



OUR SOVEREIGN GOD

FROM THE PRODUCER OF THE JOHN WICK FRANCHISE
THE TOWN AND CLASH OF THE TITANS

GERARD BUTLER
GREENLAND





GREENLAND

IN CINEMAS OCTOBER 8

WATCH

ICE STORM DEVASTATES CENTRAL FLORIDA

CHICAGO

69°

DETROIT

66°

HOUSTON


HAVE HIT


WGVO TRAFFIC HELICOPTER


COMET WATCH

FRAGMENT DEVASTATES CENTRAL FLORIDA

RIGHT NOW

CHICAGO  69°

DETROIT  66°

HOUSTON  81°



OCEANS RISE. CITIES FALL.
HOPE SURVIVES.



DEEP
IMPACT

It is well said that, “It is often quietest before the storm.” The stillness and silence can almost take your breath away in anticipation of what may come. “It is often quietest before the storm.” Never are those words more appropriate than when they are applied to the Trumpet Judgements of Revelation 8, the day God destroys 1/3 of His creation.

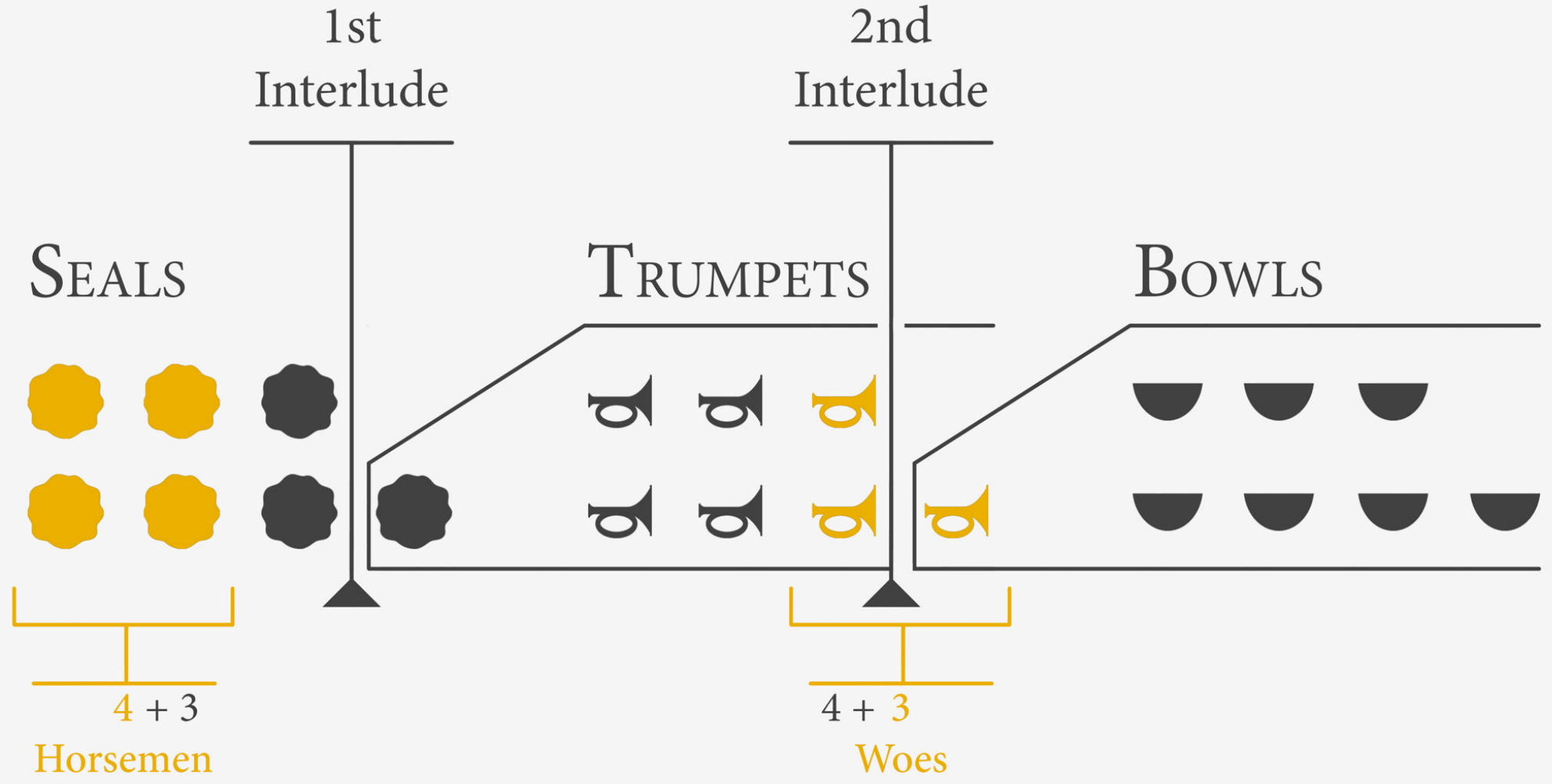
Revelation 8:1 speaks of silence in heaven, but only for a ½ hour, a short time, for a judgement almost too great to imagine will quickly follow and when it is finished, 1/3 of God's glorious creation will be gone, consumed by the God who made it.

