

The Third Vision-The Seven Trumpets Revelation 8-11

The opening of the seventh seal at the beginning of chapter 8 serves as the introduction to the vision of the seven trumpets. The first 6 seals had depicted signs of the end followed by the last Judgment. When you compare Matthew 24 with Revelation 6 there are four things missing in Revelation 6. What is missing is a reference to false prophets, false Christs, apostasy, and love growing cold. We may summarize these four signs as being ungodly living and false teaching. Therefore, the calamities in Revelation 8 and 9 are a graphic portrayal of the effects of heresy in the church.

Read Chapter 10

1. Who is the angel pictured here? (note: the word angellus means “Messenger”)
2. How is this picture comforting for Christians?
3. What does the command to John not to write what the Seven Thunders say remind us?
4. What is the mystery of God?
5. What is being talked about by John eating the scroll? How can it be sweet and sour? (See Ezekiel 2:1-3:14)

His Word for My Life:

The bitter aftertaste of the gospel is the unloving response we get daily from the unbelieving world around us. Why do we need to keep on eating this little scroll?

Read Chapter 11

In chapter 9 we heard about countless delusions, false teachings that keep men from finding life. In chapter 10 we read about the little scroll, the true Word of God would be preached side by side with many heresies. Now in chapter 11 we see the corruption of the visible church.

- 1) Describe the difference between the Church as seen by man and the Church as seen by God. Vs.1-2
- 2) What does it mean that the Gentiles trample on the city for 42 months?
- 3) Who are the two witnesses that prophesy in sackcloth? (Matthew 9:37)

**42 months=1260 days=3 ½ years=NT era=time of persecution of the church
Oil= denotes the Holy Spirit**

In a vision in the OT book of Zechariah, Zechariah saw 2 olive trees which supplied an unceasing stream of oil to light one golden lampstand. Zechariah explains that the two olive trees were 2 men involved in rebuilding the temple of Jerusalem. One was Zerubbabel, the ruler and Joshua, the High Priest. In connection with this vision, Zechariah is told that the Lord’s work would not be accomplished by human power, but solely by the Holy Spirit. (Zch 4:6)The

two witnesses are the channels through whom the Holy Spirit, who alone can build the church, comes to men. The Holy Spirit comes to man through the Word and Sacrament.

- 4) What is fire that comes from the mouths of the Two Witnesses?
- 5) What Bible stories come to mind with the power these witnesses have?
- 6) What will happen shortly before the end of the world? (vs. 7-10)
- 7) How will the two witnesses display that they really haven't been defeated?

The visible church will not be a place of safety. Most of the visible church must perish with the rest of the unbelieving world. When it says that survivors gave glory to God, it does not mean that they now became believers. They were compelled to speak of God's glory. (like the magicians in Egypt)

- 8) What will become evident to all on the day of Judgment? (vs. 15)
- 9) Why would the Gentiles(unbelievers) be angry? (vs. 18)
- 10) What is the prophet's reward?

His Word for My Life:

God's final justice will be a two-edged sword. How does 11:18 illustrate this?