

REVELATION 8

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Revelation chapter 8 as we continue our study in the book of Revelation and through the Word of God.

Let me lay down some background information that is important for us to understand before we get to the events that are happening here in Revelation chapter 8

We saw in Revelation chapter 5 that God the Father had a scroll in His right hand, and no one was worthy to open the scroll and loosen the seals on the scroll.

And we said that this scroll represented the title deed to the earth that was given to Satan when Adam sinned and was purchased by Jesus when He died on the cross of Calvary. But Jesus has not taken possession of the earth yet, but He will!

Now, as John sees that no one can take the scroll out of God the Father's hand, he begins to weep bitterly because he sees man doomed, the earth given away and in the hands of Satan.

And then we are told, "**But one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.' And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.**"

Revelation 5:5-7.

And it is out of that we see heaven break forth with a new song as they sing unto the Lord. We see the four living creatures, the twenty-four elders which represent the church, worshipping God. Then the angles join in, every creature in heaven breaks forth with praise unto God as He takes the scroll out of God the Father's right hand.

Why is this even important?

Why can't Jesus just establish His Kingdom on the earth at this point, when He takes the title deed to the earth out of God the Father's right hand?

The reason is this. Before He can come and establish His Kingdom on this earth, He first has to judge the "*earth dwellers*" who are presently occupying the earth. They must be removed first and then His Kingdom will be set up!

As Revelation chapter 6 opens up we see Jesus begin to loosen the seals one at a time. His judgment upon the earth, upon the earth dwellers is about to begin and these judgments will increase in intensity and frequency until they are done and the Lord comes back to set up His Kingdom on this earth!

The first seal brought forth the Antichrist. Then came wars. Then came famine. Then came death.

And with these first four seal judgments over a fourth of the world's population will be destroyed, maybe some two billion people. And this happens during the first half of the seven-year Tribulation Period!

Then, in the fifth seal that Jesus opened we see these martyred Tribulation saints and that is not the judgment of God. I believe that the judgment with this seal is the prayers of these Tribulation saints, which goes like this, ". . . 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth.'" Revelation 6:10.

In other words, they are calling for God to judge those who have put them to death, that is their prayer, and that prayer will be answered by God, in His time, as there will be more believers put to death by the earth dwellers for their faith in Christ, and then God will deal with them.

Now, by the time we came to the sixth seal there were great earthquakes, every island and mountain was moved out of its place, the sun grew dark, the moon appeared red as blood, stars fell from heaven, the sky receded as a scroll!

Obviously this occurs in the second half of the 7-year Tribulation Period or as it is known, the Great Tribulation.

Now let me share this with you because there seems to be a growing number of Christians who feel that we are in the Tribulation Period and these judgments of God are already being poured out.

Now I was not going to get into this tonight, but I really felt this is important because more and more people are confused about the timing of the events spoken of here in Revelation. And I want you to be clear on this and I will expound more after I share this article with you.

This is from an e-mail I received from *One Path Research* and their view about these events, and it seems that they are leaning, by what they say, that the seal judgments have already begun. Listen to what they said. They wrote,

We know that the events that Revelation talks about, once started, will happen in Rapid succession. God has provided us what events will occur, and their sequence and even says He will Bless us if we read, hear, and take them to heart. I, for one, wish this blessing so I study with all diligence.

We know that the first event is the opening of the 1st seal, where it is generally understood that this represents the spirit of the antichrist who conquers and overcomes. When Jesus was asked about the sequence of the end-time events, He described this same sequence of the opening of the seals but gave us more information about the opening of the 1st seal and said for us to make sure that no one deceives us (Matt 24:4).

In the last few years, we see Christians leaving following Christ in droves. Based on polls of those that say they are Christians, conservatively over 85% of them admit that they do not follow Christ and instead do primarily whatever they choose. Doesn't it sound like they are being deceived and are being conquered and overcome as they stopped following Christ?

