Behold the Lamb of God

The Seventh Seal Opened
Revelation 8
Lesson 8

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
February 20, 2011
Interpreting Revelation

- **Preterist**
  - the history of the early church
- **Historical**
  - the Church Age
- **Idealist/Symbolic**
  - the struggle of good and evil
- **Futurist**
  - the Great Tribulation
  - the Millennial Reign of Christ
  - the New Heaven and Earth
Purpose: Revelation 1:1

- A revelation of Jesus Christ
- A revelation of things that must soon take place
Revelation – overview

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CHRIST

Letters to Seven Churches

Prophecy of Things to Come

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III Prophecy of Things to Come

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Great Tribulation – 7 Years

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Seals 1-6 7th Seal  Trumpets 1-6 7th Trumpet  Bowls 1-7

Parentheses:

1 – the elect of God preserved
2 – John and the 2 witnesses
3 – Spiritual realities
4 – Babylon the Great

Chapter:

7  10-11a  12-14  17-18
Throne room of God (4-5)

- God on the Throne
- The Lion/Lamb – Son of God
- Book with 7 seals in the hand of God the Father
7 Seals – 7 Trumpets – 7 Bowls

- 7 years of Great Tribulation
- Recapitulation view
- Telescopic view
Recapitulation View

- The finality of Seal 6, Trumpet 7 and Bowl 7
  - Matthew 24:29-30
  - Revelation 6:12-17; 11:15-19; 16:17-21
- Storm theophany with 7th of each
  - Revelation 8:5; 11:19; 16:18
- 6th seal does not allow the 4th Trumpet
Telescopio View

- No wrath after 7th seal except 7 trumpets
- No wrath after 7th trumpet except the 7 bowls
- Last 3 trumpets are "woes" or plagues (8:13)
- 7 bowls are called 7 last plagues which end the wrath of God (15:1)
“Panorama of coming events”

- Matt 24:29 suggests 6th seal is last before return of Christ
- Seals 1-6 characterize the age – effects of judgments
- Seals 1 – Victory of righteousness
- Seals 2-4 – no peace; famine; death
- Seal 5 – Vengeance of God
- Seal 6 – Wrath of the Lamb
- Seal 7 – the wrath begins – sequential
First Parenthesis – Revelation 7

- Sealing of 144,000 of Israel
- Great multitude before the throne
  Romans 11:11-12
  Martyrdom – the wrath of God and the discipline of God
- “The same trials sanctify genuine believers, but punish unbelievers” (G.K. Beale)
- A basis for hope (7:15-17)
Seven trumpets
Revelation 8:1-9:20; 11:15-19

- Seals – the curse unleashed
- Trumpets and Bowls – unique Divine intervention
The 7th Seal Opened

Silence in heaven for about 30 minutes
- Joshua 6:20
- Exodus 14:14
- Habakkuk 2:20
- Zechariah 2:13
- Zephaniah 1:7-8, 15,17-18
- Psalm 76:8
- Psalm 46:10
- Lamentations 3:19-28
The 7th Seal Opened

- 7 Angels who stand before God – 7 trumpets
- Another angel
- The golden altar
- Incense and prayer
- The censer with fire from the altar
- Storm theophany
First Trumpet Judgment (8:6-7)

- Hail and fire mixed with blood
- 1/3 of earth burned
- 1/3 of trees burned
- All green grass burned
Second Trumpet Judgment (8:8-9)

- Something like a great mountain burning with fire thrown into the sea
- 1/3 of sea became blood
- 1/3 of sea creatures died
- 1/3 of ships destroyed
Third Trumpet Judgment (8:10-11)

- A great star from heaven, blazing like a torch
- Fell on 1/3 of rivers and springs of water
- Wormwood – bitter tasting plant
- Many died from the water
Fourth Trumpet Judgment (8:12)

- 1/3 of sun darkened
- 1/3 of moon darkened
- 1/3 of stars
- 1/3 of day and night affected
The eagle (8:13)

- Woe, woe, woe

- Worse judgments to come
  - Revelation 9:1 – 5th angel
  - Revelation 9:13 – 6th angel
  - Revelation 10:6-7 – no more delay – mystery of God fulfilled
  - Revelation 11:14 – third woe to come
  - Revelation 15:1f – 7th angel – bowls of wrath – wrath of God is finished
The Seventh Seal Opened

- God of mercy
- God of wrath
- Who is able to stand?