

“Silence Before the Trumpets”
Revelation 8:1-13
Series: He Who Has An Ear”
5/19/21
Message 18

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “Silence Before the Trumpets”

- **Last Week...**

- Passion For Israel
 - Missiles are coming in from Lebanon
- Passion about Anti-Semitism – Traced History
 - But need Careful not to lump all Catholics in with their history (Most don't Even Know and our good people)
- Frustration
 - Because there are Pastors that mock Prophecy
 - Wokeness is in the church
- To Boil down the message last week –
 - We must be awake we must be Bereans
 - Deception is part of the times

- **Quick Update on the Conditions of the World today and Prophecy**

- **1st I Know the Answer to When Jesus is coming BACK!!**
 - No Man KNOWS

Matthew 24:36 (NKJV)

36 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

- We Really Don't Know the Day or Hour
- It could be today it could be a 1000 years from NOW
- What we do know is Times and Seasons
- **2nd What is GOING on?!**
 - I have listened to tons of studies in the last few weeks (Monday almost 15 hours)
 - A lot of different Opinions
 - You can listen to 2 guys on the same program – both have different opinions
 - So It's important to understand and stay grounded on what we do know
- **3rd Signs that we are getting Closer to the End – Return of Christ**
 - **Sign 1 - The Miracle of Israel's Survival**
 - The Fact that Israel is still a NATION is a Miracle of God
 - **Sign 2 - Israel Will Miraculously Return to its Ancient Homeland in the "Last Days."**
 - Became a nation again in May 14, 1948
 - **Sign 3 - Israel Will be in the World's Spotlight**
 - What are we talking about today – it's all over the news
 - **Sign 4 - There Will be a Continual Search for Peace in Israel**

Zechariah 12:2 (NKJV)

2 *"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.*

- **Sign 5 - Preparations Will Be Made to Build the Third Temple**

- They have been wanting to do this for many years now
- They have what they need except the Temple
- **Sign 6 - In the Last Days, Certain Specified Nations Will Invade Israel**
- **Sign 7 - The Nations Missing from the Ezekiel 38-39 Invasion**
 - Psalm 83 - Ezekiel 38-39
 - Read Psalm 83
 - Discuss what is taking place

- **Show Pics**

- Psalm 83 Nations
- Ezekiel 38-39 Nations
- Nations of Ezekiel 38 -39
 - Ancient Name Modern Equivalent
 - Rosh - Russia (or Chief)
 - Magog - Central Asia
 - Meshech and Tubal - Turkey (also southern Russia and Iran)
 - Persia - Iran
 - Cush - Northern Sudan, Ethiopia
 - Put - Libya
 - Gomer - Turkey (Armenia)
 - Beth-togarmah - Turkey
 - Many peoples Other Islamic nations - (possibly Iraq)
- Nation of Psalm 83
 - Tents of Edom - Palestinians and Southern Jordanians
 - Ishmaelites - Saudis (Ishmael is the father of the Arabs)

- Moab - Palestinians and Central Jordanians
 - Hagrites - Egyptians (Hagar is the matriarch of Egypt)
 - Gebal (Byblos) - Hezbollah and Northern Lebanese
 - Ammon - Palestinians and Northern Jordanians
 - Amalek - Arabs of the Sinai area
 - Philistia - Hamas of the Gaza Strip
 - Tyre - Hezbollah and Southern Lebanese
 - Assyria - Syrians and Northern Iraqi's
- Different Opinion
 - History or Prophecy
 - Depends on who you ask!!!
 - Amir Tsarfati and many others – believes Psalm 83 is History – Took place in 1948 and 1967 war
 - Many others say it's still yet to come – My Friend Mike believes it is still to come
 - I have always leaned on the side of History
 - Historical Position
 - Point to the fact that this has already taken place in the wars in 1948 and 1967
 - Point to peace treaties with Jordan, Egypt, etc...
 - Abraham Accords Peace Agreement
 - The nations absent from Ezekiel 38-39 are at peace with Israel
 - Prophecy Position

- Asaph the Seer (2 Chron. 29:30) he was a prophet
- That the nation in Psalm 83 are Arab Nations
- Religious War
- Want the Land
- Point to Ezekiel 38:11 as not being fulfilled and that it is a war for Booty

Ezekiel 38:11–12 (NKJV)

11 *You will say, ‘I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates’—*

12 *to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land.*

- **Sign 8 - No Superpower Will Intervene on Israel's Behalf When They are Invaded (Ezekiel 38-39)**
 - Something Will Happen to the United States
- **Sign 9 - There Will Be a Ten Nation Confederation in Western Europe (The Revival of the Ancient Roman Empire)**
 - We see a tone of talk about bring power back to Europe