1 Thes 5:1-3 gives us the most important key to know when the final sequence of events will start.

We are told, **“Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the LORD will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “Peace and safety”, destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.”**

This COVID pandemic has caused worldwide havoc. It has disrupted the manufacturing and distribution chains. It cast a large percentage of the world's population into financial difficulty.

It seems logical to assume that this event, happening on a worldwide scale, would assist in triggering the opening of seal 2 (war), seal 3 (famine), and seal 4 (disease). John tells us directly that 25% of the world's population will die from these three events: that's almost 2 billion people!

The most important part of that passage is the phrase “*Peace and safety*”. Have you heard that phrase battered about in the last year since COVID started? The United Nations, through their World Health Organization agency, has been saying the phrase “*Peace and security*” repeatedly and intensely over the last year! This is technically the identical phrase that we are being warned about in 1 Thes 5:1-3.

Shortly after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic (on April 18, 2020), H. E. Antonio Guterres, the UN General Secretary, gave a worldwide address where he stated that we would “**rebuild a fairer world as united global citizens and united nations**”.

Using the phrase “**peace and security**”, they do not hesitate to tell us that their true intent is to “**rebuild the world**”. We are warned in the scriptures that when we hear this phrase then “**sudden destruction will come**”. *Have the Revelation events started?*

- One Path Research - update@onepathpublishing.com

Please understand that the seal judgments have not started, we are not in the Tribulation Period.

Let me show you how off he is.

First of all, he uses I Thessalonians 5:1-3 to prove that when the world is calling for safety then sudden destruction will come upon us.

But Paul tells us that this day will not overtake us, we are children of light and not of darkness.

Secondly, it says, “**For when *they* say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon *them*, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And *they* shall not escape.**”

I Thessalonians 5:3.

He is not speaking of believers here but the unsaved, the earth dwellers and this is going to happen during the Tribulation Period.

How do I know that?

Because Paul said in I Thessalonians 5:9, **“For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

In other words, if the Tribulation Period has started and these judgments of God are being poured out, then we are receiving the wrath of God upon our lives and that does not make sense. Why would Jesus beat up His Bride before He takes us up with Him to be married to Him? That would make no sense, none at all and yet, social media has a great influence on what people believe today instead of allowing the Word of God to direct their lives!

So why this push now to say that the Tribulation Period has started and Covid is a sign that the seal judgments have begun? I don't get it, but it is wrong, it is not Scriptural.

And we have studied this in great detail showing you that the Church, the Bride of Christ is removed before He pours out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world.

Please don't be deceived by these false teachings because they will not help you draw closer to the Lord, but in the end, they will push you away.

I hope that is clear!

Okay, back here in Revelation. We see that in Revelation chapter 7 there is a pause to fill in some details of the Tribulation Period, a kind of breather before the seventh seal is opened and more judgment is poured out.

And in this chapter, we saw 144,000 Jew's get saved and sealed by God for protection during this time, prior to God pouring out His judgment once again with the trumpet judgments.

We also saw some of the fruit of their labor as an innumerable number of people will come to know the Lord through the witnessing of these 144,000 Jewish witnesses for Christ. And as these sinners become saints through Christ, heaven is filled with praise and worship unto God for what He has done!

Can you imagine the billions of billions of saint's praise God in heaven! That is going to sound awesome!

That is where we left off last time in our study, the sounds of worship but something very strange is going to happen as we open up our study in Revelation chapter 8 this evening.

So with that said, let's begin reading in Revelation chapter 8, beginning in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us this evening.

REVELATION 8

VERSE 1

Remember what we have seen in our study of Revelation, that heaven is a place that is filled with the worship of God!

We see this in Revelation 5:8-14, where we are told, **“Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.’ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!’ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: ‘Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!’ Then the four living creatures said, ‘Amen!’ And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.”**

We saw this in Revelation chapter 7 as this great multitude of Tribulation saints are crying out to God, **“Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”** (Revelation 7:10)

And then all the angels who were around the throne of God and the elders or the church worshiped the Lord by saying, **“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.”** (Revelation 7:12)

Can you imagine the sound of all of creation worshiping the Lord and then, all of a sudden, nothing? Now all that worship is gone, it is stopped, and we have total silence!

