

Eighth Angel of Revelation Eight

(Sermon Notes) Feast of Trumpets October 3, 2016

I begin by sounding the *Shophar* on this Feast of Trumpets.

A shofar is the ancient musical instrument made from a ram's horn, used for sounding Holy Days and alarms. Like the modern bugle, the shofar lacks pitch-altering devices. All note control is done by the way in which a player applies the lips to the mouthpiece of the wind instrument.

The Feast of Trumpets pictures the day Jesus Christ will return to this earth in awesome power to establish His Father's Kingdom over the entire earth. This day – the Feast of Trumpets – holds a special significance for us – the Saints.

2Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

I'm sure that we could each give a long list of the ways we've been persecuted for our faith. If everything is going smoothly for you – you simply are not trying hard enough to be a Christian.

Daniel 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall **wear out the saints** of the most High.

God's people have been persecuted through the centuries – **crying out to God** for deliverance. They were Tortured... Martyred... Dying in Tribulation...

Psalms 9:13 Have mercy on me, O LORD; consider my trouble which I suffer of them that hate me, you that lift me up from the gates of death:

Matthew 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

John 15:20 Remember the word that I said to you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you;

We do not have to try to get even.

Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved, **avenge** not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, **Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord.**

Revelation 16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

Revelation 16:6 For **they have shed the blood of saints and prophets**, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

God's retribution is exactly right – not too much and not too little. God knows whether a transgression calls for a "slap on the wrist" or for His vehement fury or fiery rage. We are told not to take justice into our own hands.

Romans 12:20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

The **Feast of Trumpets** is a picture of the **wrath of God**.

The entire year – from **Trumpets to Trumpets** is the year of God's wrath.

Romans 1:18 For the **wrath of God** is revealed from heaven against **all** ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Here is the theme of today's sermon:

Luke 18:7 Shall not God avenge his own elect, which **cry day and night unto him**, though he **bear long** with them?

Luke 18:8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.

Bear long or **speedily** which is it? Today's sermon will help to answer that timing question. But before we see what is so important – let's go back and look at some promises of God.

God has repeatedly told us not to take matters into our own hands.

Jeremiah 46:10 For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of **vengeance**, that he may **avenge** him of his adversaries:

1Thessalonians 4:6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the **avenger** of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

When Paul was writing to the persecuted Thessalonians – he told them that God would **even the score** when the Feast of Trumpets had its final fulfillment.

God has promised to **repay** in like kind all those that abused and persecuted the Christians.

2Thessalonians 1:6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to **recompense tribulation** to them that trouble you;

2Thessalonians 1:7 And to you who are troubled [**suffering tribulation**] rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

2Thessalonians 1:8 In flaming fire taking **vengeance** on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

2Thessalonians 1:9 Who shall be punished with **everlasting destruction** from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

2Thessalonians 1:10 When he shall come to be **glorified in his saints**, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

The Book of Revelation, especially, discloses many of the pertinent details. One really **significant** detail – I believe – has been entirely **overlooked** in our Church literature going back over my entire lifetime.

We've never given the **Eighth Angel of Revelation Eight** his due.

We normally read right over this angel's involvement in this section on the seven angels with seven trumpets. We should not read right over this section because it shows that God is faithful to remember us – His people – God does not forget. When we understand his – the **Eighth Angel** of Revelation Eight – mission, his holy assignment, we will see something spectacular that has been a long time waiting.

We know **Revelation 8** as the **7th Seal**, or **Trumpets** Chapter.

In the eighth chapter of Revelation, there are a number of angels mentioned with very specific duties to perform. There are the now familiar **seven angels** with seven **trumpets** who come against the earth delivering the ever intensifying **wrath of God**.

God's judgments get worse and more devastating as the **Day of the Lord** goes on. As Revelation 5 opens, the apostle John sees a scroll, sealed with seven seals, in the right hand of God. The only One worthy to open the seals is the Lamb of God, and He begins to do so, as we see in Revelation 6.

Whenever God speaks, His voice is described as being like a **trumpet**, like thunder, or like the sound of many waters – a Thunderous waterfall.

But all of a sudden there is **silence** in heaven.

Revelation 8:1 When [Jesus] opened the seventh seal, there was **silence in heaven** for about half an hour.

The seventh of these seals contains seven tremendous plagues, each preceded by an angel sounding a trumpet. But when the seventh seal is first opened—**before** the first angel sounds—everything in heaven comes to a halt: Nothing is said and nothing is moving.

