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By Dan Maines

## Revelation 8

### Revelation 8:1

When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

† The silence represents awe before the outpouring of judgment. In Jewish temple liturgy, silence marked solemn moments when incense was offered, connecting this scene with temple imagery.

† Proof, Habakkuk 2:20 says, "The Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth be silent before Him." This silence anticipates

the gravity of the judgments about to be revealed.

### **Revelation 8:2**

And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

† Trumpets were instruments of warning and judgment, often tied to battle or covenant curses. Numbers 10:9 connects trumpets with calling the people to war.

† Proof, the pattern of seven trumpets here mirrors the fall of Jericho in Joshua 6, when seven priests with seven trumpets circled the city until its destruction. John uses that imagery to describe Jerusalem's coming fall.

### **Revelation 8:3-4**

Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense ascended from the angel's hand with the prayers of the saints before God.

† The prayers of the saints, particularly those crying for justice under the altar in Revelation 6:9-10, now ascend to God with incense. The altar imagery connects this to the temple in Jerusalem.

† Proof, Psalm 141:2 likens prayer to incense. This shows that the prayers of persecuted believers are the very cause of God's judgment against their oppressors.

### **Revelation 8:5**

Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and hurled it to the earth; and there were peals of thunder, sounds, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

† The same altar that received the prayers of the saints now becomes the source of judgment. The imagery recalls Ezekiel 10:2, where fire from the altar is scattered over Jerusalem as a

symbol of coming destruction.

† Proof, Josephus (Wars 6.4.5) describes the temple itself being consumed with fire in 70 AD, an event foreshadowed by this vision.

### **Revelation 8:6-7**

And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them. The first sounded, and there was hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

† The first trumpet echoes the plague of hail in Egypt (Exodus 9:23-24). Here it symbolizes devastation on the land of Israel.

† Proof, Josephus (Wars 5.6.3) records fire and destruction ravaging Jerusalem during the Roman siege. The "third" is symbolic of partial judgment, showing restraint yet devastation.

### **Revelation 8:8-9**

The second angel sounded, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was hurled into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood, and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.

† A burning mountain symbolizes a kingdom under judgment, Jeremiah 51:25. Here it pictures Jerusalem, exalted like a mountain, cast down by fire.

† Proof, Josephus (Wars 3.9.3) describes naval battles on the Sea of Galilee where Jewish ships were destroyed, and the water filled with blood. This fulfills the vision literally within the land.

### **Revelation 8:10-11**

The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. The name of the star is called Wormwood;

and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the waters, because they were made bitter.

† Falling stars represent rulers or leaders cast down, Isaiah 14:12. Wormwood symbolizes bitterness and judgment, Jeremiah 9:15.

† Proof, leaders of Israel fell during the revolt, leading the people into ruin. The poisoned waters show how their teaching turned life into death. Josephus (Wars 4.6.3) records corrupt leaders poisoning the hope of the people, leading to famine and death.

### **Revelation 8:12**

The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened, and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way.

† Darkened heavenly bodies symbolize political upheaval and the fall of rulers. Isaiah 13:10 uses the same imagery for Babylon's fall.

† Proof, the leadership of Israel, priests, elders, and rulers, were overthrown in the war, leaving the nation in darkness. Josephus (Wars 4.5.2) records the murder of priests and leaders, which plunged the city into chaos.

### **Revelation 8:13**

Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who live on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

† The eagle, a bird of prey, warns of coming woes. Eagles also symbolized Rome, whose legions carried the eagle standard. This is a direct prophetic sign of Rome's role in executing judgment on Jerusalem.

† Proof, Jesus said, "Where the corpse is, there the vultures will

gather," Matthew 24:28, referring to the Roman legions as the instruments of judgment.

## **How it applies to us today**

† God hears the prayers of His saints and acts in history to vindicate them.

† Judgment fell exactly as Christ promised, proving the reliability of His word.

† The imagery teaches that rebellion and corruption always lead to collapse, no matter how exalted the power.

† The same God who judged Jerusalem preserves His faithful people and continues to rule over nations.

## **† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

### **Source Index**

† Habakkuk 2:20 – silence before the Lord

† Joshua 6 – seven trumpets at Jericho

† Ezekiel 10:2 – fire scattered over Jerusalem

† Psalm 141:2 – prayers as incense

† Exodus 9:23-24 – hail and fire in Egypt

† Jeremiah 51:25 – mountain cast down

† Jeremiah 9:15 – wormwood as judgment

† Isaiah 13:10, 14:12 – darkened heavens and fallen stars

† Matthew 24:22, 28 – days shortened, eagles gathering

† Josephus, Wars 3.9.3, 4.5.2, 4.6.3, 5.6.3, 6.4.5 – famine, naval battles, fire, corrupt leaders, temple destruction

† Tacitus, Histories 5.13 – disasters during the war

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