But this silence is not for a few seconds or even a few minutes, but for about half an hour!

Now we might not think too much of that but imagine if I stood up here and stopped talking! I know, some of you would say ***“Impossible!”*** But let’s say that I stopped talking for five minutes. How do you think you would feel and please don’t say ***“Great!”***

You would be getting uncomfortable and even if it was just for a minute, you would start to get fidgety and awkward or uneasy.

But now we have about a half an hour of silence in heaven, no more worship, not a sound is made during this time when the seventh seal is opened. And I will deal with that seventh seal and what that is all about in a minute.

Why is there this silence in heaven at this point?

Listen to what Ray Stedman wrote regarding this and then I will expound more on this silence in heaven.

He said,

This word about silence reminds us of the prophet Habakkuk’s cry, ***“The Lord is in his Holy Temple; let all the earth keep silence before him!”*** (Habakkuk 2:20 KJV).

This silence comes as a dramatic contrast to the shouting of praise and the playing of harps that has been going on in heaven up to this point. Millions of angels, hosts of redeemed humans, and other heavenly creatures have been crying out before the throne of God, and singing praises to him.

But now suddenly everything ceases. When the seventh seal is opened there is total silence. It is a most dramatic pause.

It reminds one of that moment of silence just before the last great “Hallelujah!” in the Hallelujah Chorus of Handel’s Messiah.

This is the silence of mystery, a silence of intense anticipation of what is about to happen.

Our good friend, Earl Palmer, in his commentary on Revelation says, “It communicates in a dramatic way the full and awesome authority of God. Everything must wait for his kingly move.”

- <https://bit.ly/3CGWBhg>

Also, author Mark Hitchcock wrote this, ***“Everything is on hold, pausing for what comes next. The next kingly move occurs when seven angels are given seven trumpets to sound. The response is breathless anticipation of what’s coming - a holy hush in heaven before all hell breaks loose on earth.”***

And one more from a pastor who made these comments, ***“After all that loudness, as the full fury of the final judgments are about to be released, silence falls on the heavenly scene. The implication is that when the judgment about to happen becomes visible as the seventh seal is broken and the scroll unrolled, both the redeemed and the angels are reduced to silence in anticipation of the grim reality of the destruction they see written on the scroll. The half an hour of silence is the calm before the storm. It is the silence of foreboding, of intense expectation, of awe at what God is about to do.”***

Make no mistake about it, this is the calm before the storm, the storm of God’s judgment that is going to be poured out now with more intensity and closer together than what we saw with the seal judgments.

These trumpet judgments are going to be devastating and they will lead into the bowl judgments that will increase in intensity and frequency as well.

Now, what about this seventh seal judgment, what is that all about?

I believe that the seventh seal judgment contains the seven trumpet judgments. It is like the seventh trumpet judgment, that holds the seven bowl judgments that will be unleashed upon the earth dwellers!

There are others who hold this view as well. Let me share what they had to say. We are told,

The opening of the seventh seal is a most important event, confirmed by the fact that there was silence in heaven for about half an hour after it was opened. The contents of the seven trumpets indicate that they differ from the seven seals.

W. Graham Scroggie states, "The trumpets, therefore, do not double back over all or some of the seals, but lie under the sixth seal, and proceed from it" (The Great Unveiling, p. 111). He also holds that the bowls of the wrath of God (chap. 16) "do not double back over the seal and trumpet judgments" (p. 112).

C. A. Blanchard holds the same position: "The series of three sevens are really included in one series of seven, that is, the seven trumpets are included under the seventh seal and the seven bowls are included under the seventh trumpet, so that we have in fact a single series in three movements" (Light on the Last Days, p. 58).