We will see that Chapter eight of Revelation opens with an unusually deep silence in heaven. There is a lingering silence all throughout God's throne room—you could hear a pin drop. Usually there is the noisy hustle bustle pace of active praise, worship, music, and singing. Revelation 4:6-8 describes four living creatures who "do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

Isaiah 6:1-3 contains a similar scene involving the angelic **seraphim**. Continual praise is given to the Most High God and to the Creator. Untold voices sing, and musical instruments are played with skill far beyond man's ability or comprehension. We cannot fathom the reality of all these things, but we can reasonably assume that all power and authority in the vast universe contains a high level of activity and sound.

Yet, when the seventh seal is opened, for the space of half an hour, heaven is silent. The four living creatures at the throne of God **cease their praise**. The angelic messengers hold their peace. The heavenly choir, with its vast multitude of pure, angelic voices, **falls quiet**. All activity in heaven appears to stop as the heavenly realm turns its attention to what comes next, **pausing in silent anticipation**.

Being so contrary to the normal course of affairs, that **silence** must have been remarkable. Something really big is taking place causing every angelic being's awareness to be seized by the moment!

What was happening that would cause the rapt attention of the entire heavenly host? It is as if the heavenly host is holding its collective breath in silent expectation of what is about to take place – something really big!

The **first order of business** comes before the seven angels with seven trumpets. Those seven angels are told to "stand down" until something very important is accomplished. Attention of the entire heavenly host turns and focuses on **Angel Number Eight**.

Who is this angel? What does he represent that is so important in the overall scheme of things?

The Greek word translated "silence," means a **deafening** silence. The silence is a profound one, a seemingly rare and meaningful occurrence. The image is of silence in anticipation of an event, or even more specifically, it implies focused attention while waiting for something to begin.

Revelation 8:2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

But God is saying, "Hold that thought, because before we get to this terribly important matter of the seven angels with seven trumpets—there's most important unfinished business to attend to."

These seven angels with seven trumpets are about to unleash their incredibly devastating plagues all over this earth. What could be so important that it moves to the head of the line in significance?

Look at the plagues of the seven trumpets that are delayed until the **Eighth Angel** completes God's vengeful task.

- Third of Trees and Grass Burnt
- Third of Sea Becomes Blood
- Third of Fresh Water Becomes Bitter
- Third of Light Taken from Sun, Moon, Stars
- War with Satan
- Third of Mankind Slain
- Complete fulfillment of God's wrath.
- Grievous Sores
- Sea as Blood
- Rivers as Blood
- Sun Scorches
- Darkness
- Euphrates Dries Up
- Great Earthquake

Before the seven angels begin to sound their trumpets, **another** angel – an **eighth angel** (though he is not numbered) – stands at the heavenly altar offering up incense before God.

This eighth angel is very important to all who of God's people through the ages.

*Revelation 8:3 Then **another angel** [#8], having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the **prayers of all the saints** upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

Whereas the seven trumpet angels having the seven last plagues bring their great devastation on the earth, the eighth angel brings an **answer** to the **prayers** of God's saints.

The spiritual coals of fire are indicative of God's judgment in response to the **prayers** of those who are sighing and crying, mourning a weeping over the lawlessness and abominations that have overwhelmed the saints of God.

That massive retaliatory vengeance being administered by the eighth angel is indicative of God's love and respect for His people who cry out to Him day and night. God hears their prayers!

Revelation 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, with the **prayers** of the saints, **ascended before God** from the angel's hand.

Revelation 8:5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thundering, lightning, and an earthquake.

Who are the hot coals for? What are they meant to cleanse? This fire from the altar is much more than charcoal from a bar-b-que pit. The censer filled with hot coals of the altar being cast into the earth is strangely reminiscent of Napalm being dropped during the Korean conflict—only exponentially greater.

It is **spiritual fire** from God's altar— able to penetrate even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

Revelation 8:6 So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

The seven angels were chomping at the bit – ready to blast away on their angelic **shofars**. The sacred fire of the heavenly altar is cast upon the earth in direct response to the longing and relentless prayers of the saints all through the ages for God's intervention and reprisal upon the ungodly.

When the seventh seal is first opened, even before the first angel sounds the first trumpet, God permits the eighth angel to **retaliate against** all who indulge themselves in bringing misery and torment to righteous saints.

Explain here what kind of prayers – and how long these prayers of the saints have been offered up... Here is an example of one of these prayers.

