

### **Third Vision Revelation 8 – 11**

*[Summary by Ruth Smart 2020]*

- Not chronological- all visions moving towards the grand finale, the judgement of God and the coming of Christ
- God has enthroned his Lamb and the world has rejected that Lamb. *Psalms 2 – 1* *Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?*  
*2 The kings of the earth rise up*  
*and the rulers band together*  
*against the LORD and against his anointed, ...12 Kiss his son, or he will be angry*  
*and your way will lead to your destruction,*
- We would do well to agree with God. Justice will be done.

**Revelation 8** *When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. 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. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand. 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. Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.*

- Trumpets – all through the OT.  
Moses – hear what God is saying  
Jericho – a warning that judgement is coming – they had rejected God  
Numbers – call to worship Ch 10 also time to repent Ch 29
- A principle – throughout time, God has sounded his trumpets. The King has been crowned. God is trying to get man's attention. Stop. Repent. Worship.
- The events the trumpets bring in have echoes in the OT. eg Exodus and the plagues. God didn't move in immediate judgement ( the death of the first-born) but he continually blew trumpets in the Egyptians ears. Nine times over God said "Won't you repent? Wont ou worship?. The trumpets were actually God's mercy, his goodness hoping the people would repent.

*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.*

- God meeting man on the earth – on the land that supports his life – like God turning the Nile into blood/locusts/dust - their source of life. Not all however will be touched.

*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, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.*

- Echoes of Jeremiah 51:25 *"I am against you, you destroying mountain, you who destroy the whole earth," declares the LORD. "I will stretch out my hand against you, roll you off the cliffs, and make you a burned-out mountain"* – that mountain was Babylon / the world system. Again not all will be touched.

*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- the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.*

- ‘stars’ are messengers – this one fell from heaven. Waters – where I drink so my spirit gets fed. These waters that feed man are philosophies, teachings fed by a demonic being called Wormwood/ bitter/ deadly poison/ ideas from the pit. Yet again not all will be touched.
- in these three scenarios God allows it. If you want it, you can have it, but God is hoping they will come to him. *Romans 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised.*

*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.*

- Darkness or a kind of darkness, not complete darkness comes over the earth / confusion / men can no longer see. Egypt again ‘ Egypt was dark, but Goshen was light.
- Trumpets 5, 6 and 7 are called “woes”

*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!”*

**Revelation 9** *The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes. During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.*

*The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. Their hair was like women’s hair, and their teeth were like lions’ teeth. They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. They had tails with stingers, like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months. They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).*

*The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.*

- Locusts – a picture – not real locusts. In Exodus the locusts came from afar, meaning God is in control of the whole world. John sees smoke coming out of the bottomless pit and creatures that look like locusts, but they aren’t to eat the grass or any vegetation, which is usual food for locusts, but only those without the seal of God on their foreheads (ie they can’t touch those belonging to God) These locusts, led by Apollyon (the destroyer), are to torment men, but still men don’t repent.

*The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar that is before God. It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. The number of the mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand. I **heard** their number. The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury. The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of*

gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

- Hordes from the river Euphrates which was the barrier in OT between Israel and Babylon and Assyria those who would destroy them. A great force is on its way – all the anti-Christian forces. AntiChrist is not a NT concept but goes back to Genesis 10 which tells us the descendants of Noah in great detail. V 8-12 *Cush was the father of Nimrod, who became a mighty warrior on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; that is why it is said, “Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD.” The first centers of his kingdom were Babylon, Uruk, Akkad and Kalneh, in Shinar. From that land he went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah and Resen, which is between Nineveh and Calah—which is the great city.*
- All these things don’t happen chronologically but are happening all around us. It was (and is) God’s wake-up call to repent but they did not - *Revelation 9 – 21 Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.*

**Revelation 10** *Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.”*

*Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, “There will be no more delay! But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”*

*Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: “Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.”*

*So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, “Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but ‘in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.” I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. Then I was told, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.”*

**Revelation 11** *I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.*

- This section is a parenthesis. “Hold everything. What about the Church? I’ll show you them. I have sealed them. I’ve got my perfect Church”. Just as in Ch 7, heaven was silent for half an hour.
- Echo Ezekiel 3:3-5 *Then he said to me, “Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it.” So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth. He then said to me: “Son of man, go now to the people of Israel and speak my words to them. You are not being sent to a people of obscure speech and strange language, but to the people of Israel—...*
- John is invited to “come up here” with a measuring rod to measure the sanctuary – that which is separated from the temple. Note, John, that the altar is there, the golden altar of worship. Note the worshippers. Don’t worry about the rest of the courts. Leave it.

- The forces pouring over the Euphrates cannot touch the inner sanctuary. The word for sanctuary is *naos*. Those in the *naos* have a living relationship with God and worship flows from them to God. Sanctuary can also mean a place of safety, as well as the dwelling place of God. Eph 2:21 *“We are being built together a holy temple [naos], a habitation of God by the Spirit.”*

*And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” They are “the two olive trees” and the two lampstands, and “they stand before the Lord of the earth.” If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.*

- Vision changes again. “two witnesses” is a symbol for saying “a perfect and complete testimony to the truth. Deuteronomy 19:15 ...A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. The Church is the perfect witness of God to truth on the streets of the earth. You can’t touch the worshipping community, but you can touch their public witness – that’s why the two witnesses are killed. Look at China – the *naos* in China is as strong today as it’s ever been, but the public witness has been silenced. As in many other countries around the world, especially in the Middle East and other communist countries.
- The witnesses prophesied – not a telling of the future, but they spoke on behalf of God.
- Dressed in sackcloth – a sign of repentance. The world hears the trumpets but doesn’t repent. The Church says “we have repented and yielded to God and are now speaking forth on his behalf. This torments unrepentant men.
- Fire came out of their mouth / shut up the sky. Elijah stood in the midst of the world, spoke forth the words of God and was able to prove his words by works. Same should be for us today.
- Turn water into blood – Moses stood against the world government that hated him and his God. He was a testimony to truth. Same should be for us today
- Two olive trees, two lamps that stand before the God of all the earth – Zechariah 4 *Then the angel who talked with me returned and woke me up, like someone awakened from sleep. He asked me, “What do you see?” I answered, “I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lamps on it, with seven channels to the lamps. Also there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left.” I asked the angel who talked with me, “What are these, my lord?” He answered, “Do you not know what these are?” “No, my lord,” I replied. So he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty. “What are you, mighty mountain? ....Then I asked the angel, “What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?” Again I asked him, “What are these two olive branches beside the two gold pipes that pour out golden oil?” He replied, “Do you not know what these are?” “No, my lord,” I said. So he said, “These are the two who are anointed to serve the Lord of all the earth.”*
  - This is speaking of the Church in all its power and witness. ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty.

*Rev11:15 Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified. For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth. But after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered*

them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on. At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.

- Beast – world power – puts witnesses to death in the city Sodom – symbolic of sexual perversion – and Egypt – symbolic of great power/ government. It says, also the city where they crucified the Lord - Jerusalem – this earthly one represents apostate, legalistic or worldly religion. (The other Jerusalem in the Bible is from above and it represents the *naos*).

*The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:*

*“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.” And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small—and for destroying those who destroy the earth.” Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.*

- So the public witness of the church put to death by all the lust and greed for immorality, government power and apostate religion. But the church may be battered, mutilated, shut up and put underground, but be blessed, reader, because the *naos* can’t be touched (even if you are killed!)
- The Kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our God and of his Christ and he will reign forever and ever. This is the final announcement from heaven. But “Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth...” when the world hears what we know.
- Discuss the seventh trumpet later.