Revelation 8 – 9 contains the 2nd great series of judgements in John’s apocalypse: the 7 trumpets. Revelation began with a greeting from the Trinity (1:1-8) and a glorious vision of the exalted Lord Jesus who walks in the midst of His churches (1:9-20). 7 letters to 7 specific historical churches comprise chapters 2 – 3, and then a significant turn in our book takes place for in 4:1 John is told, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.”

John is taken in the Spirit both to heaven and into the future as God shows, signifies to His servant His plan for the consummation of history. Chapters 4 – 5 are a glorious vision of 2 parts: chapter 4 focuses on God the Father, the Lord of Creation. Chapter 5 focuses on God the Son, the Lord of Redemption.

Thus by creation and redemption God has the right to do with this earth and its inhabitants as He pleases. Chapter 6 begins the divine account of the Tribulation, the Day of the Lord, Daniel's 70th week. The 19th chapter will bring it to its rightful conclusion with the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ to the earth to establish His earthly kingdom

Chapter 6 contained the seal judgements and introduced us to the 4 horsemen of the apocalypse. $\frac{1}{4}$ of humanity is killed.



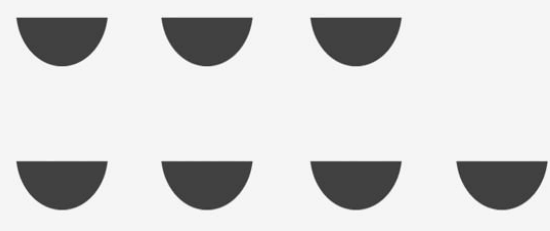
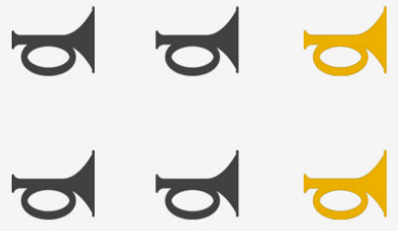
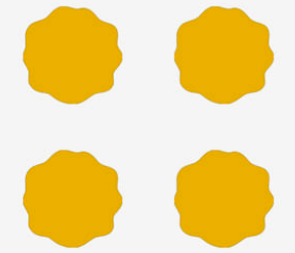
1st
Interlude

2nd
Interlude

SEALS

TRUMPETS

BOWLS



4 + 3

4 + 3

Horsemen

Woes

Seals 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Trumpets 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Bowls 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

THE SEVEN SEALS OF REVELATION

FIRST SEAL	SECOND SEAL	THIRD SEAL	FOURTH SEAL	FIFTH SEAL	SIXTH SEAL	SEVENTH SEAL
WHITE HORSE	RED HORSE	BLACK HORSE	PALE HORSE	MARTYRS CRY OUT	CELESTIAL SIGNS	RAPTURE
						
<p>Rev 6: 2 Had a Bow Given a Crown Went out Conquering</p>	<p>Rev 6:4 Peace Removed Violence breaks out Has Sword</p>	<p>Rev 6:5-6 Balance Scales Huge Inflation Oil & Wine Spared</p>	<p>Rev 6:8 Death has Hades with him 1/4th earth Killed with sword, famine, death & beasts</p>	<p>Rev 6:9-11 Martyrs cry out How long? Not until number of brethren to be killed is complete</p>	<p>Rev 6:12-17 Earth quakes Sun darkens moon turns red Stars fall Sky Recedes like a scroll</p>	<p>Rev 8:1 Heaven silent about half hour Rev 11:12 Come up Here!</p>

Chapter 7 is an interlude, a break in the action, that teaches us that 1) in the midst of great judgement there is still mercy, 2) God is not through with the Jew, and 3) The Tribulation will also be a time of great revival as “a great multitude which no one could count” (7:9) will “wash their robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb” (7:14).

