

## THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 4/4-5/2022 *Revelation Chapter 8*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQOT09>

**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

One tap mobile

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**Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763>**

**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340**

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### OPENING PRAYER

### OPENING SONG:

**IS HE WORTHY?** *Chris Tomlin (4:31)*

*Do you feel the world is broken? (We do) Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)*

*But do you know that all the dark won't Stop the light from getting through? (We do)*

*Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)*

*Is all creation groaning? (It is) Is a new creation coming? (It is)*

*Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is)*

*Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)*

*Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?*

*The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave He was David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave*

*Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory Is He worthy of this? (He is!)  
 Does the Father truly love us? (He does) Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)  
 And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those He loves? (He does)  
 Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does)  
 Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?  
 The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave He is David's root and the Lamb who died  
 to ransom the slave From every people and tribe Every nation and tongue  
 He has made us a kingdom and priests to God To reign with the Son  
 Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory  
 Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Is He worthy of this? He is!  
 Is He worthy? Is He worthy? He is! He is!  
 He is worthy! He is worthy! He is!*

**Review of where we are with respect to the following two passages:**

- **In Jesus' Olivet Discourse we read:** (Mat 24:3) *Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"* (Mat 24:21) *For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

**Revelation Chapter 8 – Seventh Seal -Prelude to the Seven Trumpets – (1-6); First Trumpet: Vegetation Struck – (7); Second Trumpet – The Seas Struck - (8-9); Third Trumpet – The Waters Struck – (10-11); Fourth Trumpet – The Heavens Struck – (12-13).**

- **We have come to Revelation chapter eight** as we continue moving through the last book of the Bible. We had in chapter six the opening of the first six seals of the scroll. After the opening of the sixth seal, we have the seventh chapter, which is sort of parenthetical, giving us further information of the events that took place in the opening of the six seals. As we get into chapters eight and nine, we will be looking at the seven trumpet judgments.

***The Seventh Seal and the Golden Censer –  
 BIBLICAL TEXT OF CHAPTER EIGHT***

**(Rev 8:1-13)** *When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. 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.*

***The Seven Trumpets***

*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. 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. 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. 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. 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!"*

***The Throne in Heaven (the dwelling place of God)- The Seventh Seal and the Golden Censer***

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

*(Zep 1:7) Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD; For the day of the LORD (another term for the Great Tribulation) is at hand, For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests. (Hab 2:20) "But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."*

***Rev 8:2 And I saw the seven angels (likely high ranking angels) who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.***

- **Silence in heaven for about half an hour!** The word "loud" is used twenty-two times in Revelation. We continue to hear "loud!" Here, silence is used for the only time. Silence can sometimes be a very awesome thing, especially in a large group of people. In heaven, there will be hundreds of millions! Try to imagine silence for the space of about a half-hour! What an awesome kind of a thing, it will be like to have silence for the space of a half-hour, which is like the quiet before the storm. The silence of awe and anticipation at the grim reality of the judgments God is about to unleash. The silence that precedes these cataclysmic judgments that will come with the seven trumpet sounds. It is one of those moments where there is that awful quietness and silence, like before a tornado hits. When there is a tornado, that before it hits, there just seems to be an eerie kind of a silence and quietness, calmness. But then the tremendous force. That is what the silence will be like in heaven for the space of *about a half an hour*. Do we hear, in this silence, the broken heartedness of the Father toward the hard heartedness of man, prior to His sending forth the coming judgment?
- **We know that surrounding the throne of God are the four cherubim.** They are described and identified for us in Ezekiel chapters one and ten. John describes them in the fourth chapter here of the Book of Revelation. *(Rev 4:8) The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"* But there are also seven angels that stand before God. The Bible names, I believe, two of them.
- **The seven angels.** In the book of the Apocrypha, not in the Bible (*1 Enoch 20*), there are five others named (Uriel, Raphael, Raguel, **Michael**, Sariel, **Gabriel**, and Remeiel). Gabriel is one of them. You remember when he came to the father of John the Baptist, Zacharias, as he was burning incense in the temple of the Lord, *(Luk 1:19) And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings.* He is likely one of the present angels. John "saw the seven angels who stand before God."

