

**THE SERMONS, LECTURES, AND SONGS OF
SIDNEY EDWARD COX**

Revelation – Chapter 8
The ‘Parenthesis’ - Explanations Contained in Chapters 8-12
The First Four of the Trumpet Judgments

Editorial Note: This is a lecture by Sidney Cox that was part of a series of lectures on the Book of the Revelation that he taught while on the theological teaching faculty at the Toccoa Falls Bible Institute during the early part of 1962. He was 75 years of age at the time.

During the latter part of his life, Sidney Cox had developed a close relationship with the Christian and Missionary Alliance (“CMA”). CMA operates as a vast network of churches, similar to a “denomination.” Toccoa Falls Bible Institute was closely affiliated with the CMA, provided support to the Institute and the Institute sent many of its graduates into ministry within CMA churches. CMA and The Salvation Army, in which Sidney Cox served as an officer for 30 years previously in his life, share a similar theology and emphasis in Christian outreach.

From 1956 – 1960, Sidney and Violet Cox lived in Miami, Florida where Sidney was on the theological teaching faculty of the Miami Bible Institute, another CMA supported institution. They moved to Toccoa Falls, Georgia in 1960, where he served on the staff at the Toccoa Falls Bible Institute from 1960 – 1962.

As a lecture, he was obviously assuming that his students had prepared for class by reading and studying the pertinent scripture and other class material. Thus, his comments were not like a sermon, but lectures to enhance the students’ theological understanding. He emphasized a detailed study of the scripture and incorporated analysis that he gained from his study of Bible commentaries and books on the related subject matter. These lectures are remarkably free of any personal opinions, personal illustrations or “sermonizing” of any kind. While at other times in his career he was very much the preacher and evangelist, in these late-in-life roles of Bible Professor, he was very much the educator.

Lastly, it might be helpful to at least comment on the historical context in which these lectures were delivered. Many biblical scholars of that day associated some of what is found in the Book of Revelation with the Catholic Church – symbols of paganism, the movement of Satan/antichrist to establish one world church, etc. Many people viewed the Catholic Church with much skepticism and fear. Further, John F. Kennedy had just been elected the first Catholic president of the United States in 1960. His election was quite controversial and many non-Catholics were concerned about Kennedy’s catholic background. Elements of these concerns and mindset are found in these lectures. In 2008, many of these fears have been discredited and some would find them to be offensive and intolerant, but they were quite prevalent and not at all unusual in 1962.

John Douglas Cox, grandson of Sidney Cox. December 29, 2008.

...if not the most perplexing section of this book. I want you to see certain things before we go any

further. One, we are approaching the center of the book. Now, right in the middle of the book you find an important ‘parenthesis.’ The narrative will be going on until we get to Chapter 10.

Then you will find, for part of Chapter 10, Chapter 11, and Chapter 12, there is a parenthesis in which it seems almost as if the pages have been turned back so that explanations shall be given. As if the Holy Spirit is saying to us, “Well now you may have been thinking about this. You may have been wondering about this or that or the other. Now, I'm going to explain it to you before we go any further. We're going to stop and look at these things.” Now, when you find them, you will discover that these things that appear in the parenthesis have to do, particularly, with the nation of Israel. Now, you will find them as we go along. I don't need to say any more about it. Just to remind you of that. You will find things that have to do with the nation of Israel, strange things. But they are vitally important in the way of explanations. Now, you will find that in the first place.

Then, you will see that there are certain things that are being described that are not necessarily in chronological order. Let's remember, if you please, that the scene constantly changes from earth to heaven. We've been looking at things that have been going on on earth. Before that, we looked at things that were taking place in heaven. In Chapter 4, we were in heaven. In Chapter 5, we were in heaven. But the moment the seals began to be opened, we were down here on earth. And we've been following things down here on earth. Now you will find this pattern (inaudible) quite frequently. Every little while you will find yourself in heaven, and you will be looking at things from the standpoint of heaven.

