

Chapter 8

Time: Just prior to the ushering in of the millennial reign. Place: Heaven and Earth

[1] And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

The following modern-day revelations depict this same event;

[D&C 85:26d-27a] *The angel shall sound his trump both long and loud, and all nations shall hear it. And there shall be silence in heaven for the space of half an hour, and immediately after shall the curtain of heaven be unfolded, as a scroll is unfolded after it is rolled up, and the face of the Lord shall be unveiled.*”

[D&C 45:8a-c] Then shall the arm of the Lord fall upon the nations, and then shall the Lord set his foot upon this mount, and it shall cleave in two, and the earth shall tremble and reel to and fro; [b] and the heavens also shall shake, and the Lord shall utter his voice and all the ends of the earth shall hear it, and the nations of the earth shall mourn, [c] and they that have laughed shall see their folly, and calamity shall cover the mocker, and the scorner shall be consumed, and they that have watched for iniquity, shall be hewn down and cast into the fire. * see also [D&C 49:4a-c]

[2] And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

A word that is sometimes used in the scriptures in lieu of “trumpet” is the shorter version, “trump.” [Webster] And both words, as used throughout this book, really mean “voice;” they are to “sound with their voices” as is seen in the following scriptures.

[D&C 28:2a] Verily I say unto you, that you are chosen out of the world to declare my gospel with the sound of rejoicing, as with the voice of a trump. [D&C 23:5c] [D&C 85:26d-27a]

[3] And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

[4] And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

The incense spoken of here is not the same as the incense used in Jewish offerings, which was a mixture of sweet spices, stacte, onycha, galbanum, and the gum of the frankincense tree.

According to [Webster] this incense means “**acceptable prayers and praises.**”

A censer is a vessel in which incense is burned as a sign of honor and prayer during religious ceremonies. The Egyptians were the first to burn incense at religious ceremonies. The Greeks and Romans followed, and later the Christians adopted this practice after their exodus from Egypt.

Just as smoke from burning incense carries its fragrance into the air, symbolically, the ‘sweetness’ of “the prayers of the saints, ascends up before God” as with ‘**smoke of incense.**’

[James 5:16] The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

[Proverbs 15:29] The Lord is far from the wicked; but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

[5] And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth; and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

These things are to happen soon **after** the book is to come out of the ground, as recorded in; [Isaiah 29:6] For they shall be visited of the Lord of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire.

And sometime near the end of the sixth seal epoch, as was seen in;

[Revelation 6:12] And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood.

Also in connection with this era, [D&C 43:5b-8c] states that “the day is coming that the Lord shall utter his voice out of heaven; the heavens shall shake and the earth shall tremble, and the trump, i.e. voice, of God shall sound both long and loud, and shall say to the sleeping nations; You saints arise and live; You sinners stay and sleep until I shall call again: wherefore gird up your loins, lest you be found among the wicked. ... How oft have I called upon you by the mouth of my servants, and by the ministering of angels, and by my own voice, and **by the voice of thunderings, and by the voice of lightnings, and by the voice of tempests, and by the voice of earthquakes, and great hailstorms, and by the voice of famines and pestilence of every kind, and by the great sound of a trump**, ... Behold, verily I say unto you, ... go and labor, labor in my vineyard **for the last time**: for the last time call upon the inhabitants of the earth, for I will come upon the earth in judgment; and my people shall be redeemed and shall reign with me on earth; **for the great millennial**, which I have spoken by the mouth of my servants, shall come. [Jacob 3:125-153] [D&C 85:25a-26c]

[6] And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

These seven angels preparing to sound their trumpets identify with the seven angels in;

[D&C 85:34-35b] And then shall the **first angel** again sound his trump in the ears of all living, and reveal the secret acts of men, and the mighty works of God in the **first thousandth year**. [35a] And then shall the **second angel** sound his trump, and reveal the secret acts of men, and the thoughts and intents of their hearts, and the mighty works of God in the **second thousandth year**: [35b] and so on, until the **seventh angel** shall sound his trump; and he shall stand forth upon the land and upon the sea, and swear in the name of him who sits upon the throne, that **there shall be time no longer**, and Satan shall be bound, that old serpent, who is called the Devil, and shall not be loosed for the space of a thousand years.

The events and time of [Revelation 8:6] agree precisely with those of [D&C 85:34-35b].

Even though the **seven seals** of [Chapters 5 & 6] represent the same eras and events as the **seven angels** sounding their trumps of [Chapters 8 & 9], there is a difference between them. The **seven seals** represent man’s emancipation from the grave; for Jesus loosened these seals for all time through the power of his resurrection. The **seven trumpets** are like flashbacks revealing man’s behavior and the mighty works of God for the six thousand year epochs and for the one to come.

