

Handout 1: Revelation Chapter 8

Next I saw seven trumpets being given to the seven angels who stand in the presence of God. Rev. 8:2

The seven “Angels of the Presence” in Revelation 8:2 have a well-documented history in Biblical Scripture and in Jewish Oral Tradition and literature. In Luke 1:19 the angel tells the priest Zechariah “*I am Gabriel, who stand in God’s presence...*” Another interesting passage concerning the seven “Angels of the Presence” is the Ezekiel 9:2 passage we read last week in which Ezekiel had a vision of six “men” with weapons and one additional “man” among them clothed in linen with a writer’s ink well at his side to whom God speaks: *Immediately six men advanced from the upper north gate, each holding a deadly weapon. Among them was a man dressed in linen, with a scribe’s ink-horn in his belt. They came in and halted in front of the bronze altar* (NJB).

Holy Scripture only names three of the archangels:

1. Gabriel, “God is my strength” (Daniel 8:16; 9:21; Luke 1:19, 26)
2. Raphael, “God has healed” (Tobit chapters 5-6; 11:1-17; 8:1-3; 12:15)
3. Michael, “who is like God” (Daniel 10:13, 21; 12:1; Jude 9; Revelation 12:7)

The other names come from apocryphal texts, Jewish oral tradition (the Jewish Talmud), and also from documents found at Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. According to these extra-biblical sources the other archangels are:

4. Uriel, “fire of God”;
5. Raguel, “friend of God”;
6. Remiel, “thunder or height of God”
7. Sariel, “prince of God”

In the Jewish Talmud, which records the Sacred Oral Tradition of the Old Covenant, Uriel, Raphael, Raguel, and Michael are called “ministering angels” (in Hebrew *mal’akhey-hasharet*). There may be a connection between this tradition and the fact that in Rev. 8:7-12 four angels are singled out to announce the four “non-woe trumpet (shofar = ram’s horn) judgments. These trumpets are probably shofar or ram’s horn trumpets instead of the 2 silver trumpets (Num 10:2) and are reminiscent of the 7 shofar of the 7 priests (God’s representatives among the people as the angels are God’s representatives in heavenly liturgy) in Josh. 6:4-20. The idea that the Great Judgment of the Last Days is heralded by blasts on the shofar has its roots in the Old Testament and in Jewish Oral Tradition. Also see Ps. 47:5 “*God goes up to shouts of acclaim, Yahweh to a fanfare on the ram’s horn.*” & 98:6 for ram’s horn/ shofar references and 1 Thes. 4:16-17 in St. Paul’s prophecy of Christ’s return: *For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are a live, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the Air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord* (emphasis added).

Handout 2: Revelation Chapter 8

CHALICE & TRUMPET JUDGMENTS VS. PLAGUES OF EGYPT

The Chalice Judgments are repeats, with variation, of the Trumpet Judgments. Since the Trumpet Judgments were essentially warnings they took only a third of the Land; with the Chalices, however, the destruction is total. The similarities between the Chalice and Trumpet Judgments and the Plagues of Egypt cannot be casual coincidence. The similarities should make us ask “Why is the vision (or the plague) repeated—what is the connection?”

CHALICE Judgments in Revelation	TRUMPET Judgments in Revelation	PLAGUES ON EGYPT In the book of Exodus
1. On the Land, becoming Sores (16:2)	1. On the Land; 1/3 earth, trees, grass burned (8:7)	Boils (6 th plague: Ex. 9:8-12)
2. On the sea, becoming blood (16:3)	2. On the sea; 1/3 sea becomes blood, 1/3 sea creatures die, 1/3 ships destroyed (8:8-9)	Waters become blood (1 st plague: Ex 7:17-21)
3. On rivers and springs, becoming blood (16:8-9)	3. On rivers and springs; 1/3 waters become wormwood (8:10-11)	Waters become blood (1 st plague; Ex 7:17-21)
4. On the sun, causing it to scorch (16:8-9)	4. 1/3 of sun, moon, & stars darkened (8:12)	Darkness (9 th plague: Ex. 10:21-23)
5. On the throne of the Beast, causing darkness (16:10-11)	5. Demonic locusts tormenting men (9:13-21)	Locusts (8 th plague: Ex. 10: 4-20)
6. On the Euphrates, drying it up to make way for kings of the east; invasion of frog-demons; Armageddon (16:12-16)	6. Army from Euphrates kills 1/3 of mankind (9:13-21)	Invasion of frogs from the river (2 nd plague: Ex. 8:2-4)
7. On the air, causing storm, earthquake, hail & the Great City splits into 3 parts (16:17-21)	7. Voices, storm, earthquake, hail (11:15-19)	Hail (7 th plague: Ex. 9:18-26)
M. Hunt © 2000 www.agapebiblestudy.com		