And remember, that when you are in this position as John was, observing things taking place down here on earth, it is not always a matter of a chronological order. Let's keep that in mind. For example, let me put this rough idea out. Here is John standing here in this heavenly situation, watching things that are going on down here on earth. And he could see things that are chapters ahead of us, so far as the actual record in the book is concerned. Here, John with the angels, watching things down here on earth. Now, when you're in this position, you don't just see this and not that, because this happens to be in Chapter 8 and this in Chapter 9. You see far more than that.

For instance, there is only one explanation of a strange thing that we meet, and it isn't the first time and it isn't the last time that we're going to meet it, the silence in heaven.¹ Now remember, here we are in heaven. There is silence in heaven. Now why? It's obviously not because of some one thing that's happening down there, but because of a series of things that are going to happen. The angels can see down there, things that are going to happen. And you go on from one chapter to another. It's necessary that they should be recorded chronologically as far as we're concerned, because we can only take in one thing at a time.

But when you stand on this heavenly mountain top and look down there, Chapter 13 over here is as near to you as Chapter 8 over here. And you need to get that picture in mind because some of things that we see are things that we do not find the actual record of it until we get on a little further along in the story itself.

Now, what are these angels watching that causes a silence in heaven? And the word that is translated

¹ Revelation 8:1.

'silence in heaven' is a word that would imply an awed silence, a breathless silence, a silence in which they stand aghast, amazed. What are they looking at? Well, they're not just looking at one isolated judgment that is falling, or not even a series of things. But they can see before them seven angels that have taken their places with their trumpets and the seventh seal is now to be opened.² And they can see from one end of the seventh seal clear on to the other. Now, you imagine if you will, and I'm just reminding you of something that of course you know, because you've been reading your book here. You wouldn't be so short-sighted as to come to a class like this without immersing yourself in the book itself. We surely wouldn't be that short-sighted. So I am just going to presume that the things that I'm saying to you are already clearly before your eyes.

But can you see what's happening down here on earth while this, and we look at it now from the standpoint of heaven, it's quite true that we don't find it recorded until Chapter 13 at this point. But we're standing at the top of a mountain looking down, not only at the Chapter 8 side on one, but the Chapter 13 side on the other. And what these angels can see is the accumulating rebellion down on earth against God. And they can see this thing coming to a head. They can see it getting more and more and more obnoxious, terrible. And they stand aghast as they see Satanic opposition to God. Now, you will remember, and this is the thing that I had in mind that I was quite sure that you would have read, that when you get to Chapter 13, which is on this side of this mountain peak of vision, when you get to Chapter 13, you can see this rebellion coming to a head.

Here is the beast coming up out of the sea. This may be a little in anticipation of the 13th Chapter, but it won't matter at all. A lot of these things ought to be repeated over and over again. Here is this beast out of the sea who receives the power of the dragon. Let's keep in mind that in the Satanic area, there is a trinity, just as there is in the holy area of God. There is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. So in the Satanic area, you would expect to find a trinity in obvious imitation of that which is in the center of where God is. And you've got a dragon who is the anti-God, you have a beast coming out of the sea who is anti-Christ, and you have a false prophet who is anti-Holy Spirit. And you have all three of them.

Now, when you get to this side of this mountain of vision here, you can see these three as you have not seen them before. And you can see what's happening and what they are doing. What are they doing? You don't need to answer that. But one thing that they are doing, which is the climax of almost all of their rebellion against God is that in a rebuilt temple, which is the obvious necessity, there is no temple now and neither will there be when the rapture of the church takes place, and anti-Christ as Satan's representative takes over down here, there will be no temple then any more than there is now. But one of the first things that will be done will be the rebuilding of that temple, and it will be done because of Satan's anxiety to bring in the Jew as his active partner.

As a matter of fact, Satan makes a covenant with the Jew at the beginning of this period where he takes over. Now, one of the parts of that covenant with the Jew is their religion would be restored. And consequently, you see a temple that has obviously been rebuilt. It wasn't there at the beginning of this time. There is no temple there, such as we see here in Jerusalem at this time, for example.

