**The Revelation to John**

**Chapter 8:1-5 12/27/20**

**The Seventh Seal**

“half an hour” not really sure- here’s best possibility:

The Hour- usually refers to Jesus’ hour

John 2:4 “Woman, my hour has not yet come”

Matthew 24:36 “No one knows the day or the hour”

Half- many references to things happening half way through in Revelation

Book’s timing is often represented in “Seven” and we see events in 3 and a half days, or “time, times and half a time= 3 and a half, or 42 months = 3 and a half years

So half an hour is saying we are in the final hour till Jesus’ moment, but not quite there yet.

Silence

1. Futurist view- this silence contains the seven trumpets mentioned in next verse
2. Most other views- Silence is moment before divine judgement, which is completed in verse 5

Verse 5 is seen as the complete final destruction of the world began in the Sixth Seal.

It comes as the answer to the prayers of the saints in Fifth Seal and 8:3-4.

The presence of “thunder, rumblings, lightning, and earthquake” signify the End, which is repeated at End of Trumpets (11:19), and Bowls (16:18).

The mention of Trumpets in verse 2 is a literary cliffhanger to get us to verse 6- another description of the Church Age.

1. Scott’s view- silence is God’s choosing not to reveal (yet) the 2nd Coming, and completely ends the vision of the Scroll.

Verse 2 begins an entire new vision.

Verses 3-5 set context and overall summary of the Trumpets.

Purpose of the Scroll

Jesus who is the lamb standing as if slain, is the only one who can read it.

It is the plan of God for the whole End Times which Daniel saw and sealed (Dan. 12) and scroll in the likeness of Ezekiel’s (Ezek 2:8-10) which was to warn/turn/judge God’s people.

**It is a vision for the Church, just as chapters 1-3 have been so far**.

Seals 1-4 tell of general evil upon the earth

This judges the earthdwellers and weeds out the visible Church.

Seal 5 is the cry of the faithful for God to complete the time of evil nations punishing His people

Exodus 2:23-24

Psalm 69

It ends with the saints asking “How long until vengeance?”

Seal 6 begins with an earthquake and describes the wrath of Father and Son (this Seal is the only future part- but is still based upon the growing circumstances of the whole Age)

As a result of Jesus’s wrath (related to 2nd Coming, in the 1st Advent Jesus is not judge- John 3:16-18, 36)

Earthdwellers cry out in fear

Saints are sealed, protected and join in joyous worship

After the Sixth Seal finishes- we are left with:

Saints are accounted for- in glorious worship in New Heavens and Earth

Earthdwellers are unaccounted for- they are terrified but nothing has happened to them

The Seventh Seal tells us nothing- on purpose.

“No one knows the hour, not even the Son of Man” Matthew 24:36

The Seals end just before the 2nd Coming actually happens.

Rev 8:2- Formulaic beginning of a NEW vision “then I saw”

Trumpets announce or pronounce things

These are announcements related to the cry of the Saints, verse 3-4

Verse 5 is a Summary- God will Judge the earthdwellers- Fire on the earth

His sovereign presence blesses, administers, oversees this- thunder, rumblings, lightning

Earthquake is either another signal of God’s divine presence (Mt Sinai, Temple vision of Is. 6), or signal that this relates to earthdwellers fate like first half of Sixth Seal.

Seals tell whole story – Church and Earthdwellers (World)

Trumpets beginning in Rev 8:6 deal primarily with earthdwellers- modelled after plagues of Exodus