

# Who Is On Your Throne?

Long Beach Alliance Church • April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 • Pastor Chris Lankford

***Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.  
~Revelation 8:6 (ESV)***

## **1) The Silence Of The Final Seal**

- A) Finally, the seventh seal (Revelation 6:1-8:1) of the scroll (5:5-8) is broken open by Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. Now that the final seal is broken (8:1), the whole scroll of the Apocalypse is open. The opening of this seventh seal introduces the next set of “trumpet judgments.”
- B) The trumpet judgments are contained in the same scroll. They are best viewed as an example of the increasing intensity of the first set of seal judgments.
- C) When Jesus Christ breaks the seventh seal (8:1), there is a period of silence in Heaven. It is difficult to know why there is silence following the seventh seal. Is God listening to prayers? Calling angels to Himself for the next judgments? Is it a foreboding dread for what is to come? Yes? Maybe?

## **2) Preparations For Blasting Trumpets Of Judgments**

- A) Whatever the silence prepares, seven angels are given seven trumpets (8:2), and another angel comes before the altar of God with the prayers of the martyrs (8:3-4, cf. 5:8, note parallel to sixth seal judgment of 6:9-11, and as an answer to the cry for salvation from 7:9-17).

- B) The prayers of the martyrs are then thrown to the earth, fueled by the fire of God's wrath and judgment (8:5, justice for the oppressed), triggering cataclysmic events which serve as the announcement of impending judgment. The angels step forward, they raise their trumpets... (8:6).

### **3) Pharaoh's Destruction By God's Supremacy**

- A) The book of Exodus recounts the extraordinary release from slavery which God's people experience from the hands of their oppressors, the Egyptians.
- B) As the judgments against Egypt progress, there are some curious verses noting God "hardening" Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 4:21, 7:3, 10:1-2). The purpose of this hardening was to reveal God's supremacy over the kingdom of Egypt, Pharaoh (Egypt's human god), and all of Egypt's "gods."
- C) The "trumpet judgments" represent a similar motif both in their type (they will parallel numerous Egyptian plagues), and in their purpose (they bring justice for the oppressed, judgment against the oppressors, and clearly establish the supremacy of God over all other human "gods").

### **4) God's Supremacy Over The gods Of Mankind**

- A) The first trumpet sounds (8:7), bringing "hail, fire, and blood" to the earth, resulting in devastation of one-third of earth's vegetation, and 100% of all the grass on earth.
- B) The second trumpet sounds (8:8-9), resulting in a volcanic-like force causing one-third of the sea to become blood, and destroying one-third of both sea life and shipping.
- C) The third trumpet sounds (8:10-11), resulting in a meteor-like force poisoning one-third of earth's water supply.
- D) The fourth trumpet sounds (8:12), resulting in cataclysmic events darkening the skies, blocking sun and moon alike.
- E) These judgments (vegetation, sea life, water supply, and sunlight) all present a brutalizing world-wide famine.

# “Lenses” of the Scenes in Revelation