Psalm 94:1 O LORD God, to whom **vengeance** belongs; O God, to whom vengeance belongs, show thyself.

Psalm 94:2 Lift up thyself, thou judge of the earth: render a reward [not a positive recompense] to the proud.

Psalm 94:3 LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph?

How long shall the wicked triumph? That's a very good question. And, we will see the answer in Revelation 8 – but first:

Deuteronomy 32:35 To me belongs vengeance, and recompense; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

Deuteronomy 32:36 For the LORD shall judge His people, and repent Himself for His servants, when He sees that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left.

We have become a weak brethren - without power...

Daniel 12:7 ... He shall have accomplished to scatter the **power of the holy people**, all these things shall be finished.

Proverbs 20:22 Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee.

God is pleased with the aroma of the eighth's angel's incense.

Psalm 141:1 A Psalm of David. LORD, I cry unto thee: make haste unto me; give ear unto my voice, when **I cry unto** thee.

Psalm 141:2 Let my **prayer** be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Revelation 5:8 And when He had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of aromas, which **are the prayers of saints**.

Note that: which **are the prayers of saints**. Even though the aroma of the incense is pleasing what happens next is anything but peaceful. Before continuing with the sequence of events, though, we can glean a good object lesson here.

We saw in: Rev 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer [for burning a mix of frankincense]; 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.

Exodus 30:7 And Aaron shall burn thereon **sweet incense** every morning: when he dresses the lamps, he shall **burn incense** upon it.

God gave Moses the exact formula:

Exodus 30:34 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum; these sweet spices with pure frankincense: of each shall there be a like weight: Mix them with a mortar and pestle.

Exodus 30:35 And thou shalt make it a perfume, a confection after the art of the apothecary, [Mix them with a mortar and pestle grown smooth.] tempered together, pure and holy:

Exodus 30:36 And thou shalt beat some of it very small, and put of it before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee: it shall be unto you most holy.

Exodus 30:9 Ye shall offer no **strange** incense thereon, [Strange means evidence of wrongful prayer - because God does not hear sinners - John 9:31]

Revelation 8:3 mentions the prayers of all the saints, indicating both those who **were alive** at the time as well as the **previous** prayers of the saints who had died and were awaiting the resurrection.

As we saw, the prayers of the saints are first mentioned in chapter 5, when the Lamb of God takes the scroll from the Father to begin opening the seven seals (Revelation 5:1-8). What is the connection?

The saints' prayers are initially mentioned when the Lamb takes the scroll, and then He opens each of the seals at the appropriate time. When He opens the seventh seal, the deafening silence falls, and their prayers are brought up again as God begins to act on those prayers.

This section of Scripture reminds us that, although God may seem to be silent, He is far more aware of what we are praying about than we are!

If our prayer is in accord with His will, He will respond in a perfect way. That perfect way does not always correspond with our desired schedule - but it is God's perfect timing, which, to us, often seems incredibly inconvenient, as we want things to happen now! We do not see things as God does because we are not yet in full alignment with Him.

So, when we pray about something significant, it should not surprise us if there is a pause—seeming silence—before there is a response from God. During this time of quiet, an angel carrying a golden censer enters and stands at the altar **before God's throne**.

The smoke that rises from the incense he offers is mingled with the prayers of all the saints, connecting the silence with prayer. The silence means that God is waiting for the perfect and right time to answer our **cries** to Him.

Ezekiel 10:1-2 describe a similar scene to Revelation 8:

Ezekiel 10:1 Then I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims there appeared over them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne.

Ezekiel 10:2 And he spake unto the man clothed with linen, and said, Go in between the wheels, even under the cherub, and fill thine hand with coals of fire from between the cherubims, and scatter them over the city. And he went in as I watched.

*The coals of fire are indicative of **God's judgment** on Jerusalem, and by extension, on the whole nation. The rest of the book of Ezekiel is filled with references to fire and burning, symbolic of either destruction or purification.

Back in Revelation 8, after the angel throws down the censer, the seven trumpets are sounded, and many of the ensuing plagues involve fire, burning, or smoke (see Revelation 8:7-8, 10; 9:2, 17-18).

The casting down of the censer marks the **beginning** of the **trumpets**, as God begins to judge and purify the earth. Considering again the **prayers** of all the saints, we can find a serious application for those of us awaiting the end of the age and the establishment of God's Kingdom over the earth.

What is the connection between the prayers that ascend to God and the angel hurling the censer down to earth, initiating the seven trumpets? What sort of prayers would be a pleasing aroma to God at this juncture?

