

THE SOUNDING OF THE SEVENTH TRUMPET

Introduction

1. The opening of the first six seals of the scroll revealed the persecution of the saints and the coming judgment of God upon the enemies of the church.
2. When the seventh seal was opened, there was silence in Heaven as God listened to the prayers of His children and the angels prepared to sound their trumpets.
3. The sounding of the first six trumpets revealed the warnings of judgment to come if men would not repent.
 - a. 1st Trumpet – a limited judgment by hail and fire mingled with blood
 - b. 2nd Trumpet – a limited judgment by the fall of a great world power
 - c. 3rd Trumpet – a limited judgment by the casting down of a great leader
 - d. 4th Trumpet – a limited judgment by the darkening of the light of Truth
 - e. 5th Trumpet – 1st Woe – Satan obscures the Truth and men suffer from sin
 - f. 6th Trumpet – 2nd Woe – a greater (but still limited) judgment by God's army against the forces of evil
4. Before the sounding of the last trumpet, John was presented with a vision to bring a challenge to the faithful.
 - a. First, there was the assurance that God would keep His promise of salvation to the faithful and judgment to the wicked.
 - b. Then, there was the challenge to the faithful to preach the Gospel – warning the sinner and teaching the lost.
 - c. Finally, there is the challenge to remain faithful during severe persecution, for God will protect and reward His servants.
5. With the sounding of the seventh trumpet, the third woe is visited upon man.

- I. The Voices of Heaven (11:15-17)
 - A. Verse 14 is the transition between the sixth and seventh trumpets.
 - B. When the last trumpet is sounded, loud voices were heard in Heaven proclaiming victory for the Lord and His Christ.
 1. It had appeared that God was being defeated because His church was being persecuted.
 2. However, the Gospel had gone into the world and the kingdoms of man had been overcome by the kingdom of God.
 3. This was the goal of the Gospel (cf. Psalm 22:27-28; Isaiah 2:2; 49:6-7, 22-23; Daniel 2:44-45; Zech. 14:9; Luke 1:33; Heb. 1:8).
 - C. The saved of all the ages fell before God's throne in worship and praise for the salvation made possible by Christ.
 - D. The victory of the church proved that God had asserted His power and was reigning over His spiritual kingdom.
- II. The Nations of Earth (11:18)
 - A. In their anger, the nations of the world tried to thwart God's plan of redemption (cf. Psalm 2; Daniel 7).
 - B. Yet, in the establishing, protecting, and delivering of the church, God judged the wicked and rewarded the righteous.
 - C. Thus, the destroyer of the earth is defeated and destroyed.

The Book of Revelation

Lesson Twenty-One

Revelation 11:15-19

- III. The Temple of God (11:19)
- A. This section of the book ends with a view of God's Temple in Heaven.
 - B. The ark of His covenant reminds the righteous of God's faithfulness to His Word and His promises.
 - C. God is active and powerful, displaying His ability to punish and judge with lightning, thunder, and such like.
 - D. The veil has been torn asunder – man now has access to the throne of God through Jesus the Christ.
 - 1. This means that salvation has been accomplished (Matthew 27:51).
 - 2. This means that hope has been secured (Hebrews 6:19).
 - 3. This means that fellowship has been established (Hebrews 9:1-8).
 - 4. This means that the way has been charted (Hebrews 10:19-20).
 - E. Thus, this image symbolizes victory in the church and triumph in Heaven.
 - 1. The Mercy Seat is available to man in Christ and His church (Exodus 25:21-22; Romans 3:25).
 - 2. The church will become the focus of the vision in chapter 12.
 - F. God always keeps His promises!