

The Goodness and the Justice of God

Rev. 8-9; 11:15-19

Introduction:

1. Revelation chapter 4 opens the door to heaven. Inside is the throne of God.
2. Chapter 5 reveals a book in the hand of God that no one can open except the Lamb of God who was slain to purchase for God a people made to be a kingdom.
3. In chapter 6 the book is opened and it is revealed that judgment is coming on the earth. God's servants, however, are protected. The final scene of chapter 6 is a multitude praising God having washed their robes white in the blood of the Lamb.
4. In chapters 8 and 9 the final seal of the book is opened. Six trumpets will sound and judgments will be forthcoming, but still men will not repent.
5. With the sounding of the seventh trumpet the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of God.
6. With this summary in mind let us go back and read beginning in 8:1-6.

Discussion:

- I. God will respond to the prayers of the saints (8:1-6).
 - A. For what do saints pray?
 1. They pray for the purpose of God to be accomplished (ex. Zacharias, Lk. 1:8-11; cf. 1:67-79).
 2. Those under the altar prayed, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (6:10).
 3. Saints pray for the execution of God's will on the earth.
 - B. Before God begins to execute his purpose there is a dramatic silence (8:1). It is almost as if the whole host of heaven holds its breath before it begins.
 - C. Judgment is coming. The seven angels prepare to sound their trumpets.
- II. With the sounding of the first four trumpets judgment falls on the creation (8:7-12).
 - A. The first trumpet sounds and a third of the green plants are destroyed.
 - B. The second trumpet sounds and a third of the sea creatures are killed and a third of the shipping is destroyed.
 - C. The third trumpet sounds and a third of the rivers and springs of water are poisoned.
 - D. The fourth trumpet sounds and a third of the sun, the moon and the stars are affected.
- III. With the sounding of the next three trumpets judgment will fall on mankind (8:13-9:19). 8:13 indicates that things are going to be more intense.
 - A. The fifth trumpet sounds (9:1-12).
 1. The key to the bottomless pit is given to the fifth angel.
 2. Locusts like poisonous scorpions rise from the pit for the judgmental purpose of hurting men.

3. Those with the seal of God on their foreheads are not hurt (7:3).
 4. This judgment is limited to five months.
 5. The king over these locusts is Destruction and Destroyer.
- B. The sixth trumpet sounds (9:13-19).
1. Horsemen on horrific horses are released.
 2. One third of mankind is killed.
 3. Those not destroyed however did not repent.
- C. The seventh trumpet will not sound until 11:15-19.
1. To help maintain the continuity we will skip 10:1-11:14 and come back to it later.
 2. With the sounding of the seventh trumpet.
 - a. Loud voices said, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." Here again we see pick back up on the them of God's reign and His kingdom.
 - b. Note that it involves judgment upon the unfaithful. Quite consistent with John's preaching about the kingdom (Matt. 3:7-12). Note from this text the emphasis on the judgment of the one coming after John (3:11-12).
 - c. Consider Jesus' instruction regarding praying "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10). The kingdom comes with

judgment

against sin and vindication of the righteous who flow into the kingdom repenting of their sins and being having their robes washed white in the blood of the Lamb. It occurs as a result of preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.

They escape the judgment by the blood of the Lamb. Otherwise, they would be engulfed by the wrath of God.

- d. Yes, as Jonathan Edwards said, "We are in the hands of an angry God." But we are preserved from judgment with opportunity to escape. But the window of opportunity will close. Therefore we should repent now before it is too late.
- e. It is they who give thanks to God for His reign (17).

Conclusion:

1. Are you beginning to understand what the opening of the sealed Book is all about?
2. It is about the revelation of the plan of God for judgment and for forgiveness. It is about the kingdom and about the reign of God.
3. Does He reign in your life? He is a God of goodness to those who fear Him and a God of destruction to those who destroy.