

Revelation 8a: Throne and Trumpets

7.1-17: First Interlude – Saints on Earth and Heaven

7.4-8: The Remnant Sealed

7.9-17: A Great Multitude beyond Counting

11-12: Worship

13-14: The Elder Speaks

The Great Tribulation – (Daniel 12.1) described in Revelation 3-19

Blood of the Lamb – atonement/*hilasterion* (Romans 3.25); ransom/*luton* (Ephesians 1.7)

15-17: Perseverance and Purity

A hymn unto YHWH

Tent – tabernacle; Exodus 25.8; Leviticus 26.11-12; John 1.14 – “the Word ‘tabernacled’ among us”

7.16: Suffering Removed – Isaiah 49.10

7.17: YHWH as the Shepherd – Genesis 48.15; 49.24; Psalm 68.7

8.1: The Seventh Seal

The Great silence – to what purpose?

Priestly sacrifices in temple made in silence

8.2-11.19: Seven Trumpets

8.2-6: Trumpet Judgments Begin

Seven archangels in Apocrypha – Uriel, Raphael, Raguel, Michael, Saraqa’el, Gabriel, Remiel (1 Enoch 20.2-8)

Seven priests blowing trumpets – Joshua 6.4-8; 1 Chronicles 15.24; Nehemiah 12.41

In Jewish life, there were at least 21 blasts of the trumpet daily in the temple, and on feast days as many as 48 (Osborne 342).

Trumpets will announce the eschaton – Mathew 24.31; 1 Corinthians 15.52; 1 Thessalonians 4.16

The Golden Censer – 1 Chronicles 9.29; an open-topped pan made of bronze (Exodus 27.3) or gold (1 Kings 7.50) used to carry live coals from the altar of burnt offering for making sacrifices (Leviticus 16.12); often incense was placed on the coals in the censer and offered before YHWH (Numbers 16.6-7)

‘Smoke of the incense’ – the cloud of smoke that filled the Holy Place; Levit. 1.9; Eph. 5.2; Phil. 4.18

8.5 – the coals become a symbol of the fire of God’s judgment (Ezekiel 10.2-7)

8.7-12: The First Four Trumpets

1. Hail and fire mixed with blood (Seventh plague, Exodus 9.13-35)

‘blood’ – perhaps alluding the blood-red rain that falls in the Mediterranean b/c of Sahara sand

1/3 of earth and trees and ‘all the grass’ burned up

2. ‘Something like’ a huge mountain of fire was cast into the sea (First plague, Exodus 7.14-21)

1/3 of *thalassa* (‘sea’) destroyed

‘burning mountain’ – Jeremiah 51.25; 1 Enoch 18.30; Vesuvius erupted in 79 A.D.; or a meteorite

3. Huge star – ‘Wormwood’ - blazing like a torch, fell from heaven (a symbolic, bitter shrub [Prov. 5.4])

1/3 of rivers and springs of water destroyed

Wormwood – a bitter-tasting shrub which was a symbol of bitter sorrow (Proverbs 5.4)

4. 1/3 of Sun, Moon, and Stars are darkened (Ninth plague, Exodus 10.21-23)

Darkness as divine punishment (Zephaniah 1.15; Joel 2.10; Isaiah 13.10)