If the rapture of the church took place today, what kind of a temple would there be in Jerusalem?

² Revelation 8:1.

What? What kind, will somebody tell me? There is one there, but it isn't this one. What is it, that's the great central thing in Jerusalem right now? What is it called? The Mosque of Omar. It's the Muhammadan center that is there.³

But this thing we're talking about is something that belongs to the Jew. Obviously, it has been rebuilt. Now, into that temple comes the final blasphemy, the image of anti-Christ erected in the temple and the anti-Holy Spirit doing for anti-Christ what the Holy Spirit does for the Lord Jesus - he brings people into contact with him, and there is enforced worship of this one with his image in the temple.

Now, I know we're getting ahead of ourselves, or at least it seems like it there. But don't forget, that these are some of the things that this angelic host and John, with amazed eyes looking down there, can see. They can not only see Chapter 8, they can see Chapter 13 and everything that goes in between. And they are looking at it with utter amazement. Their breath almost stops. Now, I don't know whether you can use that physiological term about angels there, we may be getting a little off the track, but there's so much of it that's described in terms that we can use, that I don't think it's too far out to say the angels hold their breath as they look at this final culmination of antagonism and hatred and rebellion against God.

Now, let's stop right there at the beginning of it and take a look at it because here, the first thing we find as we get into Chapter 8 is 'silence in heaven.' Now, while we're looking at the silence and perhaps hearing a little bit of it in our hearts, we'll just turn back a moment and remind ourselves of what has gone before just briefly there. We have watched the process by which God has been gathering out from the people of the earth, a group, both Jew and Gentile, who will be the preserved alive or raised at the end of this period to form the nucleus of his earthly people during the millennial period on earth.

We have noticed two things, and whether we understand it or not, or whether we understand all that we ought to about it, is not the primary point for the moment. We have watched two means by which God is giving good news to somebody during the tribulation period. Because, don't forget, that gospel, no matter what the name of it is, gospel is good news. And somebody has been giving out good news.

Now in the imagery of the scripture we see that that could come from two sources: One, the two witnesses who are obviously carrying on their work, although we do not actually see them, but although we're reaching the point right rapidly where we do see them, and there in the midst of this period of explanation in Chapter 11.⁴ Then as if the Holy Spirit is stopping and saying, "Now look! You've been seeing what the two witnesses have been doing. Now I'm going to tell you something about these two witnesses. I'm going to show you something about it and take you into the confidence about these two witnesses."

We have seen 144,000 who have been supernaturally selected and preserved to carry good news to

³ The Mosque of Omar, otherwise known as The Dome of the Rock is an Islamic shrine and major landmark located on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. It was completed in 691-692, making it the oldest existing Islamic building in the world. The site's significance stems from the religious beliefs regarding the rock, known as the Foundation Stone, at its heart.

⁴ See Revelation 11:3.

somebody.⁵ And they have been doing this. Now there is one thing that is quite obvious, not only in this book, but all the way through the scripture, and that is this: That those to whom the 144,000 will go will be those in the main, at any rate, who have never heard before.

Now don't forget that no matter when this thing takes place, there will be 1/3 of the population of the earth who have never heard the gospel, never. Now, it will be good news to them. There is nothing here that indicates that this preaching of good news by the 144,000 is a second chance to those who have refused the gospel of grace and have gone into the tribulation apostate. There is nothing there that indicates a second chance for anybody. But when you realize that over the face of the earth, 1/3 of the population of the earth have not even had one chance, then you can see the grace of God in selecting out of these as a response to his message of good news, that the Messiah is coming, a kingdom is to be established, and that those who receive the good news regarding it will form a part of it. Now that's the news that is being carried during the tribulation.