Now, however, the judgement of God on planet earth resumes with the blowing of the trumpets. What should we learn from this awesome scene?

Revelation 8:1–2 (CSB) When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. Then I saw the seven angels who stand in the presence of God; seven trumpets were given to them.

Revelation 8:3–4 (CSB) Another angel, with a golden incense burner, came and stood at the altar. He was given a large amount of incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar in front of the throne. The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up in the presence of God from the angel's hand.

Revelation 8:5–6 (CSB) The angel took the incense burner, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it to the earth; there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake. And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.

Revelation 8:7–8 (CSB) The first angel blew his trumpet, and hail and fire, mixed with blood, were hurled to the earth. So a third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain ablaze with fire was hurled into the sea. So a third of the sea became blood,

Revelation 8:9–10 (CSB) a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from heaven. It fell on a third of the rivers and springs of water.

Revelation 8:11–12 (CSB) The name of the star is Wormwood, and a third of the waters became wormwood. So, many of the people died from the waters, because they had been made bitter. The fourth angel blew his trumpet, 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 was without light and also a third of the night.

Revelation 8:13 (CSB) I looked and heard an eagle flying high overhead, crying out in a loud voice, “Woe! Woe! Woe to those who live on the earth, because of the remaining trumpet blasts that the three angels are about to sound!”

**As you Survey the Sovereignty of
God...**

1. Watch and pray (vs. 1-4)

Prayer is an important theme in Revelation. The “prayers of the saints” are mentioned in 5:8 and twice here (8:3,4). There are various facets of prayer to which we should give attention, and 3 of them are highlighted in this text. In light of the judgement that has gone before (ch. 6) and the judgements which will follow (chapters 8-9, 15-16, 17-18 in particular), these aspects of prayer take on an even greater significance.

Revelation 8:1 (CSB) When he opened the **seventh seal**, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

The Lamb breaks the **7th seal** – all of this is His doing. The 7th seal is the 7 trumpets as they follow immediately from it. There is a greater rapidity and intensity to the judgements as we move toward the end.

Revelation 8:1 (CSB) ...there was **silence in heaven for about half an hour.**

Silence in heaven for about ½ an hour – why?

1) It is the silence before the great storm of God's judgement;

2) To hear the cries for deliverance and vindication and justice of the persecuted servants of Christ.

Revelation 8:2 (CSB) Then I saw the seven angels who stand in the presence of God; seven trumpets were given to them.

While it is silent, John sees the 7 angels receive the 7 trumpets. The Lamb broke the seals. Angels will execute the judgement of the trumpets and the bowls (ch. 16).

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THE MIGHTY ANGELS OF REVELATION



Revelation 8:2 (CSB) Then I saw the seven angels who stand in the presence of God; seven trumpets were given to them.

Trumpets, according to Numbers 10, called the people together, announced war, and proclaimed special times and events.

Revelation 8:2 (CSB) ...seven **trumpets** were given to them.

Trumpets - They were sounded at Mt. Sinai when the Law was given (Exodus 19:16-19), when Jericho fell (Josh. 6:13-16), when the king was enthroned (1 Kings 1:34, 39). A trumpet will sound at the rapture (1 Thess. 4:13-18) and when Christ returns (Matt. 24:31).

The scene is suspenseful, awesome and majestic. Heaven is silent before the sovereign God who prepares to execute justice. Before such a God we too should, stand, bow or kneel in silence:

Habakkuk 2:20 – “But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.”

Zechariah 2:13 – “Be silent, all flesh, before the Lord, for he is aroused from His holy Habitation!”

Revelation 8:3 (CSB) Another angel, with a golden incense burner, came and stood at the altar...

To stand before God is to be ready for service. In addition to the 7, another angel comes to stand at the altar, the golden altar of incense (see Exodus 30:1-10; 2 Kings 6:22; Hebrews 9:4).

Revelation 8:3 (CSB) Another angel, with a **golden incense burner**, came and stood at the altar...

