

Silence in Heaven

Revelation 7:9-8:6

“There is a sense in which the present age is man’s day; he is free to do what he wants within certain limitations. It is also Satan’s day, during which the “god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4) has been granted certain liberties within the parameters of God’s purposeful, sovereign tolerance. But God will not permit the present state of affairs to continue forever. He will end man’s day, overthrow the usurper, Satan, destroy the present evil world system, and establish the earthly kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. That future time of judgment is known, appropriately, as the Day of the Lord. That day involves a complete renovation of the universe and the earth by judgment and restoration.”
MacArthur

- I. Revelation chapter 4 on takes place in the future. None of the events that occur in these chapters have taken place in the past. The prophetic events that are described could take place at any moment. The chance of their occurrence is imminent. These events will not affect us whatsoever, therefore there is no reason to despair or be fearful of them. Instead, they are meant to help us gain a biblical worldview. They are given to us to help us understand the Justice of God, the Power of God, the Sovereignty of God, the Holiness of God, the Faithfulness of God toward those who know Him and the Faithfulness of God toward doing what he says He will do. That is why we study the whole counsel of God’s Word, which include prophetic books like Revelation. It helps us gain a good general understanding of what it means to know Him, the author and perfecter of our faith, so that we can better live life according to His Word. If we don’t work at developing a strong biblical worldview, then we will become vulnerable to adopting another worldview, which will certainly cause us to become confused about how we are to live. Our purpose is to live for Christ period; therefore, we must do everything thing we can to keep this godless world from influencing the biblical worldview God is giving us.

Rev. 1:2-3

Zeph. 3:8

1 Cor. 2:12 *We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.*

- II. *“For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand? A great distinction is made between those who can stand and those who can’t. God exhorts us to stand firm in the faith. To stand firm means to keep our spiritual footing firmly planted in Christ as the strong currents of this evil world system flow about us. It means to be firm and unyielding to the ways of the world, even at great cost. God gives us a powerful example of what that means by showing us how firmly the tribulations saints will stand for him in an unrestrained world of evil. They do two things; they will choose to stand firm, and they will rely on the Lord to keep them standing firm.*

Rev. 7:9-18

2 Peter 3:9

Isa. 7:9 ...If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.

1 Cor. 1:8-9 He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- III. The final seal that Jesus breaks has within it the final divine judgments of God’s wrath against unrepentant man. It includes both the seven trumpet judgments and the seven bowl judgements that come out of the final trumpet judgement. The time of God’s patience is over. Saving grace is still offered and the Holy Spirit is still working to draw many to salvation, but that does not mean that those who come to Christ are spared the effects the God’s wrath upon mankind. They will suffer greatly, even more so because of their stand for Christ. Yet, the distinction between holiness and evil will be so great, that their passion and commitment to the Lord will overshadow any deception or fear Satan might throw at them.

Rev. 8:1-6

2 Peter 3:9-10

Luke 1:9-10

Ezekiel 33:11 Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live...