

# **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

I II III

|                            |                                    |                                   |    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----|
| 1                          | 2-3                                | 4                                 | 22 |
| C<br>H<br>R<br>I<br>S<br>T | Letters<br>to<br>Seven<br>Churches | <b>Prophecy of Things to Come</b> |    |

|                                       |    |                        |                       |                  |
|---------------------------------------|----|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <b>III Prophecy of Things to Come</b> |    |                        |                       |                  |
| 4                                     | 18 | 19                     | 20                    | 21-22            |
| <b>Great Tribulation – 7 Years</b>    |    | Return<br>of<br>Christ | 1000<br>Year<br>Reign | Eternal<br>State |

|              |                                    |                      |                         |       |
|--------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| 4            | <b>Great Tribulation – 7 Years</b> |                      |                         | 18    |
| Seals 1-6    |                                    | 7 <sup>th</sup> Seal |                         |       |
|              |                                    | Trumpets 1-6         | 7 <sup>th</sup> Trumpet |       |
|              |                                    | Bowls 1-7            |                         |       |
| Parentheses: | ①                                  | ②                    | ③                       | ④     |
| Chapter:     | 7                                  | 10-11a               | 12-14                   | 17-18 |

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

# 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 7<sup>th</sup> of each
  - Revelation 8:5; 11:19; 16:18
- ▶ 6<sup>th</sup> seal does not allow the 4<sup>th</sup> Trumpet

# Telescopic View

- ▶ No wrath after 7<sup>th</sup> seal except 7 trumpets
- ▶ No wrath after 7<sup>th</sup> 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
- ▶ Seal 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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?