

# REVELATION

The Seventh Seal  
(Revelation 8:1~5)

*Genesis 15:13-14: Then the LORD said to Abram,  
“Know for certain that your offspring will be  
sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be  
servants there, and they will be afflicted for four  
hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the  
nation that they serve, and afterward they shall  
come out with great possessions.”*

What two things does God promise  
to do?

*Exodus 2:23-25: During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.*

God heard Israel's prayer and  
remembered His covenant.

*Revelation 8:1-5: When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.*

*Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.*

Opening of seventh seal allows the entire scroll to be opened.



Seven angels receive seven trumpets  
to bring more judgment.

Like in Exodus, prayer is the catalyst  
the brings God's judgment (Rev 6:9-  
11).

We must be committed to prayer,  
particularly for the fulfillment of  
God's promises.

# 1. When the seventh seal is opened, there is silence in heaven.

- ❖ Revelation 8:1: When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was **silence** in heaven for about half an hour.
- ❖ Silence is a surprising climax to the seven seals.
- ❖ The seal *does* bring more than just silence, but it starts with silence.

# 1. When the seventh seal is opened, there is silence in heaven.

A. Silence often accompanies God's judgment.

❖ Habakkuk 2:18-20: What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols! Woe to him who says to a wooden thing, "Awake; to a silent stone, Arise!" Can this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in it. But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth **keep silence** before him.



# 1. When the seventh seal is opened, there is silence in heaven.

B. Why is there silence in Revelation 8?

- ❖ Silence that submits to the truth and righteousness of God's judgment
- ❖ Reverential silence that is in awe of the coming judgments on earth

## 2. The seven angels are given seven trumpets.

- ❖ Revelation 8:2: Then I saw **the** seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.
- ❖ This appears to be a particular group of angels who have the privilege of standing before God.
- ❖ Luke 1:19: And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. **I stand in the presence of God**, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.”

## 2. The seven angels are given seven trumpets.

A. The opening of the seventh seal brings the seven trumpet judgments.

- ❖ Verse 2 shows the angels receiving the trumpets in the seventh seal, and verse 7 brings the beginning of the trumpet judgments.



## 2. The seven angels are given seven trumpets.

### B. The structure of the judgments of Revelation

- ❖ Consecutive: Seals, then Trumpets, then Bowls
- ❖ Recapitulation: Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls refer to the same seven judgments in three different ways.

## 2. The seven angels are given seven trumpets.

B. The structure of the judgments of Revelation

- ❖ The seventh seal, seventh trumpet, and seventh bowl all mention an earthquake.
- ❖ But the sixth and seventh seals both mention an earthquake, and that does not mean they refer to the *same* earthquake.

## 2. The seven angels are given seven trumpets.

### B. The structure of the judgments of Revelation

- ❖ Revelation 8:8-9: The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and **a third of the sea became blood**. **A third of the living creatures in the sea died**, and a third of the ships were destroyed.
- ❖ Revelation 16:3: The second angel poured out his bowl into **the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse**, and **every living thing died that was in the sea**.