When the first six angels sound their trumpets, the things depicted by them will have already happened during their respective thousand years; but sounding of the seventh angel will highlight events that will happen during the millennial reign, the seventh thousand year epoch!

[7] **The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth; and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.**

[D&C 85:34] And then shall the first angel again sound his trumpet in the ears of all living, and reveal the secret acts of men, and the mighty works of God in the first thousandth year.

Though the “hail and fire mingled with blood” pertain to the first epoch; in the book of Exodus is a type and shadow of a similar event happening during the fourth epoch, [1000 B.C. to B of C].

[Exodus 9:23-26] And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven; and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the Lord rained hail upon the land of Egypt. [24] So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. [25] And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and broke every tree of the field. *[26] Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, was there no hail. *see also* [Psalms 105:32-33]

*[Verse 26] is an excellent “type and shadow” of those of [Chapter 7] being sealed and protected.

Now, concerning the ‘trees and grass being burnt up;’ In the study of [Chapter 7] we saw that trees metaphorically represent people. Examples were taken from [Matthew 3:37 & 7:26-28], [Luke 3:14], and [Luke 6:43].

In [Jacob 3:31, Romans 11:17, and Revelation 11:3]. people were likened unto olive trees

It is also seen in the scriptures that people are likened unto grass, notice;

[Isaiah 40:6-8] All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field; The grass withers, the flower fades; because the Spirit of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people is grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God shall stand forever.

[1 Peter 1:24-25] has Peter quoting this scripture from Isaiah.

These verses from Isaiah and Peter are merely showing that the ageing of man is like unto the fragility of grass and flowers, withering and fading as they grow old, **but not burning!**

Whereas, in [Revelation 8:7] we read that “the third part of trees was burnt up, *but* that **all green grass was burnt up.**” On the surface, it seems that these verses are contradictory, for in taking them from the figurative to the literal; they signify that, during this epoch “the third part of people was burnt up, **and all people** “was burnt up. ” But - here are the people [Verse 7] refers to;

[Psalms 92:7] When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed forever; [Psalms 37:1-2] [Psalms 103:15-16]

[Psalms 129:5-6] Let them all be confounded and turned back **that hate Zion.** Let them be as the grass upon the housetops, which withers before it grows up. [Isaiah 37:27]

A third of the people of this epoch consisted of **all** who were workers of iniquity who hated Zion.

They didn't die of old age, they were 'burnt up *before they grew old*, thus, as green grass.'

For ... "the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; [9] Who shall be punished with destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his everlasting power; and shall die as to things pertaining unto righteousness, [10] When he shall come to be glorified in his saints. [2 Thessalonians 1:7-10] & [Alma 9:29, 52]

[8] And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea; and the third part of the sea became blood.

[D&C 85:35a] The second angel sound his trump, and reveal the secret acts of men, and the thoughts and intents of their hearts, and the mighty works of God in **the second thousandth year.**

Mountain: Kingdom (this kingdom was as it were burning (in this case) with a destructive fire.

Sea: Peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues." [Rev 17:15] & Bottomless Pit. [Rev 17:8]

Blood: A third of the peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues became corrupt and evil.

[Revelation 16:3-6] And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man; and every living soul died in the sea. [4] And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. [5] And I heard the angel of the waters say, You are righteous, O Lord, which are, and was, and shall be, because you have judged thus. [6] For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

The difference in meaning of the metaphor in [Revelation 16] and the one in this chapter is that, this chapter refers to the third of Satan's angels who lived on earth during the second thousand years; but [Chapter 16] refers to all of his angels; for the time for them to be judged for the evil they had wrought on earth during their respective thousand year era is at hand.

Jesus said, "Woe unto the world because of offenses! For it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!" [Matthew 18:6]

So - here is a simplified version of what happened. Satan's followers, who were appointed to appear on earth during this thousand year epoch, came to earth and made up one-third of the "peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues;" in order to bring offense into the world. This has been obvious, and will continue to be so, throughout the scriptures relating to the first six epochs.

A type and shadow of the "mountain being cast into the sea," would be the great deluge which occurred during this thousand year era due to the wickedness of the people, wherein only eight souls were saved. Some might say; "But there were more than a third of the people destroyed in the flood!" And they would be right, but remember, the third of the people who come from the bottomless pit to be born on earth has to be spread across the entire thousand years of each epoch. At times there will be more than one-third and at times there will be less, but throughout the course of each thousand year era, the number of Satan's angels born on earth will equal one third of the total population for each epoch. A good example of this is found in the following scripture;

[**Jacob 3:94**] And you beheld that I also cut down that which cumbered this spot of ground, (the Jaredites in America) that I might plant this tree (*the Nephites*) in the stead thereof.