***Rev 8:3 Then another (allos – of the same kind), angel having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it (like Zacharias in *Luk 1:19*) with the prayers of all the saints (generational prayers of the believers on earth, throughout the ages) upon the golden altar which was before the throne. (1Ti 2:5) *For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.****

- **The Book of Revelation is sort of a compilation of the Old Testament and parts** of the New Testament. There is not much in the Book of Revelation that has not already been revealed. You need a background and understanding of the Old Testament to really understand fully the New. When you get into the heavenly scene, it is good to have a background and understanding of the earthly tabernacle because **the earthly tabernacle was actually an earthly model of heaven.** When the Lord, commanded Moses to build the tabernacle, He said, Now be careful that you build it just as it was ordered. *(Heb 8:5) who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "SEE THAT YOU MAKE ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN."* The reason for the carefulness is that you do have in the earthly tabernacle a model of heaven and the throne of God. **If you want to get an idea of heaven and the throne of God, then you need to go back and study the tabernacle.**
- **In the tabernacle, there was the holy place** with the table of showbread, the altar of incense and the seven candlesticks on the single base (Menorah). Between the Holy Place and the holiest of all, or the Holy of Holies, there was this thick curtain, a veil, which was to keep people from going into the Holy of Holies. That was to be entered only one day out of the year, the Day of Atonement, and by only one man, the high priest. He did so to make intercession before God for the people of Israel.
- **Within the Holy of Holies, there was the golden ark of the covenant.** It was covered by a golden

lid called the mercy seat. Above that there were the two cherubim that are the cherubim that are about the throne of God. (*Exo 25:18*) *And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat.* Thus, we have the model of God's throne there in the holy of holies where the priest would enter into the very presence of God. Now as he would enter into the Holy of Holies, he was to have the golden censer. He would take the live coals off of the altar or the glowing red-hot coals, put them in this golden censer, and in his right hand, he would have this incense that was ground into powder. As they would pull back the veil to allow him to enter into the Holy of Holies, with the little censer with the chain holding it, he would take the handful of incense and put it on the hot coals and of course, it would dissolve immediately into a thick smoke. A fragrant smoke, the incense, very fragrant, would cover the mercy seat. It says that the high priest should not die. (*Exo 28:35*) *And it shall be upon Aaron when he ministers, and its sound will be heard when he goes into the holy place before the LORD and when he comes out, that he may not die.*

- **He came in with the incense, the smoke, which was figurative of the prayers** of God's people. He was entering in before the Lord, now with the prayers of God's people. Back in chapter five (*Rev 5:8*) *Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.* So, smoke of the incense, the fragrance of that incense, was figurative of the prayers of God's people.
- **God loves to have you fellowship with Him. Your prayers are like a sweet fragrance** to the Lord. How He loves to have communion with you and spend time with you. Your prayers are as a sweet fragrance unto Him. Even as in the earthly model, so it is in heaven. John sees the seven angels, which are given the seven trumpets and then the other angel who comes forth having this golden censer. There is much incense given unto him. It is interesting the high priest was to come with much incense, that he should offer it with the **prayers of all the saints** upon the golden altar which was before the throne.
- **Have you ever prayed for justice? For righteousness upon the earth?** Have you ever prayed that God would bring His righteous judgment upon the evil, wicked men? In the sixth chapter, in the opening of the fifth seal, John saw the souls that were under the altar clothed in white robes saying, (*Rev 6:10*) *And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"* They had been killed, martyred for their witness of Jesus Christ, for their failure to worship the antiChrist. Their failure to get with his program. Now they are asking, Lord, how long before you avenge our blood against our adversaries on the earth?

***Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.***

- **The prayers of the saints**, being offered at this time before God pours out His judgment in the seven trumpets upon the earth. Everything is in control, but everything seems out of control! But, every one of those prayers are recorded and have been kept. At this scene, when He is ready to begin to move and deal with sinful humanity in a way that He never has, heaven falls silent! And all of those prayers rise before His throne!
- **We need to be careful when we pray for the Lord just to get us out of here.** Consider God's heart for the lost! (*Eze 33:11*) *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?' (Psa 116:15) Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His saints.* God sees throughout all the insanity of the end times, a multitude of sons and daughters that are going to be gathered.

***Rev 8:5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar* (bronze, burnt offering altar?), ***and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.*****

*(Lev 6:13) A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out. (Lev 16:12-13) Then he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, with his hands full of sweet incense beaten fine, and bring it inside the veil. [13] And he shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on the Testimony, lest he die.*

- **He used the censer first to put the incense, the prayers offered to God.** But now he is filled the censer again with fiery coals, probably from the bronze, burnt offering altar, and he cast it to the earth. The same fire that brings blessings to the saints, brings judgment to the unbeliever!
- **The silence is broken! *There were noises, thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.*** The silence is now over. The judgments are ready to begin. What an awesome scene, there in heaven as we watch this whole event now unfolding.



### *The Seven Trumpets*

***Rev 8:6 So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.***

***Rev 8:7 The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown*** (something deliberate) ***to the earth. And a third of the trees*** (*dendron* – trees, frequently fruit trees) ***were burned up, and all green grass*** (*choloros chortos* - wild grass, herbage or vegetation) ***was burned up.***

- **The first of the judgments strike the first of God’s creation** upon the earth. When God separated the waters and created the dry land, God also created the plants and the trees upon the earth at that time. They are the first of God’s creation on the earth. They are the first to experience the judgment of God as God destroys a third of the trees and all the grass of the earth in a tremendous fire! Can you imagine what that will do to the atmosphere? No, we can’t. We cannot imagine what it will be like when a third part of all of the trees and all of the grass of the earth is burnt up! It will be a horrible catastrophe!
- **Today, we see how the pagan religions have invaded the United States.** As the eastern religions, the worship of Mother Earth, the Gaea, as they have taken hold, we have the worship of the earth, the worship of the forest, the trees, the tree huggers, and all of these environmentalists who are so concerned with the environment of the earth and it’s a legitimate concern.
- **We are not opposed to rational protection. We are opposed to man, trying to act and be God,** in controlling climate change, making unreasonable rules and regulations in the name or protecting the environment. We continue to see that man in his wisdom is not always so wise. Man is trying to control nature. We can’t! But man is trying to control the thing. But it is going to be out of control when God sends this first trumpet judgment, the “*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!*”

***Rev 8:8 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.***

- We will see later in the third bowl, that the description of blood is literal. (***Rev 16:4,6***) ***Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. [6] For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due.***

**Rev 8:9 And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.**

- **Something like a great mountain burning with fire.** Notice again the simile, the symbolism in John's description. Some say that the Book of Revelation is all symbolic. You should not waste your time trying to read it because it is symbolic, and we do not always understand the symbols. But symbols are always representing something that is real. Here is John in his day, almost two thousand years ago, having a vision of things that have not yet come to pass. He is looking far into the future.
- **Consider, if you were living in that day of John, where the fastest mode of transportation** would be a horse, and if you had a vision of what would be 1900 years or so, later? How would you describe, say, if in the vision, God showed you a helicopter? How would you describe it? If He showed, you missiles. If He showed you tanks firing their cannon, how would you describe that? Here is John having a vision of things of the future and thus he has to describe them with things that are familiar to him, using words that are familiar to him. Thus, when John describes some of these things, when they are just a description, John tells you that they were "like" or "as it were." In other words, it was not, but it was "like." "Like" is used fifty-four times in Revelation.
- **Like a great mountain of fire cast into the sea: and a third part of the sea became blood; And a third part of the creatures which were in the sea, that had life, died; and a third part of the ships were destroyed.** As he looked at it, as he saw it, it looked like a great mountain of fire. Can you imagine the devastation in this second trumpet judgment as God now strikes the sea with this, what looks like a great mountain of fire, burning fire that is cast into the sea, polluting the sea so that **a third part of the creatures** within the sea die? **A third part of the ships** were destroyed! **A third part of the sea becomes as blood** when the third trumpet sounds. Note that this is happening in thirds, which indicates the continuing grace and mercy from our God!