And it is not in any sense a second chance to those who have refused the gospel of the grace of God. I think that ought to be clear in our mind. It's not in any sense a second chance after death or any other time. Now, we need to get that clearly in our minds, otherwise we might be very apt to join Jehovah's Witnesses. Or we might find ourselves walking along arm in arm with Pastor Russell, or somebody else who had that idea and preached it, that there would be a second chance.⁶ But you can't find any second chance at all in scripture, at all. There is one way by which men are saved up to this point and that is by the accepting of the sacrifice of Calvary.

There is no second chance for those who have refused, but here is a vast multitude. We find them described here. A multitude that's so great that they can scarcely be numbered, who have never heard at all. Now, to them in particular this message will go. And from them, these who have never heard will be gathered a nucleus of Gentiles for the kingdom that is to be established when the Lord Himself comes in power and great glory to put the final climactic touch on this judgment scene, to clear Satan and the rest of them out of the way and do what God promised to Abraham, but which has never been fulfilled at all, never. But it will be. Now into this kingdom will go these, who are saved, and who are saved because they respond to the message of the Word of God.

Now, that's the way you were saved. You heard the good news of what God had done for sinners and you responded. And you didn't respond because you were any different to anybody else, you responded because the Holy Spirit was at work in your heart and you responded to this supernatural touch and enabling, and you became a child of God, in response to an invitation to a good news message. So will these. But their response will be to take part and to have a part in a kingdom that is to be established over which the Lord Jesus Christ Himself will be king and priest. Now let's keep that clearly in mind, otherwise we might get the thought in mind that because there is an aspect of salvation during the tribulation, that that means a second chance for those who have refused the cross of Christ and the blood of the Christ. It doesn't mean that at all.

5 Revelation 7:4.

6 Charles Taze Russell (February 16, 1852 – October 31, 1916), or "Pastor Russell," was a prominent early 20th century Christian Restorationist minister from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA and founder of what is now known as the Bible Student movement, from which Jehovah's Witnesses and numerous independent Bible Student groups emerged.

All we have to do is to keep in mind the condition of the world. There is and always will be, in fact it's getting worse not better, the proportion of those who have never heard is not getting less in the world; it's getting greater all the time. By far the greater majority of those who are being born into the world now will not hear the Word of God at all. No message of salvation will ever reach them. Now, to them, this message will go, that there is a kingdom and a Messiah who is coming and faith in Him and belief in Him, and then their testimony.

The allowing of this thing to flow out of their lives, because that's what testimony is. It's something flowing out of our lives that God has planted on the inside. And they give their testimony in the same way that we do. They would be saying, "We know that there's a Messiah coming. A word has come to us. We find it in this old Bible that we didn't read before, but now we find there's something in it. And this message that comes from somebody who is part of the 144,000 jives with this old Bible that we didn't read before. We didn't think there was anything in that, but now we find that it's there and we believe somebody's coming."

Now you can quite see what anti-Christ is going to do with that. He isn't going to like that testimony at all. Because when you say as these people will, "We believe that the Messiah is coming to establish his kingdom, which is the heart of the gospel of the kingdom", when they say that, they are by the same token saying, "We don't believe in anti-Christ." You can't say you believe in one Messiah without saying, by the same token and at the same time, I do not believe in the other one. Now, that will mean thousands of them will give their lives for their faith in the message of the Word of God and their testimony regarding it.

Now we have seen this going on, a gathering out of those whom God selects and God brings the message. Some will believe it and some will not, in exactly the same way as some believe the message of the gospel of the grace of God and some do not. Some will believe it and receive it and will find a place either as raised martyrs or those who have been preserved until the end in the kingdom that is to be established on the other side when our Lord comes with power and great glory and His saints with Him, Chapter 19.

Now, we have seen this. And again, in addition to that, we have been watching judgments falling upon the earth. We have seen Satan building things and we have seen God's judgment coming down upon them, so that the things Satan builds is now destroyed. Then you watch the process of it rebuilding again. And it goes on and on and on. And we have watched until we came to the end of six sealed judgments.⁷

Now we're standing at the time when the seventh one is to be opened. And again, this little figure on the board will do just as well as anything else. When the seventh seal is opened there falls out of it the Trumpet Judgments that follow.