- John F. Walvoord, Roy B Zuck, Bible Knowledge Commentary - NT, pp. 950-951

As I have said, this silence is in response to the cataclysmic judgments that are coming upon the earth dwellers, which causes heaven to hush in silence as this is about to unfold!

Do we see this played out in the Scriptures?

Yes, we do! Let me give you a few examples to show you what I mean. We did look at Habakkuk 2:20 already, but here are a few more.

For instance, in Zephaniah 1:7 we are told, **“Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD; For the day of the LORD is at hand, For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests.”**

Here we see a silence of awe in response to the holocaust of Divine judgment that is going to be poured out!

In Psalm 76:8-9 we are told, **“You caused judgment to be heard from heaven; The earth feared and was still, When God arose to judgment, To deliver all the oppressed of the earth.”**

And in Zechariah 2:13 we are told, **“Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!”**

And so, as this seventh seal is opened, we see the Lord preparing to step onto the scene to set-up His Kingdom, but before He does there is coming a devastating judgment upon the earth.

And all of heaven now waits in silence for this to be unveiled.

Think of it like a piece of artwork that is going to be unveiled and as the cover is about to be lifted, the crowds are silent in anticipation.

That is what we are seeing here in heaven.

VERSE 2

Here we see seven angels who stand in the presence of God, and they were given seven trumpets. As these trumpets are sounded there will be judgments poured out, the first four dealing with the earth and the last three with man. This is, you might say, the prelude to the sounding of these trumpet judgments!

Now in the Old Testament we see trumpets that are used to call an assembly together, Numbers 10:2.

To sound the alarm for war, Numbers 10:9.

They were used for religious feasts, Numbers 10:10.

They were used to announce news, I Samuel 13:3.

They were used to announce a new king, I Kings 1:34, 39.

They were used in worship, I Chronicles 16:6, 42.

Also, trumpets will be used to announce the Day of the LORD, Zephaniah 1:14-16.

But in the New Testament, we see two primary uses for trumpets.

The first is to call the church home, we call that the Rapture of the church as the Lord takes His Bride home.

And the second, as we have seen, is the sounding of these trumpet judgments!

I understand that those who believe the church is not Raptured until the last trumpet, which Paul speaks of in I Corinthians 15:52, but we need to understand that they are two different trumpet blasts.

Those that feel that way tend to be involved with the Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church as well as others.

But again, these trumpet blasts are as follows. One is to come to the Lord, the Rapture. The other is the blast of judgment.

Just like the military has different trumpet sounds to call men to order, to move forward, to retreat, so too does the Lord and thus, these trumpet judgments have nothing to do with the Rapture here in Revelation chapter 8!

VERSES 3-4

Who is this angel here in verse 3?

Some feel this is Jesus Christ because of the priestly work that this angel is doing, being a mediator.

But I don't believe that is a correct interpretation.

John says that this is "**another angel**" and the Greek word that John uses for "**another**" is ALLOS, which speaks of another of the same kind, another one of these angles.

He did not use the Greek word HETEROS, which means another of a different kind.

Thus, this is not Jesus but an angel, like the seven holding the seven trumpets in the presence of God!

We also see here in heaven the altar of incense, and on earth there was one also that stood before the holy holies in the Temple. It stood in front of the veil between the table of showbread on the right and the seven-branch oil-burning lamp on the left as you faced the veil.

And the incense was burned and offered to God before the first and after the last sacrifices of the day.

To burn this incense the priest was to take the hot, fiery coals from the brazen altar, the place where the sacrifices were offered, and bring them to the holy place, to the altar of incense.

The altar of sacrifice was located outside of the holy of holies, and thus, the coals from this altar must first be appropriated by the priest and then taken to the altar of incense where they ignite the incense as a sweet-smelling aroma before God.

Interestingly enough, in Psalm 141:2 we are told, **“Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”**

And so we see that the offering of incense relates to our prayers ascending to the throne of God, just as we are told here in Revelation chapter 8.