There are numerous scriptures where mountains are allegories of kingdoms; [**Ezekiel 17:22-23**] [**2 Nephi 9:124**] [**2 Nephi 12:95**] [**D&C 102:9b**] [**Isaiah 11:9**] [**Isaiah 65:25**] The kingdom of God referred to as a mountain; [**Isaiah 2:1-3**] [**Isaiah 57:13**] [**2 Nephi 8:18-19**]

[**Jeremiah 51:24-25**] And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the Lord. [**25**] Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, saith the Lord, which destroys all the earth; and I will stretch out my hand upon you, and roll you down from the rocks, and will make you a burnt mountain.

Another phenomenon; natural by nature but devised of God and executed through his power.

[**Exodus 7:19-21**] And the Lord spoke unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take your rod, and stretch out your hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone. [**20**] And Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. [**21**] And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. *The water had become useless to fish, beast, and man.*

The water which turned to blood and brought suffering and death was diametrically opposed to the living water spoken of by Jesus, which brings life everlasting! [**John 4:9-16**]

[**1 Nephi 7:48-54**] The righteous need not fear, for they are those who shall not be confounded. [**49**] But it is the kingdom of the devil which shall be built up among the children of men, which kingdom is established among them which are in the flesh: ... [**51**] Yes, all those who belong to the kingdom of the devil, are they who need fear, and tremble, and quake; [**52**] They are those who must be brought low in the dust; [**53**] They are those who must be consumed as stubble: [**54**] And this is according to the words of the prophet.

[**2 Nephi 12:33**] wo unto all those who tremble, and are angry because of the truth of God.

[**Isaiah 57:20-21**] The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. [**21**] There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.

[9] And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

Sea, in this setting, is symbolic of multitudes, nations, and tongues. A third of the creatures (peoples) along with their ships (governments, institutions and churches) on which they were established, were destroyed. For, they were not established upon the Lord's words.

Remember, up to this point we have been looking at what happened during the second epoch.

[10] And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;
[11] And the name of the star is called Wormwood; and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

The third angel shall sound his trump, revealing the secret acts of men, and the thoughts and intents of their hearts, and the mighty works of God in the third thousand year epoch. This correlates to the opening of the third seal as presented in [Chapter 6].

The highlights of this third thousandth year epoch are as follows;

- (1) a great star fell from heaven,
- (2) burning as it were a lamp, and it
- (3) fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; and
- (4) the name of the star is called Wormwood; and
- (5) the third part of the waters became wormwood; and
- (6) many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

Though some of the symbols used in these two verses have been used previously, let's review their meanings to see if they pertain to this epoch.

(1) A great star fell from heaven.

In [Revelation 6:13] the metaphor "stars" was studied, and the scriptures used there are just as relevant here. We saw that stars may refer to one or more of four things; people, angels, glories or actual stars. See the study of [Chapter 6, Verse 13] The star that fell from heaven refers to an angel, or a succession of angels, who came to earth as people during this thousand year era.

And apparently the angel, or angels, represented by the star in [verse 10] were not good angels. At least some of them identify with the ones spoken of by Paul in;

[2 Corinthians 11:13-15] For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. [14] And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. [15] Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

These angels, did not come to earth to be righteous. They came to earth to deceive; they came -
(2) Burning as it were a lamp, signifying that they were messengers of 'light;' **But -**

Men died as a result of walking in the light of this lamp. For we read that, "The light of the righteous rejoices; but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out." [Proverbs 13:9]

The light from this lamp did not shine forth from God; this light is darkness. Jesus said that; "If the light which is in you is darkness, how great shall that darkness be." [Matthew 6:23]

The light emitted from this angel's lamp;

(3) fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters

Again, these rivers and fountains of waters are diametric to the "living water" spoken of by Jesus. [John 4:12-13] / [John 7:38-39] Whosoever drinks of the water which I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. / He that believes on me, as the Scripture says, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

In other words, “from within him shall flow the love of God!” Nephi beheld that the **fountain of living waters**, and the tree of life were representations of **the love of God**. [1 Nephi 3:68]

Consider this; if the “living water” that Jesus gives is the “love of God,” would not the “rivers and fountains of waters” of [Verse 10] equate with the love of anything which opposes God?

For this star brings that which is bitter into people’s lives, as opposed to that which is sweet.

