

THE OPENING OF THE SEVENTH SEAL
REV. 8:1-7

Introduction:

- A. Six of the seven seals have been opened.
 - 1. This is a time of God's judgment.
 - 2. It is a time of the Lamb's wrath.

- B. "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour."
 - 1. silence = soile - silence, absence of sound.
 - 2. the space of half an hour = hemionion = 1/2 hour
 - 3. The silence is in heaven not on the earth.

- C. The seventh seal consists of seven trumpets sounding. v2
 - 1. "And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets."
 - 2. Angels are not saved humans.

I. THE WORSHIP OF GOD. V3,4

- A. "And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer."
 - 1. another angel = not one of the seven.
 - 2. stood = istemi = to stand, he took his place.
 - 3. censer = libanotos = a vessel to burn incense in.

- B. "And there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne."
 - 1. given = didomi = to give, God gave it to him.
 - 2. offer = didomi - the same.... The angel received much incense from God, he was to give back, mixed with the prayers of God's people.
 - 3. The altar of God is set in heaven.

- C. "And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand."

1. smoke = kapnos = smoke.
2. ascended = anabaino - to go up, climb.
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II. THE PAUSE BEFORE THE STORM.

- A. Tribulation stops to seal the 144,000. v7:3.
 1. God is faithful to keep His promises.
 2. They are kept by His power.
- B. Tribulations is delayed for worship. v7:9.
 1. The numberless multitude.
 2. There is always time for worship.
- C. Tribulation is delayed for prayer.
 1. God's people should pray.
 2. Prayers are meaningful to God.

III. GOD'S WARNING TO EARTH'S PEOPLE. V5

- A. "And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it upon the earth."
 1. filled = gemizo - to fill up, to make full.
 2. cast ebalen = to throw.
 3. earth = gen.
- b. "And there were voices, and thunderings and lightnings, and an earthquake."
 1. voices = phone = a sound, a tone, a voice.
 2. thunderings = bronte = thunder.
 3. lightning = astrape = lightnings.
 4. earthquake = seismos = motion, shaking.
 5. Do these warnings work?

IV. THE SEVENTH SEAL LOOSED. V6,7

- A. "And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound."

1. prepared = etoimazo - to make ready.
2. sound = salpizo - to sound a trumpet.

B. "The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth."

1. There is a mixture prepared by God.
 - a. hail = chalaza = something let go, let fall.
 - b. fire = pur - fire.
 - c. blood = haima = blood. [see article.]
 - d. mingled = mignumi = to mix, mix up.
 - e. cast = ballo - to throw at or hit with any kind of missile, to fall.

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THE PEACEFUL SKIES: WHAT'S OUT THERE?
Dying stars.

Dying stars make for interesting obituaries in their death throes. They undergo some of the strangest machinations we know of. There are two basic forces at work within a star: contraction caused by mutual gravitational attraction, and expansion caused by the outward pressure of heated gas. During its lifetime a star like the Sun will undergo minor changes as one or the other of these forces temporarily gets the upper hand. The final expansion, however, will swell the Sun enormously. As its outer layers expand, they also cool, and hence redden. At this stage a star is known as a red giant. When our Sun reaches this stage, it will encompass the orbits of the three innermost planets within its volume. Its end will also be Earth's end.

But while its outer shell is expanding, the core of a dying star is contracting, releasing gravitational energy which heats it to some 100 million degrees Kelvin. At such temperatures other nuclear processes can occur, such as the formation of carbon nuclei from helium nuclei.

This process once started is sustained with frightening rapidity, creating what is known as the helium flash lasting only a few minutes in a star like the Sun. The details of what occurs next are complicated, but the eventual result is usually the expulsion of the outer shell of gas to form a planetary nebula and the collapse of the core to form a white dwarf.

C. "and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up."

1. trees = dendron = a living, growing tree.
2. third = to triton = the third of a whole.
3. burnt = katakaiō - to burn down, esp. a sacrifice.
4. green = chloros = the color of young grass.
5. grass = chortos = an enclosed place, but with the notion of a feeding place, any feeding place, the notion of food, fodder, hay, esp. for cattle.
 - a. Rev. 9:4.

V. WILL MEN REPENT DURING THE TRIBULATION?

A. The message of repentance.

1. John the Baptist, Matt. 3:2, "Repent ye for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.."
2. Jesus, Matt. 4:17, "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
3. Peter, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out."
4. Rev. 9:20-21.

B. Circumstances seldom bring repentance.

1. Luke 16:30-31, Rich man, "they will repent."
2. Rev. 9:20-21, "Repented not."
3. Rev. 6:9-11, "Repented not."
4. Men of our age.

C. The time has come!

1. Believe the Bible!
2. Quit messing with religion and men.
3. repent of your sins!
4. Trust in Jesus Christ!