The context of the above verses in Ezekiel 10 contains an example of what God expects as the people's **iniquity** comes to the full. Notice what **precedes** the scattering of coals of fire over the city:

Ezekiel 9:3 And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side;

Ezekiel 9:4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that **sigh and that cry** for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

That mark on their forehead was their **assurance of protection** from God's vengeance on the unrighteous.

Compare this action of God with:

Revelation 7:2. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

Revelation 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have **sealed** [*mark of preservation*] the servants of our God **in their foreheads**.

Brethren, do you **sigh and that cry** for all the abominations that are being done?

Do you have **a list** of those things that you cry out to God to eradicate? Here is a short list of **abominations** to be eradicated?

Injustice – Pain - Deception

Ephesians 5:6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the **wrath of God** upon the children of disobedience.

Falsehood – Betrayal

Colossians 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Colossians 3:6 For which things' sake the **wrath of God** cometh on the children of disobedience:

Hopelessness of the abused fatherless

The Neglect of the elderly by Ungodly Men

Jeremiah 5:30-31 An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so. But what will **you do** in the end?

...End of short list...

Make your own list of abominations that you see – and pray to God about them.

Have you been sealed by God because you feel about these things as He does?

Ezekiel 9:5 And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and **smite**: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

Ezekiel 9:6 Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men [the elders – the **ministry first to be scrutinized**] which were before the house.

The people with whom God is pleased—and who He rewards with protection—are those who are in **anguish** over the same things that offend God. God is looking for a certain attitude – His attitude in us.

Most people will be going right along with the abominations of the land. They prostitute themselves – which is spiritual adultery. That disqualifies them from receiving the **mark** or **seal** of protection.

The mark on the forehead of those who were mourning and weeping – sighing and crying over the idolatrous conduct of the nation is reminiscent of the blood on the doorposts and lintel of the homes of those who were safe and out of danger when the death-angel passed over the Children of Israel.

The sign or seal of blood on the door caused the death-angel to Passover those who are obedient (Exodus 12:7).

The prayers that please God are the ones that match His will, and they do so because the people **agree** with Him on what is good and what is evil.

God is pleased with the prayers of those who are **dismayed** at the nation's mounting sins, for their prayers are proof that His work of creating children in His own character image is **succeeding**.

When prayers rise before Him that reveal His children's response to sin to be similar to His own, **He is pleased**.

When He can receive the outpouring of our hearts, and know that His standard of righteousness is being engraved in our very beings, He is delighted.

When our prayers, as well as our lives, demonstrate that we love what He loves and hate what He hates, our Father is pleased greatly.

Consider also the golden censer that is thrown to the earth:

That burning incense – which is the prayers of the saints is **evidence** against those who have tormented the people of God.

If the prayers of the saints contain God's standard of righteousness as expressed by His people, they serve as more than just a pleasing aroma.

Such prayers also serve as **evidence** that God presents against all the world.

If the saints have cried out to God because of mounting sins, it is certainly fitting that those prayers would be included as **testimony** when God executes judgment on them.

The question for us is, then, how closely we are in **alignment** with God regarding the world that He is about to judge?

In Revelation 18:20, God's servants are told to **rejoice** over Babylon when she is silenced and judged, because God has avenged us.

In **contrast**, the kings of the earth and the merchants lament and weep and wail, and they throw dust on their heads in mourning.

The saints will hate Babylon the way God hates her, but much of the world will love her and will mourn her destruction. How do we see Babylon—as friend or foe?

God's impending judgment should move us to take stock of our hearts, to consider what parts of Babylon we may find ourselves siding with rather than hating. Our prayers come from the abundance of our hearts (Matthew 12:34).

What our prayers contain—and what is absent—is testimony before God of how much we are in alignment with Him, as well as how much Babylon has pulled us in.

God issues a stern warning to us about this world we live in and its ways:

Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye **receive not of her plagues.** (:9-11)

The Feast of Trumpets pictures the time when Jesus Christ will make a **clean sweep** of every government and institution, all culture, practice and acceptable norm of man that stands contrary and defiantly against the will of God.

Those who are in harmony with God will have come out of Babylon and their prayers will testify against her. God is faithful to hear the prayers of His saints.

Luke 18:7 Shall not God avenge his own elect, which **cry day and night unto him**, though he bear long with them?

Luke 18:8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.

End: **The Eighth Angel of Revelation Eight**