[James 3:11] Does a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

[1 Nephi 3:124] And the angel spoke unto me, saying, Behold the fountain of filthy water which your father saw; yes, even the river of which he spoke; and the depths thereof are the depths of hell.

(4) the name of the star is called Wormwood.

Wormwood: something bitter or grievous : BITTERNESS [Webster]

Wormwood: 1. a bitter herb used in making medicine. It is a woody perennial plant native to Europe. (Figurative.) something bitter or extremely unpleasant. [World Book]

Not a nice name, is it? But this angel did not come to earth to do nice things. This angel came to pollute and adulterate the waters. For we read that

(5) the third part of the waters became wormwood.

He caused the third part of the people to love Satan and his doctrine, which doctrine is extremely bitter and grievous to bear. And as a result,

(6) many men died of the waters, because they were made *bitter.

This “bitter” is not the same as the “bitter” mentioned in [Revelation 10:9-10].

These die an everlasting death as to things pertaining unto righteousness. [Alma 9:29, 52]

[D&C 42:12f] Those that die in me shall not taste of death, for it shall be sweet unto them; and they that die not in me, woe unto them, for **their death is bitter**.

[12] **And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so that the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.**

[13] **And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!**

Timeline of this thousand year epoch [all times are B.C. except where noted]

1013 David (lived his adult life) **973** Solomon **933** Israel divided **734** Galilean captivity **721** Israel conquered by Assyria **598** Judah conquered by Babylon **596** Jerusalem destroyed **536** Judah returns from captivity **520** Temple rebuilt in Jerusalem **478** Ester became Queen of Persia **444** Nehemiah rebuilds the wall **167-63** Maccabean revolt **63 B.C. - 570 A.D.** Roman Empire.

Thus far, the third part of all things on earth seems to be affected in a quasi uniform way in each of the thousand year epochs, and this fourth era does not seem to be any different.

[Isaiah 13:9-11] Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. [10] For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light; the sun shall be darkened in his going forth,

and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. [11] And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

Though this scripture refers to the time of the ushering in of the millennial reign, the context in which the sun, moon and stars were smitten, or darkened, is the same as it was in each of the preceding thousand year intervals. Throughout the scriptures is seen that when people's behavior reached a certain level of degradation, the gospel which lightens up the kingdom; the civil laws which govern society; and that light which inherently enlightens everyone's understanding; are diminished; they are darkened; and sometimes they are extinguished, as evidenced by the following;

[D&C 50:6b] he that receives light and continues in God, receives more light, and that light grows brighter and brighter, until the perfect day.

[Alma 9:17-20] He that will harden his heart, the same receives the lesser portion of the word; [18] And he that will not harden his heart, to him is given the greater portion of the word, until it is given unto him to know the mysteries of God, until they know them in full; [19] And they that will harden their hearts, to them is given the lesser portion of the word, until they know nothing concerning his mysteries; [20] And then they are taken captive by the devil, and led by his will down to destruction.

[D&C 90:4e, 5d] Every man whose spirit receives not the light is under condemnation.

Not only were there constant wars during this fourth thousand year epoch, the spiritual condition of the Lord's chosen people was probably at an all time low. Their emphasis were on "sacrificing animals," "burnt offerings," "oblations," and "burning incenses" as forms of worship. Let's look at what the Lord said to Isaiah concerning these rituals.

[Isaiah 66:1-4] Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; where is the house that you build unto me; and where is the place of my rest? [2] For all those things has my hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord; but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and tremble at my word. [3] He that kills an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrifices a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offers an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood; he that burns incense, as if he blessed an idol. **Yes, they have chosen their own ways,** and their soul delights in their abominations. [4] I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spoke, they did not hear; but they did evil before my eyes, and **chose that in which I delighted not.**

The upcoming scriptures will likely conflict with what many people believe about these rituals, because in all likelihood they were taught that they were good for their time. But it's clear from the preceding scriptures that God did not delight in their sacrificing of animals or burning incense. He did not even tell them to do these things, for the Lord said to Isaiah "**they have chosen their own ways.**" What he **did** say to them was this; "Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people; and walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you."

The comparisons to their manner of worship, which the Lord told Isaiah in [Chapter 66], probably seems curious at first glance. So let's look at them, closely - one at a time.

(A) **Killing oxen.** "He that kills an ox is as if he slew a man;"

The Lord was not citing that either of these actions were acceptable. He was saying that they did the one just as easily as they did the other. For they perceived that under the law they were to slay the lawbreakers, ignoring the fact that they themselves - were law breakers.