### 3. The final scene reveals another angel by the altar in heaven.

- ❖ Revelation 8:3-5: And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

### 3. The final scene reveals another angel by the altar in heaven.

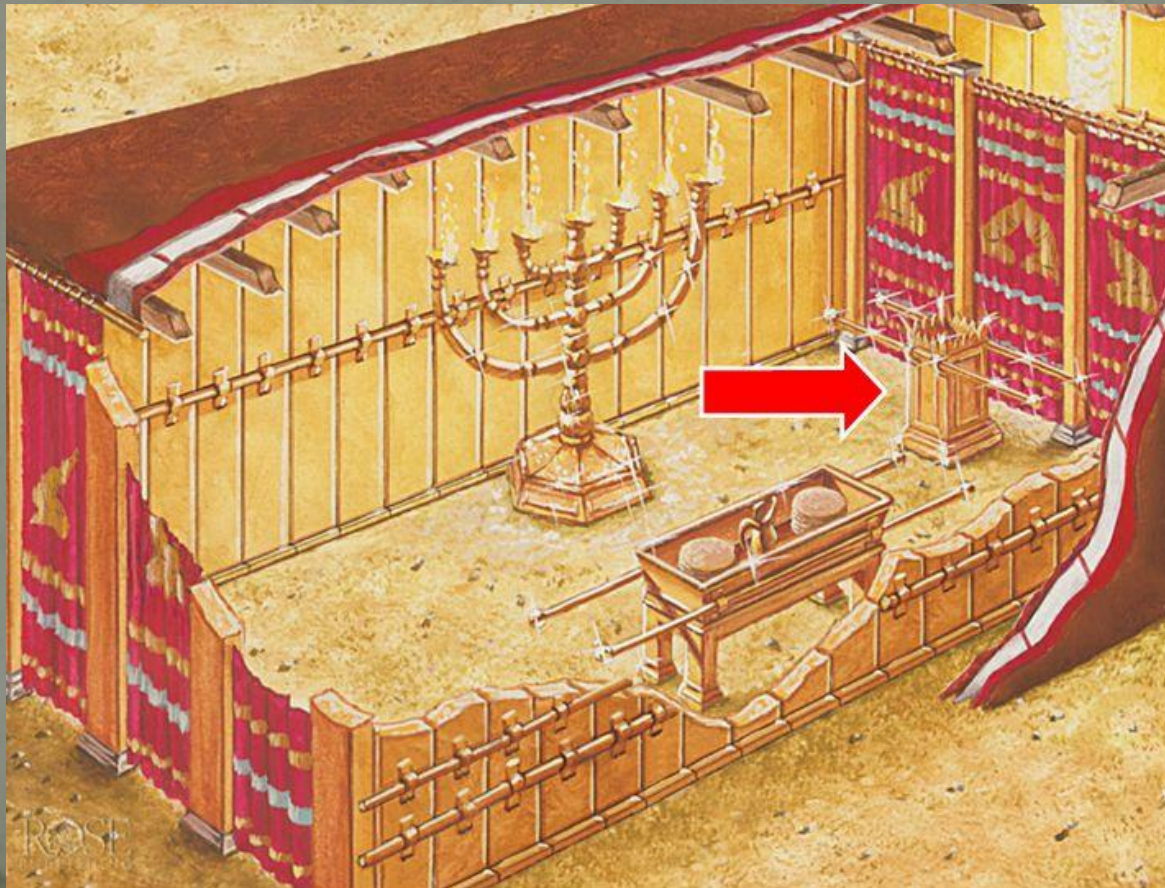
A. The first thing the angel does is offer incense on the altar.

❖ Psalm 141:2: Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!



### 3. The final scene reveals another angel by the altar in heaven.

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❖ Luke 1:8-10: Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And **the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense.**

### 3. The final scene reveals another angel by the altar in heaven.

A. The first thing the angel does is offer incense on the altar.

- ❖ God promised a Messiah and promised John the Baptist would come.
- ❖ The announcement of the fulfillment of these promises came in response to prayer.
- ❖ In Revelation 8, the prayers of the saints ascend to God with the incense.

### 3. The final scene reveals another angel by the altar in heaven.

B. The prayers of the saints are instrumental in bringing the fulfillment of God's promises.

❖ In Revelation 6, for what did the martyrs under the altar pray?



### 3. The final scene reveals another angel by the altar in heaven.

B. The prayers of the saints are instrumental in bringing the fulfillment of God's promises.

- ❖ Exodus 2: God remembers His covenant.
- ❖ Judges: God delivers Israel when they repent and turn to Him.
- ❖ Luke 1: God announces the birth of John the Baptist.

### 3. The final scene reveals another angel by the altar in heaven.

C. The final thing the angel does is throw fire to the earth.

- ❖ Revelation 8:5: Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.
- ❖ The prayers have been heard, and God will send judgment.

### 3. The final scene reveals another angel by the altar in heaven.

C. The final thing the angel does is throw fire to the earth.

❖ Ezekiel 10:1-2: Then I looked, and behold, on the expanse that was over the heads of the cherubim there appeared above them something like a sapphire, in appearance like a throne. And he said to the man clothed in linen, “Go in among the whirling wheels underneath the cherubim. Fill your hands with burning coals from between the cherubim, and scatter them over the city.” And he went in before my eyes.

### 3. The final scene reveals another angel by the altar in heaven.

C. The final thing the angel does is throw fire to the earth.

- ❖ In Ezekiel 10, the glory of the Lord is departing the temple and judgment is coming.
- ❖ In Ezekiel, what is the last thing this man in linen did?
- ❖ The casting of coals of fire on Jerusalem and on earth signal judgment.



# Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- Prayer is often the catalyst for the fulfillment of God's promises.
- E.M. Bounds: Many people believe in the efficacy of prayer, but not many people pray.
- We must be committed to prayer, particularly for the fulfillment of God's promises.

# Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- We must pray both for the grand scheme of God's plan as well as the individual details.
- Matthew 16:18: And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build my church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

# **Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?**

- “I will build My church.”

1. Pray for the building up of the church throughout the world.

2. Pray for the building up of this local church.

3. Pray that God would guide and enable us individually in the building up of this local church.

NEXT TIME:  
REVELATION 8:6-13

- The First Four Trumpets