**Rev 8:10 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.**

**Rev 8:11 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.**

- **The third thing that God attacks in this judgment is the fresh water supply** of the earth. We are living in really an area that is quite arid. It is almost desert. There is not enough rain that falls in Southern California to support the population of Southern California. We depend upon the water that is imported south from the northern part of the state and from the water from the Colorado River. But can you imagine what will transpire when God strikes the fresh water of the earth? The freshwater lakes. The freshwater rivers. Turning them poisonous so that they will not be palatable. Can you imagine what will happen on the earth at that time **when a third part of the freshwater** system is polluted, and men will not be able to drink it? As I said, **you do not want to be here.** And thanks be to God, you do not have to be here! **God has provided** for His church **the way of escape!**
- **Some teach that the church will be here and that the rapture takes place at the seventh trumpet.** They try to identify the seventh trumpet, here in Revelation, with the last trump of First Corinthians 15, when Paul is talking about the rapture of the church. Paul said, *(1Co 15:51-53) Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— [52] in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. [53] For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.* He associates that change, taking place at the last trumpet.
- **Thus, they say we will be here to go through all** of these calamities as God's judgment is being poured out upon the earth. But we will be shown in subsequent lessons how that there is no relationship at all between the last trumpet of *First Corinthians 15* and the seventh trumpet of *the Book of Revelation*.
- **In the Old Testament, they were commanded in (Num 10:2-3) "Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps. [3] When they blow both of them, all the congregation shall gather before you at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.** At the time when Israel was going through the wilderness, they did not have loudspeaker systems, amplifiers and all, and so the sound that could be heard throughout the area was that of a trumpet, a trumpet blast. The trumpets were used when the time came to break camp and to move on, both trumpets would blow! That would signify that they were to move on, the time had come to move on.

- **In (Num 10:4) But if they blow only one, then the leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, shall gather to you.** The blowing of only one trumpet, was to call together the princes to come together to Moses. That is the kind of trumpet that will sound to call the church into heaven. As in (**Rev 4:1**) *After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this. **The blowing of the one trumpet, it will be the last trumpet for the church. That is what the last trumpet is.***
- **In (1Th 4:16) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.** They had a belief that Jesus was returning immediately and that those who die before Jesus came back unfortunately missed out on the glorious kingdom age. They were sorrowing for those who had died like there was no hope for them.
- **Paul writes to them concerning those that sleep in Christ. (1Th 4:13-16) But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. [14] For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. [15] For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. [16] For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.** This is not the trumpet of God that we see in the seven trumpet judgments. These are the trumpets that were given to the seven angels. **The angels are the ones that are blowing these trumpets**, which are actually the trumpets that declare the judgments of God that are coming upon the earth during this great tribulation period.
- **We find a third part of the trees destroyed! We find a third part of the ships in the sea are destroyed! A third part of the living creatures in the sea are destroyed! The fresh water is now destroyed, a third part of it!** You can imagine the calamity and the things that are happening in the hearts of men at this point.

**Rev 8:12 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.**

- **Jesus spoke of this in the Olivet Discourse. (Luk 21:25-26) "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity (no solution, no way out!), the sea and the waves roaring; [26] men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.**
- **We need to be reminded that the church, the true believers, are already "caught up" to meet the LORD in heaven.** We will not be on the earth! Therefore, if you are looking for this now, realize that we are not in the Tribulation. We are still here on earth! Many people are asking if we are in the tribulation, especially in recent times as we see so many things happening worldwide. Is this the end of time? Not yet, but it is getting close! It certainly appears that the stage is being set. Globalism is on the rise. Men are crying out for a one-world government. Looking for a solution to the Covid pandemic has all added to that. For a cashless society. We see that step. Israel is back in the land. The stage is set!
- **But the church, is not here in the heavenly scene! (Rev 4:1) After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."**
- **(Amo 5:18) Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light.**
- **(Joe 2:2) A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations.**