Now, in reading this it almost seems as if God has ignored these prayers of the saints, placing them aside.

Is that true?

Not at all, God has not ignored them it just was not the time for Him to act upon them.

What are these prayers that God is now acting upon?

These are the prayers for Satan to be destroyed, for sin to be defeated, for righteousness to fill this land.

In other words, **“... Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.”** Matthew 6:9-10.

God is ready to act upon these prayers – and His Kingdom will come!

VERSE 5

Remember the silence in heaven for about half an hour, and there could have been silence from judgment for a period of time on earth as well. It could have been longer than a half an hour on earth.

But now that is all changing as we see the prayers of the saints that have ascended to the throne of God, cast down in judgment against the inhabitants of the earth.

And it may have been silent in heaven for half an hour, but upon this earth we now hear and see, “**. . . noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.**” Revelation 8:5.

These prayers of the saints are acted upon as the Divine wrath of God is poured out. It is as H. B. Swete said, “*The prayers of the saints return to the earth in wrath.*”

Torrance puts it this way when he says, “*That means that more potent, more powerful than all the dark and mighty powers let loose in the world, more powerful than anything else, is the power of prayer set ablaze by the fire of God cast upon the earth.*”

As you look at this Divine wrath being poured out, this righteous judgment of God being unleashed against a Christ rejecting world, you truly can understand the words of Paul in Hebrews 10:31 as he tells us, “**It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**”

Why is that?

Paul once again tells us in Hebrews 12:29, “**For our God is a consuming fire.**”

You see folks, God will either refine you in the fire or destroy you with his fire of judgment.

But each life will be touched by the fire of God, in one way or another!

VERSE 6

As I have said and as we are going to see in these trumpet judgment blasts, heaven’s half hour of silence is abruptly shattered with a firestorm of judgment that bursts upon this earth, God’s judgment will resume!

Also, keep in mind what we were told in Revelation 7:1-3, **“After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, ‘Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.’”**

These 144,000 Jewish believers have been sealed by God for protection through this time and now we are going to see 1/3 of the vegetation destroyed, 1/3 of the oceans destroyed, 1/3 of the fresh water supply destroyed, and 1/3 of the sunlight destroyed in just the first four trumpet judgments!

The winds of judgment are about to blow upon the land as these four restraining angels step out of their way!

VERSE 7

As this first trumpet is sounded, we see 1/3 of the earth’s vegetation destroyed. The Greek word for **“trees”** (dendron) usually means **“*fruit trees*”**; along with the destruction of pasture lands and when that happens it would devastate the meat and milk industries and lead to further famine and death.

Now there are those who have a hard time taking this literally but if you don’t, then what does it mean?

I like the way that Seiss put it when he wrote. *“The truth is, if earth, trees, and grass do not mean earth, trees and grass, no man can tell what they mean. Letting go the literal signification of the record, we launch out upon an endless sea of sheer conjecture.”*

I would have to agree and thus, I believe we need to take this literally!

Now, for some of you, this judgment sounds familiar and it should because it closely parallels the seventh plague that came upon Egypt in Exodus chapter 9, where we are told, **“Therefore send now and gather your livestock and all that you have in the field, for the hail shall come down on every man and every animal which is found in the field and is not brought home; and they shall die.’ . . . And the hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt, all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field.”** Exodus 9:19, 25.

And thus, here in Revelation we see 1/3 of the earth’s vegetation destroyed in this first trumpet blast as this hail was hurled down upon the earth.

We also see this spoken of in Joel 2:30-31 where we are told, **“And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.”**

Now how do we explain this judgment?

Is it an atomic explosion or a meteor shower or some other natural disaster?

Henry Morris makes this interesting observation regarding that the blood may be actual blood or it could be something else.