Now let's look and see just what this means. Don't forget, divided into two sections; one with four in it, the other with three, and the last one of the three will hold the next series of judgments. Somebody has illustrated it by a rocket that is sent up into the air. It bursts and out of it falls the stars. And we've seen

⁷ Revelation Chapter 6.

that little phenomena many a time. I don't know just how good an illustration that is, but I read it the other day. It seemed to me, well, that might be helpful to minds that are no keener than ours, and eyes that need all the help they can get, especially when you get into the Book of Revelation. We've discovered that long ago, haven't we, that you need all the help you can get when you get in here. Now, this seal is now opened.

First of all, there is silence in heaven. Now I want you to notice another thing. Because here we follow it through and if you have your Bibles; and by the way, your notes, I believe are all ready down in the canteen. Some have already got them, I knew that they were just about ready, and I wasn't quite sure whether they'd be actually available today, but I understand they are, so then get your notes. There's not too many of them left, but you will have then a complete set of notes on the Book of Revelation. It's down there.

Now, I wanted you to notice something else that had preceded. We saw that rather strange thing about the prayers of martyred saints that are said to be under the altar.⁸ Now, without getting into explanations that are beyond us, we do know what 'under the altar' stood for. It meant a complete accepted sacrifice. A sacrifice was never complete, never accepted until the blood of it had been dashed by the priest at the foot of the altar. Now here is an accepted sacrifice. Those who have given their lives for their faith in the Word of God and their testimony, because that's what it says they did and because of it, they gave their lives.

Now, these people prayed. Not only do they pray because of the thing that has happened and asked for God's judgment to fall upon those who perpetrated this iniquity. But there are others constantly who are giving their lives and their prayers and coming up in exactly the same way. This is law, not grace. Their prayers are coming up in exactly the same way. Now, what about those prayers? Does God answer them? Will God answer prayers like this? Oh, yes. He most certainly will.

And we have the picture here in very wonderful and beautiful, figurative language possibly. But it is language that is so beautiful that I think we ought to read it. Let's see about this great angel, who stands there in the beginning of Chapter 8, you'll find him there. He stands there and another angel, Verse 3, "And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer." Now that is not the brazen altar where the blood is shed. The altar in the tabernacle and in the temple where the brazen censer was for the incense was the golden altar of prayer. Now here is a great angel standing there by this altar, "Having a golden censer and there is given unto him much incense that he should offer it with (now watch it) for the prayers of the saints."⁹

Now we've seen where the prayers of the saints of the period of grace are kept. We saw them there in golden vials and at God's time and way they will be opened up to be the perfume of heaven. We're already seeing that. Now here is something else. Here are the prayers of the saints of the tribulation, those who give their lives.

And a great angel, and there are many, if you find as you read your commentaries, and I hope you do, on the Book of Revelation, you will find that there are quite a few reliable interpreters who think this is

⁸ Revelation Chapter 6

⁹ Revelation 8:3

a picture of none other than the Lord Jesus Himself . Now I'm simply saying what they say. I don't know. I tell you very frankly, I don't know. But there are those who say, here He is, the great high priest. And here is Christ in His high priestly ministry. For those who have been martyred during the tribulation, He takes their prayers just as He took the prayers of those who prayed before, your prayers and mine, with all their weakness, their selfishness, their blundering, and cleansed them and purified them until they were acceptable unto God. So he is doing the same again.

And when these prayers of the saints, now presented in this way, reach the throne of God, then the answer is given and judgment falls as the result of it. God answers the prayers of these martyred saints.

Now let's look and see, and you can see just what is happening here. "And the angel," Verse 5, "took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar." This is a picture of the golden altar, not the brazen altar, "Cast it upon the earth and there were voices and thunderings and lightnings and an earthquake."¹⁰

Let me remind you of something that I told you quite a while ago there, just one of these little incidental things. We came across that phrase that we see here 'voices and thunderings and lightnings' and I believe I said, you keep your eye on that phrase because you will find it again, you will meet it again. And in almost every case where you meet it again, something has been added to it. Now you can see here what has been added to it. Here is thunder and voices and lightnings and an earthquake. Now I want you to notice something here please.