○ Show Picture

- **Sign 10 - There Will Be a One-World Political and Economic System (Globalism)**
- **Sign 11 - The World Will Desperately Look for a Leader**
- **Sign 12 - There Will Be an Exponential Increase in Technology**
- **Sign 13 - Plagues and Pestilence Will Trouble the World**

- **Sign 14 - The World Will Be Characterized by Lawlessness**
- **Sign 15 - The World Will Be Characterized by Violence**
- **Sign 16 - The Organized Church Will Turn Away from the Faith (Apostasy)**
 - Illustration: From the Retreat
- **Sign 17 - There Will Be a Rise in False Prophets, False Teachers, and False Christs**
- **Sign 18 - There Will Be a Rise in Anti-Semitism**
- **Sign 19 - Christians Will Continue to Be Persecuted**
- **Sign 20 - Unbelievers Will Scoff at the Idea of Christ's Return**
- **Sign 21 - The Wicked Will Not Understand the Signs of the Times**
- **Sign 22 - Bible-Believers Will Understand What Is Taking Place**
- **3rd IS America – Being Judged – (Romans 1)**
 - I believe so

Romans 1:25–26 (NKJV)

25 *who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

26 *For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.*

• **Review**

- **Chapter 5**
 - It began with Jesus taking the 7 Sealed Scroll
 - The Title Deed to the Earth

- Originally Adam & Eve were given dominion over all the earth
- When Satan offered all the kingdoms of the world to Jesus, our Lord did not deny Satan's ability to do it
- But now Satan's authority is finally coming to an end when Jesus takes the Scroll

○ **Chapter 6 "The Tribulation Begins"**

- The Judgment started By His unrolling of a 7 sealed scroll
- As He breaks each seal
- A new divine judgment is poured out on the earth
- We saw
 - Unprecedented disaster
 - Horrible terror
 - Unimaginable slaughter that lies ahead for the world...
 - One-fourth of the world's population died...
- We see the people on earth – Un- Repentant
 - Hiding in caves asking the mountains to fall on them (Revelation 6:16)
 - They know it's Jesus / yet they still DO NOT REPENT

○ **Chapter 7**

- We saw 144,000 Jewish men sealed and protected
 - Proclaiming the Gospel all throughout the Tribulation period
- A huge multitude of Tribulation Believers in heaven

- Resting 😊

• **Question - "Why would a God of Love do this?"**

○ **1st We Are Sinners - God is Holy & Righteous**

▪ **1st We are Sinful**

- Now a lot of people don't Think they are Sinful
- They measure themselves by other people
- Next to Hitler, I look pretty good

Proverbs 21:2 (NKJV)

2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV)

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

▪ **2nd God is HOLY**

- God would not be Holy if He did not judge SIN
- So God Must judge and JUDGMENT is COMING
- Some say He is not coming
 - They have been saying that forever...
 - They miss understand HIS GRACE
 - 2 Peter 3:3-13

○ **2nd To Wake People Up**

Ezekiel 33:11 (NKJV)

11 Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

- Remember God DIDN'T just destroy everything all at once
 - In this process He is screaming wake up and come to Me
 - He has His Messengers and Angels doing the same thing
 - Remember, Many will come to Christ in these times
- **3rd Prepare Israel for their Messiah**
 - The Book of Revelation is ALL about Israel
 - It's about finishing what He started with Israel

Zechariah 12:10 (NKJV)

10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

• **Now we come to chapter 8**

- **Where Jesus breaks the 7th Seal...**
 - Within the 7th Seal...
 - There are 7 Trumpet judgments that bring even more catastrophe to the world
 - Today we're going to look at the first 4 trumpets judgments
- **3 Main Points**
 - The Prelude to These Judgments Vs. 1-5
 - The Punishments of These Judgments Vs. 6-12
 - The Proclamation of a Flying Angel V. 13

The Prelude to These Judgments Vs. 1-5

- **First: The Period Of Silence v. 1**

Revelation 8:1 (NKJV)

1 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

- **1st SILENCE**

- Something Heaven hasn't experienced Before - SILENCE
- Up to this point - John has heard a Lot of Noise in Heaven
 - Ch. 4:5 from the throne proceeded lightning's, thunderings, and voices
 - Ch. 4:8 The 4 living creatures, who do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was is and is to come!"
 - Ch. 4:11 Twenty-four elders are singing
 - Ch. 5: Strong Angel Proclaiming with a LOUD VOICE Who is worthy ANGELS PRAISING
- But Now there is this OMINOUS SILENCE!!!!!
 - Imagine what that must have been like!?
- Can you find a silent place on this planet?