**Rev 8:13 And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, (Proclamation of Heaven!) saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe (The Lord is still warning!) to the inhabitants of the earth (Used 12x – being in contrast to God's people, these are the lost, unsaved, earthly minded, who are rebelling against God!) because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"**

- **Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth!** In other words, **you have not seen anything yet!** It's going to get worse. "Woe, woe, woe." Why! Because there are three trumpets, which represent the fifth, sixth and seventh trumpets, yet to sound. The three woes are for each trumpet! **Woe to the earth when each trumpet sounds! The angel is actually warning the earth of the judgment that is yet to come!**
- **In chapter nine, we will find the fifth and sixth trumpet.** Then, we go into another parenthetical portion of the Book of Revelation. But Jesus, talking about the great tribulation in, (*Mat 24:29*) "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Now "the sun will not be shining for a third of the day."
- **We remember the Desert Storm warfare as the Iraqis were leaving Kuwait,** they set on fire the oil wells. They turned the valves on and struck a match and the smoke was so thick, so heavy, you perhaps saw pictures of it on the news. Where at midday, it was dark. You could barely see the sun. They had to drive with their headlights. It is possible that when the forest and all of the fields are burned that it will create such a smoke shield around the world that the light of the sun will be darkened for a third part. The same with the moon and the same with the stars that it will sort of envelope the earth.
- **There was a huge volcano, Krakatoa, which exploded in 1883.** The explosion in the South Pacific was so great that for over a year, the sunsets were colored around the world with the dust that was still in the atmosphere. The sound of the explosion was so tremendous it was heard 2,200 miles away! That is just a little foretaste of what is coming! "The sun darkened, the stars, the moon for a third part."
- **When the sun is darkened on an eclipse, at midday there is this darkness is sort of eerie** when the sun is darkened. When daylight is not really light as we usually think of it. Awesome! The judgments of God as they proceed. But this is just the start of it. Worse things are coming as we move through the Book of Revelation! So much so that you do not want to be here! **We thank God, believers will not be here!**
- **Jesus said, (Luk 21:36) Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.** That is my prayer and I know God hears us when we pray.
- **Now Jesus is directing these judgments! He's in charge!** He has taken the scroll. He has begun to break the seals. He is the One that is ordering the events. He's completely in charge of this judgment. Jesus said, (*Joh 5:22-23*) *For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, [23] that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.*
- **In (Act 10:42) And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.**
- **To the Romans, Paul said, "(Rom 2:16) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.**
- **In (Act 17:31) because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."** Jesus will be in charge of the judgments that are coming upon the earth!
- **Again, that would preclude His judging His church.** He said to His disciples, (*Joh 15:15*) *No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.* If He calls us friends and then He exposes us to these things, that is not a very good friend! But **because we are His bride, He takes us out of the earth before He begins to destroy the earth and destroy men who have been guilty of destroying the earth!**
- **Next week, we move on to the first two "woes" as we look at the fifth and the sixth trumpet judgments of God that are coming upon the earth.** Next week all hell breaks forth on the earth literally, as you get into that sixth trumpet, the hordes of demonic spirits, being are released upon the earth with horrible consequences. **You do not want to be here, when that happens. Believe me!!**

## **SUMMARY POINTS:**

- **All of the signs are out. The coming of the Lord is soon.** Just how soon, nobody knows. But the important thing is to be ready. Because you know not the day or the hour or the moment that the Lord is coming for His church. As Paul said, (*Rom 13:11*) *And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.*
- **We know that we are one day closer to the return of Jesus Christ!** We know He is going to return. Just when, we are not sure. It is like looking at a woman who is expecting and you know that she is going to have a child. The signs are out. You just do not know exactly when the moment is going to take place. But you cannot deny it. The signs are there. **It is so important to be ready.**
- **Are you ready? Are you, as a believer, doing everything you can to help others to get ready and to be ready?**

## **CLOSING PRAYER:**

For next week, read **Chapter 9!**