

SALVATION IN SYMBOLS & SIGNS

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Corresponds to Program 32

INTRO TO THE TRUMPETS, PART 3 STUDY GUIDE

LIGHTNING AND THUNDER

Revelation 8:1-6

In our last lesson, we were examining Revelation 8:5. There we found around God's throne were noises, thunderings, lightning, and earthquake. How can this apply to a throne? Since Revelation is full of images, we need to understand them. Let's look at lightning. The following scriptures give us the answer.

“As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches going back and forth among the living creatures. The fire was bright, and out of the fire went lightning. And the living creatures ran back and forth, in appearance like a flash of lightning” (Ezekiel 1:13-14).

Here, and in other passages, we discover that angels are described as moving like lightning because of the great speeds at which they can travel. Jesus Himself uses lightning to describe angelic travel:

“And He said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven’” (Luke 10:18). Satan was cast out of Heaven to Earth, and his meteoric fall is described as “like lightning”.

Another aspect of God's throne is the mention of earthquakes. Earthquakes have terrifying power, just as God is all-powerful. He sits on the throne of infinite power. When He sends forth His messengers, the angels, He gives them great power.

“And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the

stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow” (Matthew 28:2-3).

Often times, the Bible describes earthquakes at the arrival of angels; there are often multitudes of angels around the throne of God, “living creatures”. As God sends His messengers with power and speed to earth, they come with a sense of urgency. They have a message to be presented to those who will listen. When the fire fell at Pentecost, Peter quoted the Old Testament Prophet Joel to explain the languages being spoke, and the signs given to them.



“And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.”

REVELATION 8:2

“But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved’” (Acts 2:16-21).

Peter said that on the day of Pentecost, those things were fulfilled; yet none of that was visible on that day. How are we to understand that? Peter quoted from Joel, so we need to understand what Joel's message was to his people.

“Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the LORD is coming, for it is at hand” (Joel 2:1).

KEY SCRIPTURES

Eze. 1:14 LIVING CREATURES APPEAR LIKE LIGHTNING

Luke 10:18 I SAW SATAN FALL LIKE LIGHTNING

Mat. 28:2 GREAT EARTHQUAKE AS ANGEL DESCENDS

Mat. 28:3 COUNTENANCE WAS LIKE LIGHTNING

Joel is sounding an alarm to his people that judgment is coming, an enemy is nearing, and great things are about to happen. Just as Joel calls for the trumpet to sound, Revelation 8 tells us that trumpets are about to sound, to give a warning about what is to come on the Earth.

Peter is warning the people in Jerusalem that, just as in the days of Joel, judgment was coming on the nation for their sins and their refusal to repent of killing the Messiah. The Kingdom of Christ is about to be established. ★