Fire is poured out upon the earth. Now you will see many elements of judgment used by God in bringing judgment upon the earth and also in the cleansing process that this earth must go through. Don't overlook that, that what God is doing is not merely bringing judgment upon rebellious people upon the earth, but he is changing the earth itself so that it will be the earth described as, "The earth where Christ will reign over it, where righteousness will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea."¹¹ This must be done. And you will not only find a judgment falling upon people, but on the earth itself. Now, let's look and see this tremendous drama as it lines up.

First of all, you find seven angels have been commissioned to carry out this succeeding judgment that we now call, "The judgment of the trumpets." Each one of them is given a trumpet and when the word comes, he blows that trumpet as a signal that this part of the judgment is now to fall. And I want you to see just what does happen there. First of all, I want you to see two things. One, the significance of the trumpets themselves. Will somebody please find Zephaniah 1:14-18? Zephaniah 1:14-18. Thank you Jay. I'll call for that in just a moment.

What we're talking about now is the significance of the use of trumpets. For instance, trumpets were always used to call people to war. Numbers 10:9, and by the way when you get your additional notes, that will be in there and the reference, this particular section that I'm following now will be in your notes. You can find it there. The trumpets were always used at festival occasions to call the people together. Trumpets were always used to call the people to worship every morning. The silver trumpets sounded over the City of Jerusalem every morning while the children of Israel were going through the

10 Revelation 8:5

11 Isaiah 11:14

wilderness. The two silver trumpets would be sounding there, calling them, and making them aware of the fact that this was the moment when God was in the midst of them and when they must be thinking about him, the silver trumpets that were there. The trumpets that were used against Jericho. You can add to this almost without end.

And the proclamation of a great and terrible day in which trumpets will sound, and it looks almost as if Zephaniah knew as much about this as is being revealed to John himself. It looks almost as if Zephaniah is describing things that he is looking at, just as John is describing things he is looking at. Jay, read us that section there, will you? Zephaniah 1:14-18, read it slowly.

“The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord; the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness. A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord; and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath, but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy, for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.”

You know, it's an amazing thing, how you can take some of these Old Testament prophecies like that one for instance, that's right in our ears right at the moment, and you can trace it phrase by phrase and see exactly the thing that is happening here.

Now, the trumpets are very important and I wanted us to get that.

I wanted you to notice one other thing and that is, that fire, I don't know whether I mentioned this before, but fire is now appearing as an element of judgment for the first time. This is the first time we've seen fire being used as an instrument or an element of judgment.

The other thing I want you to notice is that these judgments as they follow, these Trumpet Judgments are strangely like the plagues of Egypt. Now, I know our tendency, of course, is to spiritualize so much there and to take away the literal meaning of these things, and while there may be, and doubtless is, a spiritual content to all of this, I think it would be well for us to hold on to the literal meaning of this. No one attempts to spiritualize the judgments that fell upon the land of Egypt when Moses pronounced judgments from God on that land. Nobody attempts to spiritualize them or to say that it means something other than what it says. And I think we'd be safe on that. If we can see a spiritual content in it, fine, but don't let's get so busy looking at that, that you can't see the actual thing that is happening here before them.

Now let's notice and see the pattern of this, and it's a very interesting thing. You will get this again in your notes if you haven't already had them.

In these judgments, the first four of them, and remember the pattern: four and three; the first four of them fall upon the material world, and the last three fall upon people. First upon things, second upon people. One, upon the accessories, the necessities of life, and the other upon life itself.

Now, let's have a look, please, and we've just got time, I think, to take a glance at these four trumpet judgments and see just where these judgments fall and what happens.

