7. This is what it is all leading to. This is where we are headed as the Body of Christ! To come to the place where *the mystery of God would be finished!* The full revelation and disclosure of who God is will be seen in the earth! The eternal purpose of God will be accomplished!

What does this look like?

The apostle Paul said that he had a great conflict and struggle for us to attain *“to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ”* Colossians 2:2. The mystery of God is seen in the *“fellowship of the Father and of His Son Jesus Christ”* 1 John 1:3. It is as we obey Jesus that *“the Father will love us and We [Father and Son] will make Our home in you”* John 14:23. The Father and the Son, the revelation of God, will be seen in a Tabernacle, a people, His Body, the Church. The mystery of God is to be seen and manifested in us, His people. It will be revealed by the restoration of the hearts of the *“fathers to sons and the hearts of the sons to the fathers”* Malachi 4:6.

God has given His Spirit to us so that we can come to know the *“mystery of His will...He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth – in Him”* Ephesians 1:9-10. God is bringing together all things in Christ – this mystery will be finished! The revelation of the mystery will be fully made known among the nations, *“Christ in you; the hope of glory”* Colossians 1:27. The mystery of Christ leading to the church making known the *“manifold wisdom of God to principalities and powers”* will be finished (Eph.3:1-11). The earth will be *“filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh as the waters cover the sea”* Habakkuk 2:14. The prophetic Scriptures are being made known, *“they shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Yahweh as the waters cover the sea”* Isaiah 11:9. The Mystery of God would be finished!

John saw an unfolding revelation of how God is bringing His eternal purpose to full manifestation in the earth!

It is time to ***“Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel [messenger] who stands on the sea and on the earth”*** Revelation 10:8.

We are to "***Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations***" (Matt.28:19)!

Then ***mystery of God*** will be revealed in the earth!