

The Seventh Seal

Revelation 8:1-5



Revelation 8:1-5 (HCSB)

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

2 Then I saw the seven angels who stand in the presence of God; seven trumpets were given to them.



Revelation 8:1-5 (HCSB)

3 Another angel, with a gold incense burner, came and stood at the altar. He was given a large amount of incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the gold altar in front of the throne.

4 The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up in the presence of God from the angel's hand.



Revelation 8:1-5 (HCSB)

5 The angel took the incense burner, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it to the earth; there were thunders, rumblings, lightnings, and an earthquake.



1. The Silence

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

After all that loudness, as the full fury of the final judgments is about to be released, **silence** falls on the heavenly scene. The implication is that when the judgment about to happen becomes visible as the seventh seal is broken and the scroll unrolled



2. The Seven Trumpets

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

The verb translated *stand* is in the perfect tense, which indicates that they were in the presence of God and had been there for a time.

Each of the seven trumpets unleashes a specific judgment of greater intensity than the first six seals, but not as destructive as the seven bowls



3. The Preparation

3 Another angel, with a gold incense burner, came and stood at the altar. He was given a large amount of incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the gold altar in front of the throne.



There is a sense of anticipation as these prayers rise before God. They will shortly be answered; God's wrath and His people's prayers are connected.

4. The Judgment

5. Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.



Heaven's half hour of silence is abruptly shattered and judgment resumes as a divine firestorm bursts upon this planet.

The Facts

The unbelieving world rejected Jesus when He came, it rejects the life-giving message of the gospel now, and will continue to reject the truth even during the future outpouring of God's wrath and judgment.

Are we ready to prepare the world for an upcoming judgment?

