

## Revelation 8

When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.<sup>2</sup> And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.<sup>3</sup> Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne.

<sup>4</sup> The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand. <sup>5</sup> Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

### The Trumpets

<sup>6</sup> Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.<sup>7</sup> The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

<sup>8</sup> The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, <sup>9</sup> a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

<sup>10</sup> The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water— <sup>11</sup> the name of the star is Wormwood.<sup>[a]</sup> A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.

<sup>12</sup> The fourth angel sounded 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 turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.

<sup>13</sup> As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"

### **We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions**

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

- Chapter 8 begins with the opening of the seventh seal,
- This is immediately followed by about a half an hour period of silence
- A dramatic pause after the amazing worship scenes in chapter 7
- Why half an hour?
- The breaking of the seventh seal brings about the next series of judgements
- These are announced by each of the seven trumpets
- The seven trumpets are given to seven angels
- Why trumpets? What's their significance?
- Before they sound the trumpets, another angel comes
- This angel has power to bring about some destruction on earth
- What is the significance of a golden censer?.....see Leviticus 16:12-14
- Why is he given incense to offer with the prayers of the saints?
- Who are the saints?
- The same censer is then filled with fire from the alter
- The angel throws it to the earth and there is thunder, lightning an earthquake.
- Can you imagine being on earth as these things begin?
- Now the seven angels prepare to sound their trumpets
- John now gives us a description of the devastating events that follow each trumpet blast.
- The first trumpet judgement is described as a rain of hail, fire, and blood.
- This burned up a third of the earth, a third of the trees, and all the grass.
- One third of the earths vegetation is destroyed..... what would be the consequences of that?
- The second trumpet also results with something fiery falling from the sky, this time its described 'like a great mountain all ablaze' Perhaps a meteor of some kind?
- This trumpet brings destruction on the seas.
- Again a third of all things relating to it are affected. All living creatures in the sea, and a third of all shipping is wiped out.....again think of the consequences!!!!
- The third trumpet once again involves something falling from the sky....'a great star burning like a torch'
- This brings about destruction of a third of all fresh water Rivers and springs of water.
- Many people died because of the contamination
- The forth trumpet sounds and a third of all light on the world is no longer there.
- Once again , how devastating would the consequences of that be?
- John tells us of an eagle calling out in a loud voice Woe! Woe! Woe!. One for each of the remaining trumpets