

Revelation

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Notes From the Podium

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These notes are intended to augment your own reading and study of the lesson. Please use as an aid to help document the main message of the lecture.

Revelation 8:1-13

- I. Silence
 - A. Unlike seals 1-6 which when broken brought about an eruption/unleashing of something, the 7th seal brings quiet.
 - B. A Silence of Anticipation
 - 1. *Luke 5*
 - a. Zechariah goes into the Holy of Holies to offer incense (bronze altar for blood sacrifice, golden altar for incense)
 - b. Zechariah encounters the angel Gabriel
 - i. Connection between the ministrations of priests and angels is very close in scripture. Angels minister at the heavenly altar, doing in heaven what the priests do on earth.
 - ii. Zechariah has a vision and is struck dumb because he does not believe Gabriel's words
 - c. Meanwhile the people wait outside the temple for blessing to come upon them when Zechariah returns from offering their prayers (incense). This usually took about ½ hour.
 - i. Zechariah comes out, much delayed.
 - ii. There is silence
 - C. Silence Before Battle
 - 1. After the silence there will be trumpets
 - 2. Just before attack, you can hear the horses and the armor clank.
- II. Incense
 - A. Mingled with the prayers of the saints
 - B. Recall martyrs under the altar
- III. Angels
 - A. 7 Angels before God with 7 trumpets
 - B. Another angel with a golden censer
 - 1. He is given incense to mingle with the prayers of the saints
 - 2. He fills the censer with fire and throws it on the earth.
 - 3. Thunder, lightening, and earthquake – these prayers most certainly are heard by the Father



Notes From the Podium (cont)

4. *Ezek. 10:2* – coals tossed down on earth
 - a. recall the cosmic significance of the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple.
 - b. Old order is passing away and New Heaven/New Jerusalem is coming down.
- Note reaction to even small natural disasters today and consider how fragile life is.

IV. Trumpets

A. Used for worship, warfare, and warning.

1. Worship

- a. Determines history because God's unleashing of Grace or judgement is what guides history. For example, the fall of communism
- b. Our most powerful weapons are the Holy Mass and prayer – they transform the world.

2. Warfare

- a. linked to worship – when you go to pray, you go to battle
- b. Satan was defeated at Calvary in a cosmic battle.
- c. When you go to mass consider the battles just to get there and to pay attention during mass.
- d. *Num 10* – “If we have a just cause the Lord will fight on our side.... He is the one who takes up arms.”
- e. *Joshua 6* – Israelites take Jerico, the most fortified city in Canaan.
 - i. Priest blow trumpets and everyone shouts and the walls come crumbling down.
 - ii. The Lord fights for us
 - iii. Arc of the Covenant

3. Warning – trumpets are a sign of warning that the day of the Lord is coming.

V. The Angels with trumpets make ready to blow them

A. 1st Angel

1. Hail and fire – contradiction is a sign of the miraculous events taking place.
2. Mixed with blood
3. 1/3 of earth and trees are burned and all of the green grass burned – (Intensified curses)

B. 2nd Angel

1. Great mountain burning with fire thrown into the sea
 - a. 1/3 of sea becomes blood
 - b. 1/3 of creatures in sea die
 - c. 1/3 of ships destroyed



Notes From the Podium (cont)

- Note that these plagues are reminiscent of the plagues in Egypt. An intentional parallel to show that as we were freed from bondage to slavery, we are now freed from bondage to sin and death.
 - 2. What mountain? - *Mt 21:18-22*
 - a. the fig tree is an image of Jerusalem and a sign to those of the covenant who do not bear fruit.
 - b. “if you have faith...” and “you say to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea’, it will be done” – The mountain is an image of the old order.
 - C. 3rd Angel
 - 1. Great star fell from heaven
 - 2. “Wormwood” is name of star. wormwood is metaphor for divine punishment – *Jer 9:15, 23:15; Lam 3:15, and Prov 5:4*
 - 3. Many died from the water made bitter
 - 4. Consider:
 - a. *Luke 10:18* - Our Lord describes Satan falling from the sky like a star.
 - b. *Ex. 15:23* - Miracle at Marah, when Moses casts a tree into bitter waters making them sweet.
 - i. Early Church fathers see the tree as an image of Christ making the bitter waters of sin and death sweet.
 - ii. Wormwood is the reverse of the Miracle at Marah
 - D. 4th Angel – 1/3 of the sun moon and stars were struck and became dark
- VI. An Eagle cries – “Woe, woe, woe...”
 - A. *Hosea 8:1* – “A trumpet to your lips for an eagle is over the house of the Lord! Because they have broken the covenant and transgressed my law.
 - B. A Warning
 - C. Eagles somewhat like vultures
- VII. Parousia
 - A. When a general conquered a city, established new government, and then left, he would return later in secret to see who had been faithful to his laws. Those who had been faithful would be rewarded and those who had not were punished. This “coming back” is the Parousia.
 - B. Referred to by St. Paul in *1 Thess. 4:16-5:2*
 - C. The time of the parousia is unknown, you may not have 5 minutes, you may have 5 years. Be ready.