

**Revelation 8** When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

About a half an hour is a really short time. It's more of an expression than a measurement of time. You usually hear about the hour has come. Well, this is a shorter time than that and it will take you by surprise when it happens. It's like the whole world is holding its breath and waiting for the other shoe to drop.

**<sup>2</sup> And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.**

So, the Greek word here is salpinges which does mean trumpet. Some question whether this is a brass trumpet or a shofar. Metal trumpets actually were used by the Levites for rituals in the temple, but Shofars (Ram's horns) were always used for war. Since we're talking about spiritual warfare here and judgments it is probably shofar. Trumpets can be used as a call to repentance and to tell us when something significant is going to happen.

Who are the seven angels? This is from Torah Class: Jewish tradition is that these 7 angels served God and their names more or less describe their duties or areas of authority. Uriel means "fire of God". Raphael means "God has healed". Raguel is "friend of God". Michael is "who is like God?" Sariel means "prince of God". Gabriel means "God is my strength". And Remiel means "thunder of God".

**<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.**

Who is this 8<sup>th</sup> angel? No idea. Could it be Messhiach? He has been given authority to judge. Is there a connection between this angel and the angel with whom Jacob wrestled or the one in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Who knows? The incense is mixed with the prayers of God's people. Who is praying? Are these prayers from people on earth? If so why weren't they raptured if that should have happened by now? Are they prayers from those under the altar? What altar does the angel fill the censer from? It can't be the altar of burning because no more sacrifices have been made there. It must be from the altar of incense. Where's the veil that covers the Holy of Holies. That is where the incense would be burned. But there is no veil as it was torn in two.

Once this happens the silence breaks and we have noises and sounds reminiscent of what the Israelites heard as God spoke to Moses on Mt. Sinai. (Exodus 20:15-16)

There is a second earthquake here. Why won't people repent?

**6 Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.**

**7 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.**

Reminds us Exodus 9:22-25. Is it for the same purpose? The hope was that hearts would soften and repent. The hell on earth was a call to repentance so an eternal hell could be avoided. Do people repent or harden their hearts?

**8 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.

What is this thing like a mountain? Is it literal or figurative? There's no reason to think it is figurative, like a toppled government. There are many things on earth and cosmic that could cause this. We have no idea all the junk in space just waiting to fall on us. NASA constantly tracks meteors that could ding us right out of existence. Think literally unless an explanation is given.

<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.

We have an asteros, star, (does it mean asteroid?) that falls on a third of the rivers. It is called Apsinthos (Wormwood) which means bitter. The waters become bitter. There are also bitter waters in Exodus. God commands a tree to be thrown into the bitterness to make it sweet. What tree took the bitterness and made it sweet? Where is the repentance? Exodus 15 <sup>26</sup> He said, "If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."

<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!"

The darkness is reminiscent of Exodus 10. All of these things devastate the earth. Some texts refer to the eagle in verse 13 as an angel. Notice that the plagues from the trumpets keep getting worse. Why? Joel 2 really captures what is happening here:

**CJB Joel 2:1-13 2:1 "Blow the shofar in Tziyon! Sound an alarm on my holy mountain!" Let all living in the land tremble, for the Day of ADONAI is coming! It's upon us!- <sup>2</sup> a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick fog; a great and mighty horde is spreading like blackness over the mountains. There has never been anything like it, nor will there ever be again, not even after the years of many generations.**

**<sup>3</sup> Ahead of them a fire devours, behind them a flame consumes; ahead the land is like Gan-'Eden, behind them a desert waste. From them there is no escape. <sup>4</sup> They look like horses, and like cavalry they charge. <sup>5</sup> With a rumble like that of chariots they leap over the mountaintops, like crackling flames devouring stubble, like a mighty horde in battle array. <sup>6</sup> At their presence the peoples writhe in anguish, every face is drained of color.**

**<sup>7</sup> Like warriors they charge, they scale the wall like soldiers. Each one keeps to his own course, without getting in the other's way. <sup>8</sup> They don't jostle each other, but stay on their own paths; they burst through defenses unharmed, without even breaking rank. <sup>9</sup> They rush into the city, they run along the wall, they climb up into the houses, entering like a thief through the windows.**

***<sup>10</sup> At their advance the earth quakes, and the sky shakes, the sun and moon turn black, and the stars stop shining. <sup>11</sup> ADONAI shouts orders to his forces- his army is immense, mighty, and it does what he says. For great is the Day of ADONAI, fearsome, terrifying! Who can endure it?***

***<sup>12</sup> "Yet even now," says ADONAI, "turn to me with all your heart, with fasting, weeping and lamenting." <sup>13</sup> Tear your heart, not your garments; and turn to ADONAI your God. For he is merciful and compassionate, slow to anger, rich in grace, and willing to change his mind about disaster.***

One thing Daniel always did well, that we should also do, was repent when he saw trouble happening. Why won't we repent? We are so ready to harden our hearts when we see something terrible happening and think that God is bad because it should never happen to us or someone we love. Why do our minds go that way? When trouble comes repent. It doesn't matter where the tribulation comes from, any tribulation should soften our hearts and point us to salvation which can only come from God. It is idolatry to think that being mad at God will somehow make things better or that we are justified because of what we endure instead of His mercy.

Chapter 7: Zayin letter – Numerical value 7 Meaning (zayin) Focal point of Spirit, sustenance and struggle. Embedded in the Chapter As the number 6 is the number of man and falls short of the glory of YHWH; number 7 is YHWH's number for completion. Jewish scholars have written that 'zayin' comprises the 6 physical directions of expansion (east, west, north, south, up and down) plus one –

representing its own individual focal point – which adds to 7. Not only does YHWH sustain us in the midst of difficulties, but He

promises a “rest” from the struggle (as the number 7 stands for the Sabbath in which man has to rest).

8 – Chet A new beginning; new life; a metaphysical letter above this existence. Encoded in this Chapter The letter ‘chet’ is associated with transcendence, life and grace. These are the qualities of a new birth, or of Elohim’s character and purpose.

Jewish scholars have written that as the number 8, ‘chet’ goes beyond 7 to symbolize man’s ability to transcend the limitations of physical existence. Similar to the musical notes in an octave, ‘chet’ appears to be another ‘aleph’, only on a higher scale: the completion of the first cycle of 7 and the beginning of a new cycle of the next 7. The progression of letters may also be compared to the days of the week, of which ‘chet’ is the first day of the new week; i.e., there are 7 days in a week. The 8th day is the first day of the new week. As said, the Hebrew letter ‘chet’ refers to the qualities of transcendence, life and grace. But a similar Hebrew word, ‘cheit’ (meaning sin) has a similar pronunciation. In this sense, this letter can be seen as a conflict between the grace of YHWH and the sin of man, with Elohim triumphant in the struggle.

Liebenberg, Prof (Dr) WA. The Revelation of Yeshua HaMashiach: FULL Book Hebraic Perspective Verse by Verse (END-TIME STUDIES SERIES 2) (Kindle Locations 13754-13762). Kindle Edition.