He holds a **golden censer** or pan used to transport fiery coals from the brazen altar to the altar of incense in order to ignite the **incense**.





The censer that the angel uses in 8:3 and 8:5 may have been an incense shovel similar to the one shown here. These implements were used to transport hot coals on which the incense would be burned. This bronze incense shovel is probably of Roman origin from the second century AD.



Revelation 8:3 (CSB) ...He was given a large amount of incense to offer with **the prayers of all the saints...**

Here the burning incense with its sweet aromatic scent is added or mingled with **the prayers of all the saints** on the altar and before the throne. All of this rises before the Lord as a cloud of fragrant smoke and as a symbol of an acceptable offering to God

Revelation 8:3 (CSB) ...He was given a large amount of incense to offer with **the prayers of all the saints...**

Mounce is correct when he says, “The scene in heaven suggests that there is something sacrificial about genuine prayer” (p. 182). For centuries the saints of God have prayed, talked to God. They have poured out their hearts, laid bare their souls and sought His face.

Revelation 8:3 (CSB) ...He was given a large amount of incense to offer with **the prayers of all the saints...**

God is pleased when we pray. God is honored when like Jesus, we pray, "... not my will, but Yours be done" (Luke 22:32). During the Great Tribulation God's will will be done.

Revelation 8:5 (CSB) The angel took the incense burner, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it to the earth; there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

Revelation 8:5 (CSB)...there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

The language of these verses is reminiscent of Sinai with its thunders, lightnings, and earthquake (Exodus 19:16-19), and the vision of Ezekiel 10:2-7 where a man clothed in linen fills his hand with coals and scatters them over the city.

As you Survey the Sovereignty of God...

- 1. Watch and pray (vs. 1-4)**
- 2. Wait on his timing (vs. 5-6)**

Intercession has turned to judgement, not according to man's timetable, but God's! The angel priest casts fire upon the earth followed by storm and disaster. The cosmos trembles before the presence and power of its Creator. A day of reckoning has arrived. "The 7 angels prepare themselves to sound" (v. 7).

Romans 12:19 reminds us, “Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.” (Deut. 32:35; Heb. 10:30). There is coming a day when God will make things right. The trumpet judgements are a portion of that day. We need to wait on Him. He will not be late. Indeed, He will be right on time.

Revelation 8:7 (CSB) The first angel blew his trumpet, and hail and fire, mixed with blood, were hurled to the earth. So a third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

The judgements of the trumpets break forth from the 7th seal. They follow a 4-3 pattern similar to that of the seals. The precise nature of each is not altogether clear, though the end results are quite plain and quite tragic. The judgements generally recall the plagues of Exodus, which God visited upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians.

The first 4 of chapter 8 are natural in that they affect the land, salt water, freshwater and sky. The 5th and 6th trumpets of chapter 7 unleash demonic forces that torment, then kill. The 7th trumpet (11:15-19) will constitute the 7 bowls of chapter 16.

As you Survey the Sovereignty of God...

- 1. Watch and pray (vs. 1-4)**
- 2. Wait on his timing (vs. 5-6)**
- 3. Witness his dominion (vs. 7-13)**

Revelation 8:7 (CSB) ... So a third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

God is sovereign over the soil. Thirteen times the word “third” occurs in chapter 8.

Revelation 8:7 (CSB) ... So a third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

This destruction of a third may be scattered worldwide or, it may be specific in defining God's devastation of a particular third, a particular continent, a particular land and sea mass, a particular geographical location.

Revelation 8:7 (CSB) ...and **hail and fire, mixed with blood**, were hurled to the earth.

Hail & fire recall the 4th Egyptian plague (Exodus 9:23-26; Joel 2:30-31).

Mixed with blood intensifies the judgement as 1/3 of the earth, trees and all the green grass in that 1/3 is burned up. “

Revelation 8:7 (CSB)... So a third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

“Burned up” occurs 3 times in these verses. 1/3 indicates that although God is judging the earth, His judgement is not yet complete or final.

Revelation 8:8 (CSB) The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain ablaze with fire was hurled into the sea. So a third of the **sea** became blood,

Now we see **God's sovereignty over the sea.**

Revelation 8:8 (CSB) ...So a third of the sea became **blood**,

This judgement is reminiscent of the 1st Egyptian plague in which the rivers were turned to **blood**, killing the fish and making the water undrinkable (Exodus 7:20-21).