He makes these remarks in his book, *The Revelation Record*,

The masses of water vapor blown skyward might well condense in the intense updrafts as hailstones. . . . The blood of entrapped men and animals might be mingled with them, or possibly showers of liquid water drops might be so contaminated with dust and gases as to appear blood – red . . . It may be possible that angelic hosts will divert the path of one of the many comets with which the solar system abounds so that the earth will pass through its tail.

The most spectacular comet with which we are familiar – Halley’s Comet – would not need to stray too far from its normal orbit to envelop Earth in its fiery train.

Whether such an experience would produce the phenomena described in this passage we do not know, since our scientists have no experimental data to go on yet.

- Henry Morris, *The Revelation Record*, p. 146

Folks, those are interesting explanations but to tell you the truth, I don’t know what this is for certain. God can use nature to bring this about but whatever the case, it is a supernatural event that God is bringing forth and I don’t need to know how He is going to do it, I just know that He is going to do it!

Now if any of you are tree-huggers out to save the planet, let me say this. God is going to judge this planet and I believe what we see happening here is related to what Paul spoke of in Romans chapter 1 where man worships the creation rather than the Creator!

What man is worshiping God is destroying and there is nothing they can do about it to stop it; they can only come to saving faith to escape the ultimate judgment upon their lives!

Now you know why in Revelation chapter 7 God had to place a seal of protection upon those 144,000 before He unleashed these judgments.

And so, with the first trumpet blast, 1/3 of the earth's vegetation is destroyed and it is just the beginning!

VERSES 8-9

As the second trumpet is sounded, we see 1/3 of the oceans destroyed.

Now will this be a literal mountain that is thrown into the sea?

Again, look carefully to what the text is saying, it is "**something like a great mountain.**"

You see, it wasn't a mountain, but its massive size resembled that of a mountain.

This could be some kind of gigantic meteorite or asteroid or comet with its tail of fire flashing through the sky and crashing into the oceans.

To give you a perspective of the devastation that would occur if a meteor one mile wide fell into the ocean, listen to this. It would create a tidal wave that was some two miles high, and it would be traveling at over 600 miles per hour!

Let me ask you this question. Where does the majority of the oxygen on planet earth come from?

I know, most of you are thinking it comes from the rain forest, but that is not true. It comes from phytoplankton and algae that are found in the world's oceans and seas! Some 80% of our oxygen comes from the oceans and the sea!

So if that is devastated, if all this sea life is destroyed, it will have devastating affects upon planet earth and man!

John also tells us that 1/3 of the ships will be destroyed and if some of those ships are nuclear powered, it would also contribute to the destruction of sea life!

So we see in this second trumpet judgment blast 1/3 of the oceans destroyed, 1/3 of the sea life destroyed and 1/3 of the ships in these oceans destroyed!

Keep in mind this is only the second trumpet judgment!

VERSES 10-11

As the third trumpet judgment is sounded, 1/3 of the fresh water supply is affected as this star, called Wormwood, comes crashing to the earth.

The Greek word for “star” is ASTER and it speaks of any celestial body other than the sun or moon.

If this is a comet or meteor that crashes to the earth, can the debris from its tail pollute the fresh water supply?

It is possible, but again, God has a plan, and we see the effects. I don't want to speculate too much on how this is going to happen, because God can do anything. What I want you to understand is that this is a literal event that is taking place and it will destroy 1/3 of the fresh water supply!

We see that the name of this star that fell to the earth is Wormwood or bitterness.

There is a desert plant or shrub that is bitter, but I think the idea here is the bitterness of judgment and how deadly it will be!

In the Old Testament Wormwood is mentioned some eight times and it is always associated with bitterness, poison and death.

For example, in Jeremiah 9:13-15 we are told, **“And the LORD said, ‘Because they have forsaken My law which I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to it, but they have walked according to the dictates of their own hearts and after the Baals, which their fathers taught them,’ therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: ‘Behold, I will feed them, this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink.’”**

You see, it speaks of judgment, a judgment from God!

Now for some, as they read this, they may be thinking that God is vengeful, He is hateful. Please understand that is not the case.

