An Offer to Repent

Rev. 8:1-5

The last lesson I did was on Revelation 4–8. I want to take the time to explain Revelation 8:1-5. For many, this is one of the most confusing chapters in Revelation, primarily because people do not know what is going on.

One key detail that often gets overlooked is this: **the seventh Seal contains the first trumpet.** That means the trumpet judgments are not separate from the Seals but flow directly from them. Understanding this connection is crucial because it shows that the story is unfolding continuously and intentionally. The pause in verse 1 and the actions that follow are part of the same divine plan—not a new or disconnected event. If we miss this, we risk misreading the structure and the message Revelation is trying to reveal.

First, we have the pause in the first verse that is not understood. Why would the Lamb of God pause when He has allowed all of humanity to suffer?

Sit back for the ride. All of the inhabitants of the earth are not suffering for the same reasons. Some people have chosen to serve the Lamb of God. These believers are suffering from the Seals that are being unleashed in Seals 1–6.

In Revelation 7:3, the believers, or followers of the Lamb, receive the Mark of the Lamb. It is from this moment on in the Book of Revelation that the followers of the Lamb no longer suffer from any of the trumpets or bowls that are unleashed by the Lamb of God. They suffer for refusing to accept the Mark of the Beast or follow him in any way.

This is an important idea to grasp.

From Seals 1–6, the followers of the Lamb suffer the same challenges that the rest of the world is suffering. They experience famine, wars, fighting—even death. Those who go through the suffering and physical challenges that the world is experiencing and remain faithful to the Lamb—these are the people who receive the Mark of the Lamb on their forehead. Everything changes for the follower of the Lamb in Rev. 7:3.

Those chosen by the Lamb are not chosen arbitrarily. They are chosen because they demonstrated their faith in God when all hell was breaking loose on earth. In the face of death, they did not renounce the Lamb. They kept and maintained their faith in God.

When you see this, don't take it for granted. This Mark on the forehead is a reward for keeping the faith. This is one of the reasons I teach that Revelation is not a book of punishment, doom, and gloom. God always rewards the faithful. It is a book of hope, restoration, and reconciliation.

Revelation 12:11 says,
"They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."

I believe the reason that most Bible teachers and others can't see what is happening in Revelation 8:1–5 is that they do not see what is happening in Revelation 6:2. Most people see the white horseman of Revelation 6:2 as either the Antichrist or Jesus. He is neither. The reason they believe this is because the horse is white.

However, anyone who cares to look at the color white—not only in Revelation but throughout the Bible—will see that white is always a symbol of righteousness and truth. They attest to the fact that the rider is wearing a crown. The crown that the rider in Revelation 6:2 is wearing is not the same crown that Jesus is wearing in Revelation 19.

In Revelation 6:2, the crown is one of someone who has won a prize—a prize that has to be won over and over again. The crown that Jesus is wearing in Revelation 19 is a crown of authority, power, and majesty—a crown of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

If you fail to see that the rider of Revelation 6:2 is a messenger that carries the truth of the Gospel to a rebellious humanity, then you will not see the invitation of repentance being offered in Revelation 8:1–5.

Revelation 9:20–21 says,
"And the rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands…"
John is giving testimony to what he sees.

Revelation 8:1: the pause, the prayers of God's people—or the saints. These prayers are intercessory. The saints are interceding on behalf of the inhabitants of the earth. They are praying that humanity will repent and receive the Lamb, not the Beast.

The incense is used to put into the golden censer and burn. When the fire and incense are combined, it produces smoke. The smoke symbolizes the presence of God. What is significant is that now the fire and smoke are hurled to the earth.

Fire serves two purposes in action:

1. It is the presence of God, which the peals of thunder and lightning confirm.

2. And it serves as a cleansing for those who choose to receive the Lamb, who is Jesus.

Chapter 8 further tells us that Jesus is reaching out to humanity to receive Him. Jesus is saying through the Book of Revelation that He is with you no matter what.

We must not forget that Revelation was written during the time of Roman dominance and persecution of the Christians. This was an important message to those at that time.

It is also an important message for us today. We need to be able to trust that God is with us in any and every situation. We need to know that if we follow the Lamb, Jesus, He will not forsake us and will always stand by us.

This is the message from the Lamb of God in Revelation.

Blessings,

Pastor Gool