

“The Reality of Tribulation” (Revelation 7:9-17)

On www.biblegateway.com, there is a free *Asbury Bible Commentary* that would be a good companion to your Scripture Readings.

Keep reading the scriptures out loud as John intended for us (Rev. 1:3).

Monday - Revelation 8:6-13

The stylized way John describes these seven trumpets ought to remind us that he was speaking in symbols, “talking about God’s drastic action to purify the world, to cut it back as one would with a tree that had become dangerously diseased, removing the deadly cancer so that the rest may be saved.”

Tuesday - Revelation 9:1-12

John uses an OT symbol of judgment: locusts. Their life cycle is 5 months, showing us that God “remain[s] sovereign, even though for evil to be finally conquered it has to be allowed to come out into the open and do its worst.”

Wednesday - Revelation 9:13-21

The point of this trumpet is that humans might be challenged to repent (9:20-21). Even if that opportunity is rejected, we see God’s patient mercy in not immediately wiping away all of creation. In the end, those who continue to rebel will - in part - bring about their own destruction (16:5-6).

Thursday - Revelation 10:1-11

In this interlude, we are prepared for the final trumpet. We hear in verse 6 that “the time shall be no more” for those who presume upon God’s patience. Things will now reach their goal in Chapter 11 with the seventh trumpet.

Friday - Revelation 11:1-14

The church (Temple) is to be a faithful witness to Jesus, like the Two Historic Witnesses in Israel’s history — Moses (Exodus 8-11) and Elijah (2 Kings 18). The church’s faithful witness in the midst of suffering will succeed in bringing people to repentance where plagues fail. Love trumps fear.

Saturday - Revelation 11:15-19

This is a climactic, decisive moment. As we read here and sing in Handel’s Messiah: “The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.”

Sunday - Revelation 12:1-6

Remember, Revelation is not a sequence of chronological events. John is giving us several different angles of vision on one great reality (see yesterday’s reflection). Chapter 12 seems to start the story over again from a new angle, but with the same eventual result (the victory and reign of God).

* *Reflections drawn from NT Wright’s “Revelation For Everyone”.*

“The Reality of Tribulation”

Revelation 7:9-17

Sunday, October 18, 2020

The Great Tribulation? (7:14)

John 10:10

Every age faces their own particularized form of brokenness & rebellion against God.

“Great” = universal, impacting everyone.

John 16:33

Who Can Stand? (6:17)

You can! Because of the love and grace of God!

Romans 8:35-39

How Do We Come Out of the Great Tribulation Standing?

Romans 12:12 (rejoice, patience, persevere)

2 Corinthians 1:4 (console others as Jesus consoles you)

Revelation 7:10, 12 (sing)