- **2nd So why the Silence?**

- We're NOT Sure
- But I have a Suggestion:
 - A Lull before the Storm (Things are about to get really Intense)
 - Silence in anticipation of the grim destruction they see written on the Scroll

- **Second: The Preparation Of The Seven Angels v. 2**

Revelation 8:2 (NKJV)

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

- **1st The seven angels who stand before God:**

- **1st According to Jewish tradition**

- There are seven angels who stand in God's presence.
- Apparently, based on this verse, that traditional idea was accurate.
- In Enoch 20:1-7 (an ancient book, but not one in the Bible)
 - The names of seven archangels are given
 - (Uriel, Raphael, Raguel, Michael, Sariel, Gabriel, Remiel)
 - Sounds a little too much like Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

- **2nd They seemed to be Unique Group**

- The verb stand is in the present tense
- Which indicates they were in the Presence of God and had been there for some time
- This group seems to be a very High Ranking Group

- **2nd Trumpets**

- Trumpets are the most significant musical instruments in the Bible
- Trumpets in the Bible were used for several reasons:

- They were used in worship, to praise the Lord (Num. 10:10; Ps.150:3)
- They were used to gather the people together to recruit an army (Num. 10:3; Judg. 6:34)
- They were used to direct the army by telling the troops when to advance and when to retreat (Num. 10:5; Judg.7:18; 2Sam.2:28)
- They were used to warn of an impending attack (Num. 10:9; Ez.33:3)
- For WAR

Numbers 10:9 (NKJV)

9 *“When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies.*

- These Trumpets are ANNOUNCING WAR!!!

• Third: The Prayers Of The Saints vs. 3-5

Revelation 8:3–5 (NKJV)

3 *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.*

4 *And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand.*

5 *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.*

○ 1st Then Another Angel

- Who is This Angel?
- **1st Some see this angel as Jesus**
 - Functioning as a mediator

- Because of Old Testament references to Jesus as "the Angel of the Lord."
- **2nd A mere angelic being**
 - Because the specific ancient Greek word for another means "another of the same kind."
- **3rd *It is difficult to connect any angel in this book with Jesus Christ for the following reasons:***
 - 1st He is the One Who opens the scroll, and is continually described as the Lamb of God Who alone is worthy
 - 2nd The word another means "another of the same kind" and is a strong grammatical factor for concluding that this is an angel just like the seven mentioned in Revelation 8:2
 - 3rd While the phrase "the angel of the LORD" seems to be a description of the Messiah in the Old Testament, there is no evidence in the New Testament that the word angel refers to Jesus Christ.
 - I believe this angel is one of many who reside in heaven and do God's work and will
 - They are truly "ministering spirits" (Hebrews 1:14)
- **2nd The Picture of Our Prayers**
 - A golden censer... the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God:
 - Prayer and incense are often associated in the Bible.
 - The idea is that just as incense is precious, pleasant, and drifts to heaven, so do our prayers.
 - So here, before anything happens at the opening of the seventh seal, the prayers of God's people come before the Lord God.

The Punishments of These Judgments vs. 6-12

- **First: The Question – Are these Super Natural or Man Made**

- Now a question that always comes up with the book of Revelation
 - Are these things Super Natural or Man Made - From something man has already made
- **1st Man Made**
 - Many see a comparison to what we Know about Nuclear Explosions
 - When A Nuclear Warhead is Detonated
 - It brings about Immediate fire storms
 - Walls of Fire traveling 250mph
 - Sweep across the Land destroying everything in its path
 - So some read this & How it says that 1/3 of the Trees & the Green Grass were Burned up & suggest this is the result of a Nuclear explosion
 - Several years ago
 - When some above ground Nuclear test were being done on one of the Islands in the South Pacific
 - The Island was completely blown up & a lot of the water surrounding the Island was shot into the air - 1000's of feet
 - When it reached that atmosphere it Froze - and came back down in the Form of Large Hail stones (So we see a Comparisons)
- **2nd Super Natural**
 - I Prefer to look at this Super Natural
 - Like the Plagues of Egypt - God Striking the Earth

• **First: The First Trumpet Judgment: Trees & Grass Burned Up vs. 6-7**

Revelation 8:6–7 (NKJV)

6 So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

7 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.

- **1st The Hail and Fire were "mingled with blood,"**
 - Probably indicating that many people will be killed when this judgment hits.
 - We also remember that God rained hail, fire, and brimstone on the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and many people were killed
- **2nd A third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.**
 - This verse predicts that one-third of all trees on the planet are destroyed by this judgment.
 - It is difficult to conceive what this might mean for human survival.
 - A judgment such as this has enormous effect upon the quality of life and available food supply.
 - The appearance of the planet will radically change, and it will seem as though the entire globe has become a virtual wasteland or desert

• **Second: The Second Trumpet Judgment: Sea Life & Ships Destroyed vs. 8-9**

Revelation 8:8–9 (NKJV)

8 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.

