

AN OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Chapter 8:2-10:11

Keys In Chapter Eight:

1. As the seventh seal allowed a pause for repentance, the absence of repentance demands that God resume His work of judgment.
2. The second round of judgment begins with the first of the seven trumpets (vv. 2-7).
3. The first three trumpets deal with problems involving various natural disasters and their consequences (vv. 7-11).
4. The fourth trumpet is concerned with the fall of earthly power (v.12).
5. The last three trumpets are given special negative notice due to their severe nature (v.13).

Keys To Chapter Nine:

1. The fifth trumpet or first woe combines the imagery associated with both the locust and the scorpion to show how God can make life so unpleasant that men no longer want to live (vv. 1-11).
2. In particular this is against those who have honored Caesar and rejected Christ (v.4).
3. The imagery also draws on the fact that Rome's most dreaded enemy, the Parthians, wore their hair long (v. 8).
4. The names Abaddon and Apollyon are Hebrew and Greek words meaning "destruction," and "destroyer" respectively—Psalm 88:11 shows that the Hebrew word relates to the destruction of the grave (v. 11).
5. The idea is that this destructive force is associated with the darkest kind of opposition.
6. The next two trumpets (the last two woes) were coming (v. 12).
7. The sixth trumpet releases four angels that were held in reserve for just the time of John's Revelation (vv. 14-15).
8. Invading hordes were associated with the sixth trumpet (vv. 16-19).
9. The severity of the judgments associated with the trumpets was scaled up from a fourth to a third of mankind (vv. 15, 18; cf. 6:8).
10. But all these things did not bring repentance (vv. 20-21).

Keys To Understanding Chapter Ten:

1. There would be more to the work of God in judgment, since the enemy had not repented.
2. The little book would contain the message of ultimate defeat for those who opposed the church (vv. 1-11).

3. Before it would be read, the seventh trumpet would sound to show that the end of the battle would now be revealed (v. 7).
4. The little book would have a bittersweet message—ultimate victory, but at a high cost (vv. 9-10).
5. Because Rome had not repented, God would now destroy her (v.11).
6. Chapter eleven, as I see it, is the brief summation of the little book.
7. I believe that Revelation 12-22 is a more detailed look at aspects of the little book that are revealed in repeating cycles.