

***“The Seventh Seal”***  
***Revelation 8:1-2***

**Introduction:**

1. Last Week:
  - We Finished Looking At:
    - Revelation 7 - Which We Learned:
      - Formed An Interlude Between:
        - The Sixth & Seventh Seals:
          - In John’s Vision Of The Scroll!
  - And - As We Looked At:
    - The Details Of This Chapter:
      - We Can See How It Fulfills:
        - Its Two-Fold Purpose!
2. First - It Was Meant To:
  - **Bring An *Answer* The Question:**
    - We Find In The Last Verse Of Chapter 6:
      - “Who Shall Be Able To Stand?”
    - And So - The Only Ones:
      - Who Will Be Able To “Stand” During:
        - “The Great Day” Of God’s “Wrath” Are:
          - The Servants Of God Who Have Been Sealed By God!
3. And This Leads To:
  - ***Assurance* For Those Servants:**
    - Who Will Go Through:
      - The Period Of:
        - “The Great Tribulation!”
    - Which Is Briefly Mentioned:
      - In 7:14!
4. And So - The Main Focus Of This Chapter:
  - Is On Those Servants Of God:
    - Who Are First Described:
      - In Terms Of 144,000:
        - Before The Great Tribulation! (7:4)
    - But Then - Are Also Described:
      - As A Great Multitude:
        - “Of All Nations & Kindreds & People & Tongues!” (7:9)
5. And - They Are Given Assurance:
  - **Of Special *Rewards & Relief*:**
    - From The Ones Who Will Rescue Them:
      - And Bring Them “Out Of The Great Tribulation” And Into:
        - The Very Presence Of God:
          - Before His Throne In His Heavenly Temple! (7:15)
6. But - As We Saw From:
  - Other Passages In The Old Testament:
    - Which Are Echoed In This Passage:
      - The Rewards & Relief That:
        - They Will Enjoy - Is Something Promised:
          - To All Of God’s People:
            - For All Eternity!
7. The Next Thing That We Come To:
  - After This Interlude Is:
    - The Opening Of The Seventh Seal:
      - Which Opens Up The Next Chapter:
        - Which We Will Start Looking At Today!
  - But - Before We Do:
    - Since We Didn’t Have Any Time Last Week:
      - To Field Any Questions:

- Let's Do That First Before We Move On!
- Questions Especially About:
  - The Latter Parts Of Chapter 7!

**Introduction:**

1. So - With The Interlude Of Revelation 7 Behind Us:
  - We Turn Our Attention Back To:
    - **The Scroll - Sealed With Seven Seals:**
      - That We First Learned About:
        - In Chapter 5!
    - Where - Only One Was Found Worthy:
      - To Loosen The Seals / To Open The Book / And To Read it!
        - And That Was, Of Course:
          - Our Lord Jesus Christ!
            - Who Is The Lion-Like Lamb!
2. Now - As Jesus Opened:
  - The First 6 Seals:
    - We Noticed That They Closely Parallel:
      - What Jesus Already Described:
        - **To His Disciples In Matthew 24:**
          - About What Would Happen To Them & To The World:
            - Right Up Until His Return From Heaven!
3. And - We Can Especially See This:
  - When We Compare The Events Of:
    - **The Sixth Seal With What Jesus Said:**
      - In Matthew 24:29-30 - "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: / And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory!"
    - And What Happens When Jesus Opens The Sixth Seal?
      - 6:12-17 - "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; / And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. / And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. / And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; / And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: / For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"
4. So - The Seals Of The Scroll:
  - **Seem To Be More-Or-Less A Reminder:** ("Remind Us")
    - Of What Jesus Already Told His Disciples:
      - About What Was To Come:
        - In His Olivet Discourse!
    - And - They Lead Us:
      - Right To The Very Cusp:
        - Of His Return!
      - "The First Six Seals . . . Represent The Character Of The Age And The Course Of The Gospel In The World Down To The End Of The Age!" (Ladd)
    - But - There Is Still:
      - One More Seal To Be Removed From The Scroll:
        - Until The Scroll Itself:
          - Can Be Opened & Its Contents:
            - Be Revealed!
5. And So - This Is What We Find Next:
  - In 8:1-2 - "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. / And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets!"

- Now - From John's Perspective - This May Also Have Seemed To Parallel:
  - What Jesus Said In Matthew 24:31:
    - "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other!"
- And So - This Is Probably:
  - What He Was Anticipating:
    - Once He Saw The Seventh Seal Opened!
      - But - Instead Of The Gathering Jesus Described:
        - He Is First Given More & New Revelation:
          - That Would Precede Jesus' Coming!
  - And This Will Begin:
    - The Revelation Of:
      - The Contents Of The Scroll Itself!