First of all, the first trumpet sounds and it is a judgment on vegetation.¹² Notice what happens. Now, if an army and a people is being organized against God, one of the things that can disrupt anything like that is judgment upon the food supply. Don't forget that many a many an army has won a battle by what is called the scorched earth policy, where everything around is put to the torch and everything is burned and consequently the other army has no food supply. Now watch the judgment here, but let's see two things: One, it is a judgment against a rebellious army by taking away some of the necessary food supplies, that's one thing. But at the same time, don't forget, here is a judgment falling upon an earth that has to be renovated. The earth has to be changed itself. It's not merely a matter of destroying vegetation, it's a matter of God's judgment that's falling upon the earth producing the vegetation and changing it until it comes back to what it was and rids it of the curse that has been upon it. Now you'll see it over and over again. This is not the last of it, this is only a little of it. This is only on 1/3 of it, you will notice. You will see this thing going and going on and going on. But the first judgment then of the first trumpet is against vegetation.

Now you notice the next one, the second trumpet is against transportation, for here is a curious thing that happens, something like a great meteoric mass that falls that is like unto a flaming mountain, and it falls into the sea.¹³ Now it's quite obvious that the sea that he has in mind here is the Mediterranean Sea, and that's only a very small part of the sea area of the world, one third of it. But those that dwell within the sea and also the ships that sail upon it are thus destroyed. Now notice what's happening. The sea has to be renovated as well.

I think one of the things that we said a little while ago is that when we are in the kingdom of God and on the other side of it there, and in the land where righteousness covers the earth and where the child plays with what was the poisonous serpent before, and the lion lies down with an ox and so on, when this day happens, there will be nobody who will be wondering as they go bathing whether there's a shark out there. Now, that's in the sea, remember? And there is in the sea as much evidence of destruction and deterioration and sin as there is on the land. Why is it that all the way around, we can see one animal preying on another? One preying on another.

Listen, my dear, it wasn't that way in the Garden of Eden. It wasn't that way at all in the Garden of Eden. And when sin struck, not only did it come upon a man and a woman, but every tree in the garden shuddered as it felt its roots now encompassed by the soil of a fallen earth and every animal was against every other animal. Now this thing happened in a moment of time. Now God's process is to bring this back again. You can't have a millennium, you can't have a kingdom such as described in the scriptures, and without which the scriptures would be false.

Yes?

Unknown student: What about the people who operate these ships?

¹² Revelation 8:7

¹³ Revelation 8:8,9

Well, that's all part of the process of destroying them there. Some are destroyed in one way and some are destroyed in another. Those that will operate the ships, if the ships are destroyed, will obviously be destroyed too.

But the great meteoric mass...I want you to notice something here, because it will help you. John is looking at something and trying to put it into words that will help us, because he's one of us. And you will find constantly all the way through, words like this: 'as it were a mountain', 'as this', 'like that', and there is the place where we need to have some spiritual understanding. Because the thing that you're seeing falling, that is described as this great meteoric, flaming mountain, he describes it as being 'like this', 'as this', you can see it all the way through. To John's eyes and John's heart, trying to make it intelligible and understandable to us, he says "To my eyes, it looked like this." And you will find it over and over again where John is seeking desperately to describe something in terms that we would understand. Now you notice it as it goes on there.

The first trumpet is against vegetation. The second trumpet against transportation. The third trumpet against sanitation,¹⁴ where things die and are unburied all the way through, both upon the waters and upon the sea and upon the rivers, and where the rivers...it's exactly the same thing that happened when the judgments came upon the River Nile. The River Nile, to use a word that we don't use, but we don't like, but it's in the scripture there, the Nile stank. Now that's the scripture word for it. There were decaying bodies and rotting things and the judgment is upon sanitation.

And the heavens are darkened and the sun loses part of its power, and the moon loses part of its power, and there are stars that fall from the sky, against illumination.¹⁵ Let me read you those four words: vegetation, transportation, sanitation, illumination. We'll go on and consider each one of them.

Thank you again, children. You've been a nice group....

(audio ends)

14 Revelation 8:10,11

15 Revelation 8:12