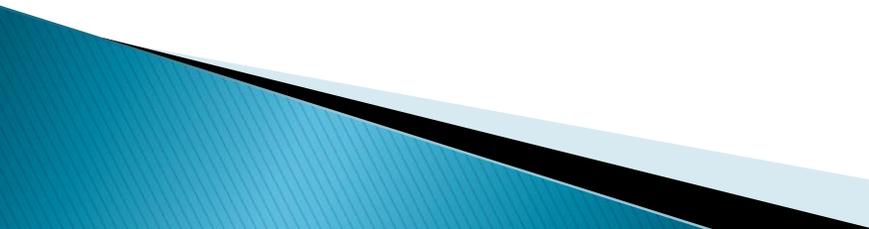


**'The Future has already
Begun'
nr.6:
The power of prayer**

Revelation 8 - 9

Speaker: Elmer Arentsen



Bible reading

Revelations 8

Revelations 8

⁸ When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

² And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

³ Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne.

⁴ The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand. ⁵ Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.



Revelations 8

⁶ Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.

⁷ The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

⁸ The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, ⁹ a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

¹⁰ The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water— ¹¹ the name of the star is Wormwood.^[a]

Revelations 8

A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.

¹² The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.

¹³ As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: “Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!”

Revelations 9

9 The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. ² When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. ³ And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. ⁴ They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵ They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes. ⁶ During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

Revelations 9

⁷ The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. ⁸ Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. ⁹ They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle.

¹⁰ They had tails with stingers, like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months. ¹¹ They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).

¹² The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.

Revelations 9

¹³ The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar that is before God. ¹⁴ It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”

¹⁵ And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. ¹⁶ The number of the mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand. I heard their number.

¹⁷ The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. ¹⁸ A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths.

Revelations 9

¹⁹ The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.

²⁰ The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. ²¹ Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

The power of prayer

'Revelations' series

Elmer Arentsen

IBC Eindhoven

09/02/2020

The scroll with 7 seals

- ▶ Opened by the Lion of Juda, the Lamb that was slain



7-7-7

- ▶ **7 seals (Rv 6-8)**
and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake
- ▶ **7 trumpets (Rv 8-11)**
and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake
- ▶ **7 bowls (Rv 16)**
and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake

The first 6 seals

- ▶ 1) white horse: to conquer
 - ▶ 2) red horse: take peace away
 - ▶ 3) black horse: famine and starvation
 - ▶ 4) pale horse: death
 - ▶ 5) white robes for God's suffering people
 - ▶ 6) fear of the great men: wrath has come
- ▶ Then: worship towards God and the Lamb

The 7th seal opened

▶ Silence

- 7th seal: the last seal
- 7 = final, most important one
- Time of Gods wrath has begun
- After that, the scroll is open

The 7th seal

▶ Prayers

- All prayers of God's people
- Incense, an offering to God
- Result in mighty manifestations on earth

5:8: And when he had taken it [*the scroll*], the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

The power of prayer

Psalm 107:28–30 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven.

1 Kings 18:36–37 “LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.
³⁷ Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