Our God is gracious and merciful, longsuffering and so much more and even during this period of time known as the Great Tribulation we see many who come to know Him, but there are also many that refuse, and they will be judged!

And even during this time of Great Tribulation God will extend His grace and mercy to those who will come to the cross of Jesus and receive Him as their Lord and Savior!

So we see here in Revelation that the fresh water supply affected. What does that mean to the earth dwellers?

It has been reported that some 440 billion gallons of water fall from the sky in the form of rain, snow and hail in this country on a daily basis.

Of that, 25% or 110 billion gallons makes its way into the lakes, rivers and reservoirs that are then used as a source of drinking water.

A study was done on 3,360 reservoirs which showed 30% or 1,008 of those reservoirs were contaminated to the point of not even meeting the minimal safety standards for drinking water.

And so, as this judgment comes, the fresh water supply, 1/3 of it, will be so badly contaminated that many will die from drinking it – the waters became bitter you might say! And again, I don't believe man brings this about, but it is a judgment of God!

Again, it is very bad, but in Revelation 16:4 we see all the fresh water supply contaminated.

You see, they refused the living waters, Jesus Christ, and without Him you will always be thirsty - and they will be!

Here in the third trumpet judgment, we see 1/3 of the fresh water supply destroyed, poisoned and we still have four trumpet judgments to go even before we get to the bowl judgments!

VERSE 12

Here in the fourth trumpet judgment, we see 1/3 of the sun destroyed or 1/3 less light upon the earth. This also affects 1/3 of the moon and 1/3 of the stars!

I like the way one pastor put it. He wrote, *“Still reeling from the effects of the first three ecological judgments, people will be desperately seeking answers to the crisis. There will no doubt be seminars, conferences, emergency sessions of the United Nations, discussions among scientists - all desperately but futilely seeking to cope with the damage to the earth's ecosystems. In the midst of all that frenzied activity comes a new disaster in the sky, as a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were smitten.”*

What is this speaking of?

First of all, the Greek word that is used for “**struck**” here in Revelation 8:12 is PLESSO, (place'-so) and this Greek word can mean “*plague.*”

What John seems to be telling us is that the sun, the moon and the stars will be hit with some kind of plague from God in which they will become sick and not able to function to their full capacity!

Again, what does that mean?

I think what John is telling us is that because of all the cataclysmic judgments that have come upon the earth so far, that the earth's rotation or tilt is changed and thus, the typical 24-hour day will be changed to a 16-hour day!

In Amos 8:9 we are told, **“And it shall come to pass in that day,’ says the Lord God, ‘That I will make the sun go down at noon, And I will darken the earth in broad daylight.’”**

Now we saw that as Jesus hung on the cross of Calvary and darkness filled the land from noon until 3 pm.

But could this also be looking at what will take place during the Great Tribulation? I believe so. And it seems like something is going to happen to the earth's rotation that changes the amount of sunlight that we get!

We also see this spoken of in Isaiah 24:19-20, **“The earth is violently broken, The earth is split open, The earth is shaken exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, And shall totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, And it will fall, and not rise again.”**

Now Isaiah speaks pretty specifically what is going to happen, that the earth is going to wobble like a drunken sailor you might say or stagger like someone who is drunk.

What can cause that to happen? Can that happen? Has that ever happened?

First of all, an impact of a large meteor or comet could cause a severe wobble in the earth's rotation, causing it to "*stagger like a drunken man*" in its orbital path around the sun and its surface to "*twist.*"

Also, an earthquake can cause the earth to wobble or stagger like a drunken man!

Let me share with you two instances that are not huge to say the least, but they do show that an earthquake can cause this.

The 9.0 magnitude earthquake that ravaged Japan also shortened Earth's Day by just over one-millionth of a second (1.8 microseconds to be exact), according to NASA. It also shifted the Earth's axis by about 6.5 inches.