Revelation 8:8 (CSB) ...So a third of the sea became **blood**,

Here, it is sea life and those who travel its waters who are affected and judged. Ecological and economic disaster of an unprecedented nature visits our planet.

Revelation 8:8 (CSB) ...and **something like a great mountain** ablaze with fire was hurled into the sea...

something like a great mountain Was it a giant meteorite, an asteroid, or something altogether different? John did not know what it was. However, he is absolutely clear in what it does.

Revelation 8:10 (CSB) The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from heaven. It fell on a third of the rivers and **springs** of water.

God is sovereign over the springs.

The reference to wormwood draws a parallel to the experience of the children of Israel at the waters of Marah (Exodus 15:23-25).



WORMWOOD





Revelation 8:11 (CSB) The name of the star is Wormwood, and a third of the waters became wormwood...

The star receives the name Wormwood because of the effect it has on the water. The word referred to a plant with a strong bitter taste found in the Near East (see Jeremiah 9:15; 23:15; Lamentations 3:15, 19; Amos 5:7)

Revelation 8:11 (CSB) The name of the star is Wormwood, and a third of the waters became wormwood...

It is not clear whether John intends the star to be understood naturally or supernaturally, as an angel (cf. 9:1) or an asteroid. Again, its end result is indisputable.

Revelation 8:11 (CSB) The name of the star is Wormwood, and a third of the waters became wormwood...

It poisoned the springs and the rivers that provide our drinking water, and many died as a result. The water becomes bitter and poisonous and the inhabitants of the earth become even more familiar with the bitterness and death of God's just judgement.

Revelation 8:12 (CSB) The fourth angel blew his trumpet, 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 was without light and also a third of the night.

Revelation 8:12 (CSB) The fourth angel blew his trumpet, 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 was without light and also a third of the night.

God is Sovereign over the Skies

Revelation 8:12 (CSB) The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck...

This plague of darkness looks back to the 9th plague in Egypt (Exodus 10:21-23). Amos 5:18 teaches us, “The day of the Lord is darkness, not light.”

Revelation 8:12 (CSB) The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck...

Joel 2 says the day of the Lord will be “a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness.” The darkness of the 4th trumpet anticipates the transition to demonic activity and even greater sorrow.

Revelation 8:13 (CSB) I looked and heard an eagle flying high overhead, crying out in a loud voice, “Woe! Woe! Woe to those who live on the earth, because of the remaining trumpet blasts that the three angels are about to sound!”

Revelation 8:13 (CSB) I looked and heard an eagle flying high overhead...

Verse 13 is something of a transition. The flying eagle should be understood symbolically and may have a connection with the eagle-like living creature of Revelation 4:7-8.

Revelation 8:13 (CSB) ...crying out in a loud voice, “**Woe! Woe! Woe** to those who live on the earth...

Before the last 3 angels sound their trumpet, a 3-fold woe is pronounced upon the earth and in a loud voice. The 1st woe is to be identified with the 5th trumpet. The 2nd woe is to be identified with the 6th trumpet.

Revelation 8:13 (CSB) ...crying out in a loud voice, “**Woe! Woe! Woe** to those who live on the earth...

The 3rd woe is to be identified with the 7th trumpet which constitutes the final series of judgements: the 7 bowls of chapter 16.

Revelation 8:13 (CSB) ...crying out in a loud voice, “Woe! Woe! Woe **to those who live on the earth...**”

The phrase “those who dwell on the earth” is used throughout Revelation to designate those who live in rebellion and unbelief before the true and living God. It occurs 12 times in the book.

Revelation 8:13 (CSB) ...crying out in a loud voice, “Woe! Woe! Woe **to those who live on the earth...**

These are persons who live not only on the earth, but for the earth. The things of God count for naught. The issues of heaven matter nothing at all. What a tragic way to live. What a terrible way to die.

Key Themes of Revelation 8

- God demonstrates his sovereignty by pouring out his wrath on a wicked world.
- God's judgments are, in part, his response to the prayers of his people for justice and deliverance.



Old Testament Connections

Revelation 8:3 Another angel, with a golden incense burner, came and stood at the altar. He was given a large amount of incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar in front of the throne.

Psalms 141:2 May my prayer be set before you as incense, the raising of my hands as the evening offering.

