

## Review of Chapter 7-9

We have a review of the "new plagues" based on the old plague inflicted in Exodus. The image here is of the earth receiving these plagues, ie this is what it looks like on the receiving end of God's Wrath. As before, these are all announced by the blasts of the Trumpets.

We have seen the breaking of the Seven Seals on that mysterious document: the seventh seal brings the seven Trumpet blasts

Ref. the trumpets: the shofar, the horn that announces God's action

Military implications, the arrival of the Emperor

Joshua & Jericho, Crossing the Jordan with the ark

(Rosh Hashana: new year, the beginning of a new age)

This ends with the sixth plague, Locusts, bringing widespread death

Image here is of the Romans conquering by massive firepower

Four angels at the corners of the Euphrates (different nations all of their own angel) Israel has Michael.

Locusts unleashed from the underworld

Then we have a pause between these disasters in chapter 9

Note the star that fell (9:1) into the abyss

Abyss: a fiery place beneath the earth)

A few issues of the Prophets

Pre-exilic, exilic, post exilic

Before, during and after the Exile of 594

Re: the collapse of Judah in days of Nebuchadnezzar

-origins of Bible, organization of Psalms and canon

Here: images from all three periods are depicted (Daniel Post, Ezekiel Exilic etc)

## Opening of Chapter 10

1. The mighty angel - as opposed to the regular (?) ones we have seen
  - a. He is a serious badass, full of power and authority, bright as the
    - i. Comes from sky and steps on the sea and land - all parts of the world
    - ii. The small open scroll (as opposed to the big open with seven seals)
    - iii. The rainbow: rep Covenant and punishment (re Noah)
    - iv. There is some sort of secret revelation, "do not write it down"
  - v. Daniel 12:7 **The man clothed in linen, who was upstream, lifted his hands to heaven; and I heard him swear by him who lives forever that it should be for a time, two times, and half a time;! and that, when the power of the destroyer of the holy people was brought to an end, all these things should end.** Meaning: no more delays, it happens now
2. The Little Scroll
  - a. What is it? Not the previous scroll - its two small, note the diminutive (eg ito in Spanish) biblos and bibliron
  - b. Perhaps is the stuff we are about to hear
    - i. Note the use of pauses in the Rev.
    - ii. "secret" revelations are common in apocalyptic lit.
  - c. The seer is commanded to eat it, to devour, make it part of his life

- d. Sweet and sour! (sweet: God's Word is sweet/sour-the subject is hard to take, bad news for some)
- e. A reflection of what happened in Ezekiel (prophet of the Exile)

He said to me: Son of man, eat what you find here: eat this scroll, then go, speak to the house of Israel. So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. Son of man, he said to me, feed your stomach and fill your belly with this scroll I am giving you. I ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. Then he said to me, Son of man, go now to the house of Israel, and speak my words to them. Not to a people with obscure speech and difficult language am I sending you, but to the house of Israel. Nor to many nations of obscure speech and difficult language whose words you cannot understand. For if I were to send you to these, they would listen to you. But the house of Israel will refuse to listen to you, since they refuse to listen to me. For the whole house of Israel is stubborn of brow and hard of heart. Look! I make your face as hard as theirs, and your brow as stubborn as theirs. Like diamond, harder than flint, I make your brow. Do not be afraid of them, or be terrified by their looks, for they are a rebellious house. Then he said to me, Son of man, take into your heart all my words that I speak to you; hear them well. Now go to the exiles, to your own people, and speak to them. Say to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear: Thus says the LORD God! (Ezekiel 3: 1-11)

## Ch 11.

- 1. Two witnesses
  - a. Moses and Elijah
  - b. Joshua and Zerubbable (heir to the throne)
  - c. Peter and Paul
  - d. Their mission: brief and then they die, killed once their job is done
  - e. Based strongly on Zechariah ch. 4 (Zech is post exilic)
    - i. Olive tree: sanctity, healing, nourishment, permanence
    - ii. These guys have Mosaic and Elijah levels of power (eg closing sky water to blood)
    - iii. We note similar rebuilding theme in Haggai (post exilic)
    - iv. Measuring rods
  - f. Followed by the Beast of the Abyss
    - i. Identification with Nero (r. 54-68)
    - ii. 24 elders - they are still there (note male gender)
      - 1. Serve as a chorus, as in Greek drama to repeat the most important stuff