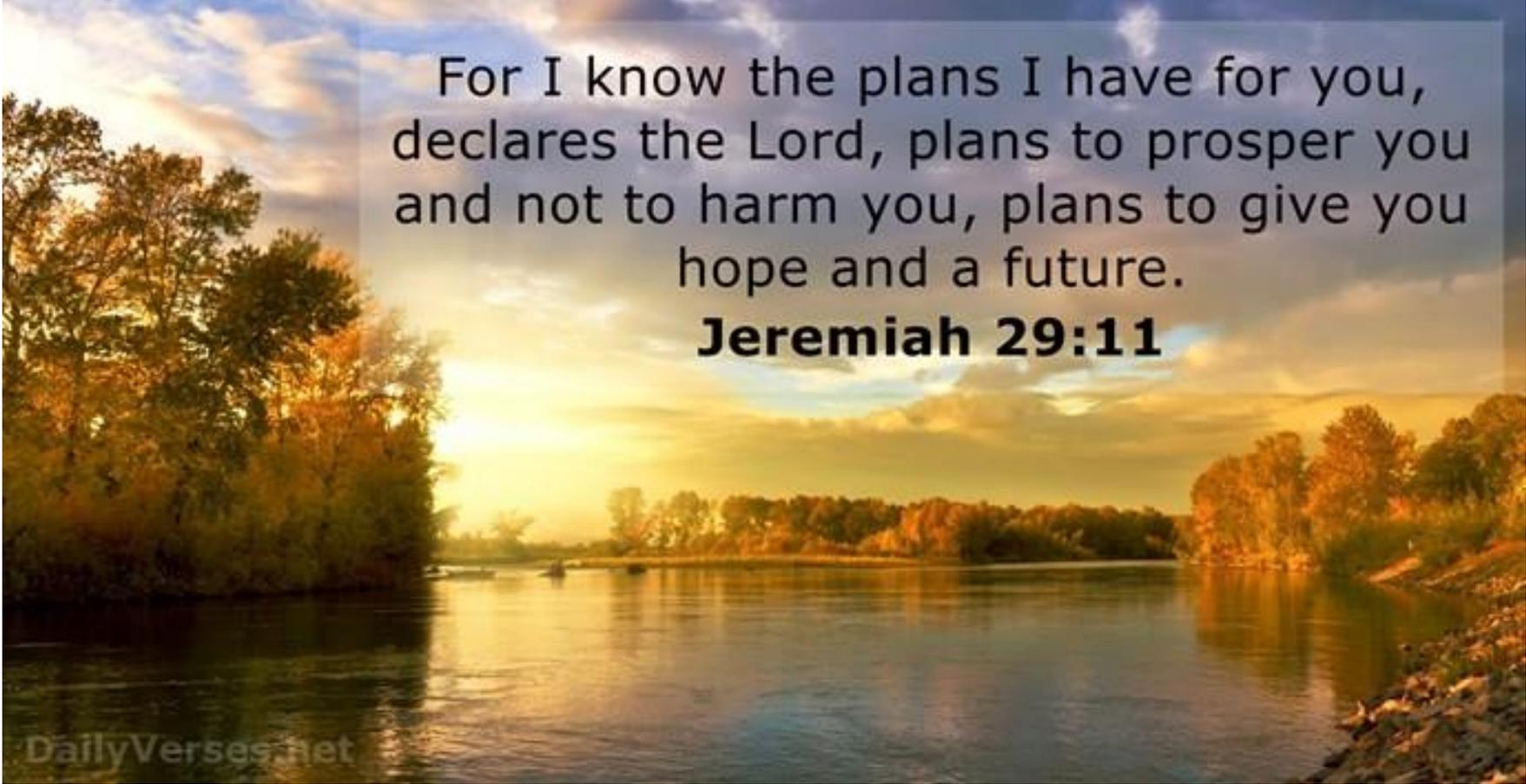
Revelations 6:10 They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?”

The 7th seal

- ▶ 7 trumpets: answer to the prayers
 - 1) hail and fire: 1 third of earth
 - 2) mountain thrown in the sea: 1 third of sealife
 - 3) star fell from the sky: 1 third of drinking water
 - 4) darkness: 1 third of the sky
 - Woe woe woe!
 - 5) locusts and the Destroyer: torture all without seal
 - 6) four angels and their troops: 1 third of mankind

Do we have to be afraid?

- ▶ God is in control
 - ▶ God is revealing His plans
 - ▶ God protects His own
 - ▶ God is still warning
 - ▶ We pray
 - For our brothers and sisters who suffer in His name
 - For the unsaved world to listen to Gods warnings
 - For ourselves to stand firm and trust God
 - ▶ We wait
 - For His deliverance, His wrath, His coming
- 

A scenic landscape of a river at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The sky is filled with soft, white and grey clouds. The river flows from the background towards the foreground, with several small boats visible in the distance. The banks are lined with trees, some of which have turned yellow and orange, indicating autumn. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the Lord, plans to prosper you
and not to harm you, plans to give you
hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11