They killed people for being “sinners;” but they killed oxen as a way to worship God! They did them both with the same exuberance! Without remorse! Without compassion for ox or man! Without charity! And in ignorance! Even in Jesus’ time! [**John 8:4-11**] *What happened there?*

[**Hosea 4:6**] My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you; ... seeing you have forgotten the law of your God,

Can it even be imagined today that our religious principles would require us to kill someone for “gathering sticks upon the sabbath day:” Well, they did! [**Numbers 15:32-33, 36**]

Can it be imagined that a religious law would require a son or a daughter to be stoned to death for not obeying his or her father or mother after being chastised? They did! [**Deut 21:18, 21**]

These laws were given in lieu of the gospel which Moses brought down from the mount the first time, and punishment for breaking some of them were more than harsh. (For who among us today would not have a strong aversion against stoning someone to death?) But the Jews became a law unto themselves and neglected to obey the laws that God gave them. When the Lord sent prophets to prophesy against them they killed them. [**Matthew 23:26-38**] [**1 Thessalonians 2:15**]

(B) Sacrifices and burnt offerings, “he that sacrifices a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck;”

Again, God was in no way justifying either of these acts. He was simply saying that both of these acts lacked any kindness, mercy or compassion; they were totally void of love. They could just as well be cutting of a dog’s neck as performing sacrifices and burnt offerings because there was no sanctity in either! “**Yes, they have chosen their own ways**” to worship God!

The dog was not a well liked animal by the Jews. They were a nuisance to them instead of being “man’s best friend.” They would have had no misgivings in cutting off a dog’s neck. That is probably why the Lord used this comparison. They had no empathy for the lambs, goats and rams, or whatever; as they sacrificed them to their cruel and mythical God; just as they had no empathy for a dog which had just lost it’s head under their blade!

But, didn’t the Lord command sacrifices and burnt offerings? Notice what he said to Isaiah;

“To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the Lord; I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. When you come to appear before me, **who has required this at your hand**, to tread my courts?” [**Isaiah 1:11-12**] And, in the book of Jeremiah we read;

“Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Put your burnt offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat flesh. For I spoke not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices; But this thing I commanded them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people; and walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels, and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward. [**Jeremiah 7:21-24**] * see also [**Hebrews 10:4-14**]

(C) Oblation offerings. “he that offers an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood;”

One would need a Ph.D. in sacrificing from the University of Oblations in order to understand all the ways oblation offerings could be performed. Read [Leviticus 3:1-17] to see a few.

To the Jews, Swine were unclean animals. And among the animals that were considered to be unclean, they were probably near or at the bottom of the food chain.

[Deuteronomy 14:8] And the swine, because it divides the hoof, yet chews not the cud, it is unclean unto you; you shall not eat of their flesh, nor touch their dead carcass.

So, the Lord told them that when they offer an oblation, it had no more religious value than if they offered swine's blood! No wonder the Lord told Jeremiah, as recorded in;

[Jeremiah 14:11-12] Pray not for this people for their good. [12] When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them; but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence.

(D) Burning incense. “he that burns incense, as if he blessed an idol;”

The word “incense” as written in [Revelation 8:3-4] and in [Malachi 1:11] meant “acceptable prayers and praises.” But here, they are burning incense as if they were blessing idols! And not only did they burn incense in blessing idols, they burned incense to the gods they had created!

[Jeremiah 1:16] And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshiped the works of their own hands. [Hosea 11:1-4]

[Jeremiah 11:9-13] ... though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them. [12] Then shall the cities of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem go, and cry unto the gods unto whom they offer incense; but they shall not save them at all in the time of their trouble. [13] For according to the number of your cities were your gods, O Judah; and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem you have set up altars to that shameful thing, even to burn incense unto Baal.

As if that was not shameful enough; they burned incense to worship “the queen of heaven!”

[Jeremiah 44:17-18] But we will certainly do whatsoever thing that goes forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, ... (notice this) [18] But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by famine.

The Lord said, “Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me. [Isa 1:13]

[Isaiah 65:2-5] I have spread out my hands all the day to a people who walk not in my ways, and their works are evil and not good, and they walk after their own thoughts. [3] A people that provoke me to anger continually to my face; that burn incense upon altars; ... These are a smoke in my nose.

If God did not tell them to do these things, why did they do them?

“The Jews were a stiff-necked people; and they despised the words of plainness, and killed the prophets, and sought for things that they could not understand. Wherefore, ... God has taken away his plainness from them, and delivered unto them many things which they could not understand, because they desired it. || And “because they received not the love of the truth, ... God sends them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.” [Jacob 3:22-25] || [2 Thes 2:8-12]

Even today, we see how far people stray from the truth when they disregard God’s word.