9 And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

○ **1st One-Third Of The Sea Becomes Blood**

▪ NOTE:

- The first plague of Egypt (Exodus 7:14-25) turned the water of the Nile River into blood
- The cause behind this disaster
- Is described in symbolic language (note the use of "like")
- It is not a literal mountain burning with fire that was thrown into the sea, but something that in John's eyes looked like a burning mountain.
- Some commentators have suggested a giant meteor; others have seen atomic or nuclear explosions
- That the sea became blood suggests that either animal or human life has been destroyed by this supernatural catastrophe
- The word "sea" is both singular and preceded by the definite article... it is "the sea" which is affected
- That would seem to indicate the Mediterranean Sea
- I not sure I believe this

○ **2nd One-Third Of Sea Life Is Killed**

- This disaster will have a serious effect upon the peoples of the world...
- Especially those who live in countries dependent upon the fishing industry
- This will be an ecological and an economic disaster of unprecedented proportions

○ **3rd One-Third Of The Ships Are Destroyed**

- This would also cause massive tidal waves,
- Which would help explain how a third of all ships are destroyed
- One-third of these ships will be destroyed in this one judgment, and of course, many lives will be lost
- Notice the PRECISION of the measurements
- It's one third - no more, no less
- It shows that these are carefully calculated judgments sent by God - not simply nature gone bad

• **Third: The Third Trumpet Judgment: Rivers & Springs Made Bitter vs. 10-11**

Revelation 8:10–11 (NKJV)

10 *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.*

11 *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.*

- **1st What this great star is we do not know**
 - Some see it as a meteorite...some as nuclear
- **2nd The results of this tragedy affect one-third of the rivers and springs**
 - One third of these rivers, and their sources, will become so bitterly polluted that drinking their water produces death
- **3rd The star is called Wormwood**
 - After the strong bitter taste of the wormwood plant, an Old Testament symbol for bitterness and sorrow
 - "Wormwood" is God's judgment upon those who disobey Him
 - Interestingly... Wormwood in Russian is Chernobyl

- We all need water; it is basic to human survival
- We only imagine what sort of additional tragedies will occur because of the terrible pollution caused by this third trumpet judgment

• **Fourth: The Fourth Trumpet Judgment: Sun, Moon, & Stars Darkened v. 12**

Revelation 8:12 (NKJV)

12 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.

○ **1st This is more than an Eclipse**

- The light from these heavenly bodies is actually reduced by a factor of one third
- It will result in severe drops in the world's temperatures, vast meteorological upsets, and changes in climate

○ **2nd The worship of MOTHER EARTH**

- It's interesting to note that the sun, moon, and stars have been consistently used by pagan religions as objects of worship
- Its as if God is saying I am the CREATOR / your worship is wrong and let me show you
- Example:
 - Save the whales...save the trees...spotted owl / but they don't care about babies in the womb
 - The world worships and serves creation rather than the CREATOR
 - God shows us in this one judgment that He alone is to be worshiped

The Proclamation of a Flying Angel v. 13

Revelation 8:13 (NKJV)

13 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!"

• **First: Is it really a flying angel?**

- Many interpreters of this verse believe the word "angel" is based on weak manuscript evidence and that the proper word is the word for "eagle"
- While it is true that there are manuscript variations in this verse
- The evidence can support the reading of "angel" instead of "eagle"
- The use of angels to announce God's plans is well known...
- Why would an exception occur at this point?
- Angels are blowing the trumpets that announce these judgments...
- Why not an angel to warn the planet that the worst is yet to come?

• **Second: Three woes to come**

- As man is reeling from these blows the angel brings no comfort!!
- The last 3 trumpets judgments are more severe than the first 4
- Each of these "woes" corresponds to one of the last 3 trumpet judgments
- These judgments will fall upon "the inhabitants of the earth," a term referring to unbelievers who take the mark of the beast and do not repent of their deeds
- And what is coming is far more severe than what has already been experienced
- What a terrible and tragic period of human history awaits this world!

Closing

- God is trying to WAKE EVERYONE UP
 - Judgment is inevitable...The wages of sin is death.
 - But in His divine wrath God remembers mercy
- Men will still have the opportunity to repent.
 - We live in the age of grace
 - Men scoff at the coming of the Lord and the end of days
 - But prophecy stands true and can be an effective tool for witnessing
- Jesus is COMING again / BE READY / BE ABOUT HIS BUSINESS