\*And So - The First Thing We Find In Revelation 8 Is:

**1. A New Seal!**

- Even The **Seventh** Seal:
  - Which Jesus Opens In The Same Way:
    - As The First Six - 8:1:
      - "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour!"
  - Once Again - We Don't Know:
    - The Exact Order Of The Seals:
      - That Were Opened - But It Is Clear That:
        - The Last One Was The Seventh One!
    - But - As Soon As It's Opened:
      - Unlike All Of The Others:
        - Nothing Happens!
    - Instead - There Is Nothing But:
- **The Silence:**
  - That We Find "In Heaven!" (A "Hush" - σιγή - To Hush)
    - Of Course - Before This:
      - John Witnessed All Kinds Of:
        - Prayer To Heaven & Praise In Heaven!
          - Even With Great & Loud & Numerous Voices!
    - But Now - All Of A Sudden:
      - Everything In Heaven:
        - Goes Silent!
      - But - That Silence:
        - Is Deafening!
      - But Why? What Could Be:
  - **The Significance:**
    - Of This Silence?
      - Well - There Have Been Many Suggestions:
        - As To What It Means!
      - But - Perhaps The Most Common One Is That It Is:
        - **A Silence Of Suspense** For What Is Yet To Come!
    - And This Certainly Makes Sense:
      - Based On What We've Already Seen:
        - In Revelation!
    - First - We Don't Know What:
      - Is In The Scroll!
        - This Was The Main Reason Why John "Wept Much!" (5:4)
      - And Now That The Seventh Seal Is Broken Off The Scroll:
        - **The Contents Of The Scroll Can Be Finally Revealed!**
      - So - The Time Had Come:
        - In John's Vision:
          - To Find Out What's In The Scroll!

- “It Is Proper To Assume . . . That What Follows The Breaking Of The Seven Seals Is In Fact The Content Of The Scroll!” (Ladd)
  - And So - The Silence Of Suspense!
- But Also - All Of The First 6 Seals:
  - Seem To Be Reminders Of:
    - What Jesus Already Described:
      - That Would Bring The World To Its End!
  - And Now That The Seventh Seal Is Broken Off the Scroll:
    - The Question Might Be:
      - **What’s Next?**
      - (To Reveal What’s Next)
  - And So - Again - The Silence Of Suspense!
- But - As We Already Know That:
  - Its Not The Trumpet Sound Of Jesus’ Return:
    - That Will Be Heard - But:
      - The Seven Trumpets Of God’s Judgment!
  - The Silence Of Suspense:
    - **Is Like The “Calm Before The Storm”** That Will Lead To:
      - The Final **Judgments** Of God, Because The Long-Anticipated “Day Of The Lord” Had Finally Come!
      - (To Reveal God’s Judgment)
    - This Is Something That We Find In The Old Testament As Well:
      - As In Habakkuk 2:20 - Which Describes The Appropriate Response To The Impending Judgment Of God On Sinners:
        - “But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him!”
- So - There May Be Many Reasons:
  - For The Silence:
    - After The Seventh Seal Is Opened!
      - In Fact - Some See The Silence As The Entire Content Of The Seventh Seal!
- But I Agree With How Grant Osborne Puts It In His Commentary On Revelation:
  - **“With The Opening Of the Seventh Seal, The Scroll Is Now *Open*, And The Events That Inaugurate Eternity Are Ready To Begin!”**
    - And This Is Why We Find This “Silence Of Suspense!”
  - But Then - In A Surprising Twist:
    - There Is No More Mention Of This Scroll Ever Again!
  - There Is Another “Little Scroll” Mentioned:
    - In Chapter 10 - But Its Pretty Clear:
      - That Its Not The Same Scroll That Jesus Opened Here!
- But Then - We Are Also Told About:
  - **The *Space*:**
    - Of The Silence:
      - “About The Space Of Half An Hour!”
        - The Time-Scale Given Here:
          - Is From John’s Perspective!
    - Because He Uses The Word:
      - **“As” To Describe It:**
        - “As A Half-Hour!”
      - Which Was Certainly:
        - Long Enough To Get Everyone’s Attention! **IE:** Even 1 Minute Of Silence Can Seem Like An Eternity!
      - But - This Amount Of Time:
        - Was Not Too Long:
          - To Prevent The Contents Of The Scroll From Finally Being Disclosed!
    - And So - After The Opening Of The Scroll:
      - And The Silence Is Over:
        - John Is Given:

- 8:2 - "And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets!"
    - Even Though We're Not Told:
      - I Can Imagine John's Excitement & Anticipation Growing:
        - As He Sees Something Like What He Heard Jesus Tell Him:
          - In The Olivet Discourse!
            - Because - He First Sees:
  - **Seven Angels!**
    - And - Once Again - We Have The Greek Article:
      - **"The Seven Angels!"**
    - Putting It This Way:
      - Seems To Refer To:
        - Seven Well-Known Angels!
      - In Fact - In Jewish Tradition:
        - There Are 7 Arch-Angels:
          - Including Gabriel & Michael - Who We Meet In Scripture!
        - 1 Enoch 20:2-8:
          - Uriel / Raphael / Raguel / Michael / Sarakiel / Gabriel / Remiel
      - This May Be:
        - What Is Referred To Here:
          - Though We Can't Be Completely Certain!
    - But - These Seven Angels Are The Ones:
      - **"Which Stood Before God!"**
        - Which - As We've Seen Before:
          - Is A Place & Position Of Great ***Privilege!***
      - In Fact - There Are Many Things:
        - That We Find In Revelation:
          - "Before (ενώπιον) God" & His Throne!
        - We've Already Found:
          - The 7 Spirits There!
          - The 24 Elders There!
          - The 4 Living Ones There!
          - The Great Multitude There!
      - But - Even Though They Seem To Have Been Standing There All Along: (Perfect Tense - ιστημι)
        - This Is The First Time They Are Mentioned!
          - But - After The Silence In Heaven Is Broken - The 7 Angels Are Given:
- **Seven Trumpets!**
  - Once Again - We Find The Feature:
    - Called The **"Divine Passive"** In This Verse!
      - **"To Them Were Given!"**
    - So - When Something Is Given To Someone:
      - In Revelation - And We're Not Told By Whom:
        - The Source Is Always Implied To Be God!
    - So - God Himself Gives:
      - Seven Trumpets To:
        - These Seven Special Angels!
  - And - This Will Be Important:
    - As We Learn More About:
      - The Events & Judgments Associated With The Trumpets!
        - **Because - It Shows Us That *Everything* Is Under The Sovereign Control:**
          - Of God From His Heavenly Throne!
  - But - What Are These Trumpets For?
    - Well - There Is A Lot Of Biblical Context:
      - That Can Help Us In Our Understanding:
        - Of These Trumpets!
    - In Places Like Numbers 10:9-10:
      - We Find Trumpets Used:
        - By God's People:
          - **For Both *War & Worship!***

- “And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the LORD your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies. / Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God!”
- However - We Also Find In The Old Testament:
  - Trumpets Frequently Being Used:
    - For **Warning!**
    - As In Ezekiel 33:4-5 - “Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. / He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul!”
- So - The Same Instrument:
  - Could Be Used For Different Purposes!
    - Likely - Depending On:
      - How It Sounded! The Tone & Frequency Of The Blasts!
    - Of Course - Jesus’ Return:
      - Will Also Be Accompanied With:
        - The Sound Of A Trumpet!
      - Which We Learn From:
        - Matthew 24:31 / 1 Corinthians 15:52 (“Last Trump”) / 1 Thessalonians 4:16 (“Trump Of God”)
  - But - I Think Its Pretty Clear:
    - From What Happens When:
      - These 7 Trumpets Are Sounded:
        - That Their Main Function:
          - Is That Of Warning!
  - Though Warfare & Worship:
    - May Also Be Included:
      - Ultimately The **Partial** Judgments That Are Heralded By These Angels:
        - Are Meant To Get The World’s **Attention** To “Take Heed” To God’s Warning Of Final Judgment!
  - There’s An Interesting Parallel To This:
    - In Joshua 6 - Where:
      - Joshua Gives Seven Trumpets Of Rams’ Horns To Seven Priests:
        - Who Walked Before The Ark Of The Covenant Around The City Of Jericho For Seven Days!
          - 1 Per 6 / 7 On The 7th!
      - And Though The People Of Jericho:
        - Had Every Opportunity To Surrender To God’s People:
          - They Ignored The Warnings & Were Ultimately Defeated & Destroyed By The Lord!
  - And Even Though:
    - These Seven Trumpets:
      - Are Sounded From **Heaven:**
        - In John’s Vision!
    - The Effects Of Their Sounds:
      - Will Be Experienced & Felt:
        - In The **World** - In Different:
          - But Unmistakable Ways!
    - So That - By The End:
      - Those Who Persist In Their Sin:
        - Will Have No Excuse:
          - When They Finally Experience The Full Wrath Of God!
  - But - Just Before:
    - These Seven Angels Begin To Sound:
      - Which We Will Find In 8:6!
    - We Meet Another Angel:

- Even An 8th Angel In This Chapter:
- In 8:3-5 - By Whom John Receives:
- What We Might Call:

3. ***A New Synopsis:***

- Or - Summary:
  - Of What The Seven Angels:
  - Are About To Do!
  - Which We Will Start Looking At:
  - Next Time!

**Conclusion:**

1. Any Other Questions?
  - Let's Close In Prayer!

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