

Scene Three: Seven Trumpets

CAUTION:

The Calm Before the Storm

Silence in heaven. Many things have already taken place. Many more are on the way. Why exactly is there such a strong silence? I don't know if I can say, but I know that it is deliberate and it is striking. It may be time waiting for an answer of repentance, or it may just be a solemn silence from those who know what's about to take place. Whatever it is, we're to understand that great things are about to come out of heaven, and it starts with the flinging of fire from the altar to the earth. *Noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.* The silence has been broken.

The Warning Sounds

We see seven angels each given a special task. They each have a single trumpet, and it is their responsibility to sound the alarm. Trumpets have always been used as a warning signal. And what are these warnings? Partial judgments on an ungodly world. Not annihilation, yet severe nonetheless. These remind us of the plagues of Egypt. We're shown supernatural interference with nature – the forests and the rivers, the seas and the skies. No one on earth has power over these things. Evil locusts from a bottomless pit rise to torment and cause hopelessness on earth. A great army rises up to kill a third of mankind. The message is clear. These are warnings. The ungodly should see these things going on and repent of his wickedness. Yet, *“the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent.”* This call to repentance fell unheeded. What is to be done?

The Kingdom Proclaimed

There appears to be a bit of an interlude, though it fits in perfectly – we’ve seen this before. A great messenger appears with a little book. John is told **not** to write the sounds of the seven thunders. I don’t *know* what these seven thunders are. Surely we could guess a little bit, but we may as well not. This is not an uncommon thing for God to withhold certain information. *But this is the **revealing** right, why this **concealment**?* There are plenty of things that we don’t know, and even more that we could never understand as hard as we may try. But that’s okay! Everything that we need has been revealed, in this book and in the Scriptures. ***The mystery is still fully revealed. Even without all the details.*** Everything we need is purposefully there, that we could know the path to salvation and that our joy may be *full*. Now, there had been a delay. A planned delay for the wicked world to repent, and they did not. Soon we will see the righteous judgment of God without delay. John is told to eat the book whole. This is representative of his duty and his commission to carry the word of God. It is sweet, yet it is bitter. Think of Jonah, and other prophets, who knew beforehand that they would not be received. The world does not accept the message or the messenger – this we are told quite plainly. The word of God is sweet to the mouth, yet bitter to the stomach. There is good news, and there is bad news that goes with it. It’s not always easy to speak the truth, but God strengthens his messengers.

We see a picture of the temple. This seems to correlate with the sealing in the previous scene. God is setting apart his people, making sure they are known. Two witnesses are sent. Why two? **2 Corinthians 13** - That *every word may be established*. **Zechariah 4** gives us a pretty good idea about who these witnesses are. In consideration here is the Christ’s Church and His Message. Also, there are clear references to the Law and the Prophets (Moses and Elijah) – the two witnesses seen on the mount with Jesus. Elijah prayed and the heavens were shut up. Moses brought the plagues on Egypt. The 42 month period speaks of a time of persecution, yet aided by God’s protection. Once the testimony is finished, the beast from the bottomless pit destroys them, or so it appears. But they are resurrected and ascend into heaven to be with the Lord.

Finally, it is official. *“The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”*