Exodus 30:1–3 “You are to make an altar for the burning of incense; make it of acacia wood. 2It must be square, eighteen inches long and eighteen inches wide; it must be thirty-six inches high. Its horns must be of one piece with it. 3Overlay its top, all around its sides, and its horns with pure gold; make a gold molding all around it.

Revelation 8:4

The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up in the presence of God from the angel's hand.

Psalms 141:2

May my prayer be set before you as incense, the raising of my hands as the evening offering.

Revelation 8:5 The angel took the incense burner, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it to the earth; there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

Exodus 19:16–19 On the third day, when morning came, there was thunder and lightning, a thick cloud on the mountain, and a very loud blast from a ram's horn, so that all the people in the camp shuddered. **17** Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. **18** Mount Sinai was completely enveloped in smoke because the Lord came down on it in fire. Its smoke went up like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain shook violently. **19** As the sound of the ram's horn grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and God answered him in the thunder.

Revelation 8:3 Another angel, with a golden incense burner, came and stood at the altar. He was given a large amount of incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar in front of the throne.

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Revelation 8:7 The first angel blew his trumpet, and hail and fire, mixed with blood, were hurled to the earth. So a third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

Exodus 9:23–26 So Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven, and the Lord sent thunder and hail. Lightning struck the land, and the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt. 24The hail, with lightning flashing through it, was so severe that nothing like it had occurred in the land of Egypt since it had become a nation. 25Throughout the land of Egypt, the hail struck down everything in the field, both people and animals. The hail beat down every plant of the field and shattered every tree in the field. 26The only place it didn't hail was in the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were.

Revelation 8:7 The first angel blew his trumpet, and hail and fire, mixed with blood, were hurled to the earth. So a third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

Ezekiel 38:22 I will execute judgment on him with plague and bloodshed. I will pour out torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and burning sulfur on him, as well as his troops and the many peoples who are with him.

Revelation 8:8 The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain ablaze with fire was hurled into the sea. So a third of the sea became blood,

Exodus 7:20–21 Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord had commanded; in the sight of Pharaoh and his officials, he raised the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile was turned to blood. **21**The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad the Egyptians could not drink water from it. There was blood throughout the land of Egypt.

Revelation 8:11 The name of the star is Wormwood, and a third of the waters became wormwood. So, many of the people died from the waters, because they had been made bitter.

Jeremiah 9:15 Therefore, this is what the Lord of Armies, the God of Israel, says: "I am about to feed this people wormwood and give them poisonous water to drink.

Revelation 8:12 The fourth angel blew his trumpet, 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 was without light and also a third of the night.

Isaiah 13:10 Indeed, the stars of the sky and its constellations will not give their light. The sun will be dark when it rises, and the moon will not shine.

Ezekiel 32:7–8 “ ‘When I snuff you out, I will cover the heavens and darken their stars. I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon will not give its light. 8I will darken all the shining lights in the heavens over you, and will bring darkness on your land. This is the declaration of the Lord God.

Revelation 8:12 The fourth angel blew his trumpet, 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 was without light and also a third of the night.

Joel 2:10 The earth quakes before them; the sky shakes. The sun and moon grow dark, and the stars cease their shining.

Joel 3:15 The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will cease their shining.



Conclusion

“The gospel is not a tranquilizer for worried weaklings to help them sleep at night. It is not a mass of dead dogmas, deep frozen in some ancient cathedral to be carried as a burden through life and thawed out five minutes before death. The gospel is not a list of religious rules and regulations to be strung around the soul like a lucky charm in case of accidents...

No, the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is a message – and what a message! It is a living message from the living God for living people, just like us, for people with sins just like us, for people with sorrows and heartaches just like us. It is the only message on the face of the earth with concrete promises and absolute assurances of an eternal inheritance that will withstand the impact of death and the collapse of the universe.”

J. Boyd Nicholson

For a moment, imagine you have received an invitation for a private audience with a wealthy, generous individual—Elon Musk, for instance. The purpose of this meeting is clearly stated—he wants to hear you share about a cause near and dear to your heart and potentially provide resources for it. Would you consider your words? Would you prepare yourself and do all you could to take advantage of your interview?

Of course you would! For a moment, consider this: God has written your prayers into his plan for history. Your prayers are intimately involved in ushering God's purposes into being. The God of infinite power and unfathomable love is waiting to hear from you. Our prayers matter.



OUR SOVEREIGN GOD