

Opening the Seventh Seal

The Seven Trumpet and Seven Bowl Judgments

“And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.” (Revelation 8:1)

NOTES

I. Silence in Heaven

A. The Timing of this Silence

- ➔ Precedes the trumpet and bowl judgments
- ➔ Likely occurs just after the midpoint of the Tribulation when antichrist breaks his treaty with Israel, desecrates the temple, proclaims himself as “God,” and launches all-out warfare against the Jews.

B. The Purpose of this Silence

- ➔ All of heaven awaits God’s response to antichrist’s actions.
- ➔ The 7 trumpet judgments and 7 bowl judgments are God’s judgments sent forth in response to Antichrist’s actions.
- ➔ These judgments likely occur during the 2nd half of the tribulation and are referred to as the “day of wrath” (Zeph. 1:14-15; 6:17) or the “great tribulation” (Matt. 24:21)
 - *“hide us from the wrath of the Lamb” (6:16)*
 - *“the great day of His wrath” (6:17)*
 - *“thy wrath is come” (11:18)*
 - *“the great winepress of the wrath of God” (14:19; 16:19)*
 - *“the wrath of God” (15:1, 7; 16:1)*
 - *“the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God” (Rev. 19:15)*

Why is God’s wrath poured out on the earth?

- 1) To judge AntiChrist because of his policies toward Israel (Gen. 12:3)
- 2) To judge those who follow the Antichrist ((i.e. rebellious Gentile nations who refuse to repent—Psa. 79:6; Isa. 13:9; Rev. 6:15-18; 11:18; 14:9-10)
- 3) To turn national Israel to repentance so that the promises of God can be fulfilled (Jer. 32:37).
- 4) To reverse the curse on the earth and usher in the Millennial Kingdom (Isaiah 24:17-23; 25:7-8).

II. The Angel Offering Incense

“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.” (Revelation 8:3)

- A. This “angel” be a reference to Jesus Christ Himself in His intercessory role for believers.
- B. The “prayers of all saints” no doubt includes the cries of the Tribulation martyrs for God to avenge their blood (Rev. 6:10).

➔ Jesus is praying for you!

“Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7:25)

III. An Electrical Storm

“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.” (Revelation 8:5)

- A. The prayers of the saints become the catalyst for God’s judgment on an unrepentant world.
- B. The storm is characterized by tremendous thunderings, lightnings, and earthquakes, but no rain.

IV. Seven Trumpet Judgments and Seven Bowl Judgments

	Trumpet Judgments	Bowl Judgments
#1	Global Hailstorm & Fire mixed with Blood (8:6-7)	Painful Sores (16:1-2)
#2	A Burning Mountain thrown into the Sea (8:8-9)	The Sea Turns to Blood (16:3)
#3	A Star falls from the Sky (8:10-11)	The Rivers & Springs turn to Blood (16:4-7)
#4	1/3 of the Sun, Moon, and Stars become Dark (8:12-13)	Scorching Heat from the Sun (16:8-9)
#5	Locusts from the Abyss (9:1-12)	Darkness & Grievous Pain (16:10-11)
#6	Four Angels & their Army (9:13-21)	Preparation for the Battle of Armageddon (16:12-16)
#7	Jesus’ Exaltation as King of kings (11:15-19)	“It is Done” (16:17-21)