The quake also shifted the position of the Earth's "figure" axis (which is different from the planet's north-south axis). This shift in Earth's figure axis will cause *Earth to wobble* a bit differently as it rotates, but it won't cause a shift of the Earth's axis in space - only external forces such as the gravitational attraction of the sun, moon and planets could do that.

- <https://bit.ly/2VEaPPc>

Also, we are told,

An earthquake that unleashed deadly tidal waves on Asia was so powerful it made the *Earth wobble* on its axis and permanently altered the regional map, US geophysicists said today. The 9.0-magnitude temblor that struck 250 km south-east of Sumatra Island on Sunday may have moved small islands as much as 20 meters, according to one expert.

- <https://bit.ly/2VKStfe>

Do the Scriptures speak of debris hitting the earth, comets or meteors hitting the earth so that it will wobble?

That is what we have been reading about here in Revelation chapter 8. It does some like that is what does it, and yet, God will bring these things to pass using either natural things like meteors or by whatever means He wants!

So with this judgment of the heavens, you might say, it affects the inhabitants of the earth with this 33% reduction in light. And like I have said, it would seem that there will be 8 hours of daylight and 16 hours of darkness, which is interesting to me because a person refuses to come to the light because they love darkness, we now see God give them what they want!

In Isaiah 13:9-10 we are told, **“Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine.”**

Also, in Ezekiel 32:7-8 we are told, **“When I put out your light, I will cover the heavens, and make its stars dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, And the moon shall not give her light. All the bright lights of the heavens I will make dark over you, And bring darkness upon your land,’ Says the Lord GOD.”**

It is just as Jesus said, that these things would take place. In Luke 21:25-28 we are told, **“And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”**

And in Matthew 24:29-30 Jesus tells us, **“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”**

Now, as we see this fourth trumpet judgment sound and 1/3 of the sun is darkened, 1/3 of the moon and 1/3 of the stars, you would think it can't get any worse!

Folks, it can, and it will! There are three more trumpet blasts to come.

Listen to what verse 13 says of these three trumpet blasts that are about to blow here in Revelation.

VERSE 13

This angelic messenger of God, I don't believe this is an eagle as some Bible translations tell us, and he cries out **“Woe!”** and not just once, but three times!

Now some feel that this is an angelic creature that looks like an eagle, that is possible!

But why does he cry out **“Woe!”**? Why does he do that?

Because of what is about to take place!

Why does God allow this angel to make this proclamation?

Some may say to rub it in the nose of rebellious man!

I don't think so, that is not our God.

I believe it is a warning to man that he needs to repent and get right with God for the judgment is only going to get worse and worse or as the angel said, **“Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”**

You see, our God is a God of grace and mercy even at this point in the Great Tribulation Period!

Listen to this story because it relates to judgment time, it is getting closer and closer.

We are told,

A Scottish lawyer was a wicked man. Once he hired a horse and, either through accident or ill usage, killed the animal.

Naturally the owner insisted on being paid its value, together with some compensation for the loss of its use.

The man of law acknowledged his liability, and said he was perfectly willing to pay, but at the moment he was a little straightened for ready cash. Would the hirer of the animal accept a promissory note? “Certainly,” he said.

Whereupon the lawyer further said that he must be allowed a long date.

“You can fix your own time,” said the creditor.

The wicked man then drew the note, making it payable at the day of judgment.

Eventually the creditor took the matter to court, and there, in defense, the lawyer asked the judge to look at the note.

He did so, and then replied: ***“The promissory note is perfectly good sir and as this is [the] day of judgment, I declare that you pay tomorrow.”***

- Methodist Recorder

As I close this evening, let me leave you with this to think about, especially in the days we are living in.

In Zephaniah 2:3 we are told, **“Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, Who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden In the day of the LORD’s anger.”**

If you don’t know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you need to ask Him today to forgive you of your sins and be Lord of your life.

For, as Paul said, **“Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: ‘Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness.’”**

The Day of God’s Judgment is coming!