



REVELATION. 8:1-6 SILENCE IN HEAVEN!

Six seals have been broken so far:

1. **White Horse:** Introduction of the Antichrist. – “and he went out **conquering and to conquer**”
2. **Red Horse:** “to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword” – global nuclear war (?) focused on Israel.
3. **Black Horse:** famine – the natural outcome of a global nuclear war.
4. **Pale Horse:** Death with Hades following close after; “power was given to them over a **fourth of the earth**, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.”
 - **1/4th of the world population laying dead on the ground!**
5. Revealing the martyred saints below the Throne of God awaiting their glorified bodies.
6. Great cataclysmic events on earth: huge earthquakes, great meteor showers, people crying for death.

The final seal is now to be broken on this interesting Scroll

- What happens to the Scroll now?
- Why isn't it read, or as a contract/covenant enforced?
- The Scroll from the Father's hand is not mentioned again in Revelation.

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



OPENING OF THE SEVENTH SEAL.
Rev. viii. 1-6.

- “In the Jewish temple, musical instruments and singing resounded during the whole time of the offering of the sacrifices, which formed the first part of the service. **But at the offering of incense, solemn silence was kept.**” ¹

- Zephaniah prophesied great silence in Heaven before the Great Day of the Lord:

Zephaniah 1:7–8

7 Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD;
For the day of the LORD is at hand,
For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
He has invited His guests.

8 “And it shall be, In the day of the LORD’s sacrifice,
That I will punish the princes and the king’s children,

Zechariah 2:13 Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD,
for He is aroused from His holy habitation!”
And all such as are clothed with foreign apparel.

- **Wiersbe:** “But when the Lamb opened the seventh seal, heaven was silent for about thirty minutes.

John does not tell us what caused the silence, but several possibilities exist.

The scroll had now been opened completely, and perhaps even turned over; and all of heaven could see God’s glorious plan unfolding. Perhaps the heavenly hosts were simply awestruck at what they saw.” ²

¹ A. R. Fausset, “The Revelation of St. John the Divine,” in Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown, *A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments* (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997, 1877), Rev. 8:1.

² Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 592.

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



- “The seven angels” are introduced with the Greek definite article, which indicates not merely that “seven angels appeared,” but that **they are either “the seven angels, the well-known ones” or “the previously mentioned seven angels.”**³
 - **7 Angels – 7 trumpets** – each trumpet bringing tremendous woes upon the earth.
 - **7th Seal** actually revealing the 7 Angels with 7 Trumpets.
 - **7th Trumpet** actually revealing the 7 Bowls of God’s wrath.
 - **Enoch** names the 7 angels before God:
Enoch 20:1-8
 - 1** And these are the names of the holy angels who watch.
 - 2 Uriel**, one of the holy angels, who is over the world and over Tartarus.
 - 3 Raphael**, 4 one of the holy angels, who is over the spirits of men.
 - 4 Raguel**, one of the holy angels who takes vengeance on the world of the luminaries.

³ Gordon D. Fee, *Revelation*, New Covenant Commentary Series (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2011), 119–120.

5 Michael, one of the holy angels, to wit, he that is set over the best part of mankind «and» over chaos.

6 Saraqâêl, one of the holy angels, who is set over the spirits, who sin in the spirit.

7 Gabriel, one of the holy angels, who is over Paradise and the serpents and the Cherubim.

8 Remiel, one of the holy angels, whom God set over those who rise.
4

○ These are seven specific angels who are said to stand before God. Some have identified these with angels which are named in the books of Enoch and Tobit.

• But God has only chosen within the pages of **inspired Scripture** to reveal the names of **three powerful angels**:

1. **Lucifer** (Isa. 14:12),

2. **Gabriel** (Dan. 8:16; 9:21; Luke 1:19)

3. **Michael** (Dan. 10:13; 12:1; Jude 1:9; Rev. 12:7).

• **Seiss**: “**They are of particular rank and distinction, for not all angels are of the same dignity and office.**” Paul enumerates “dominions, principalities, and powers” [Col. 1:16] among the celestial orders. Daniel speaks of some chief princes [Dan. 10:13], Paul and Jude refer to archangels [1Th. 4:16; Jude 1:9]. Angelic beings are not, therefore, of one and the same grade. The sons of God, in general, come before him only at appointed times (Job 1:6) but the Savior speaks of some angels who “do always behold the face of the Father which is in heaven” (Mat. 18:10).
5

3 Then **another angel**, having a golden censer, came and **stood at the altar**. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

• Another Angel – not one of the 7 with the Trumpets

○ Standing at the Altar

▪ Is this the same Seraph who touched Isaiah when he was brought to Heaven’s tabernacle?

⁴ Robert Henry Charles, ed., *Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament*, vol. 2 (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1913), 201.

⁵ Seiss, *The Apocalypse: Lectures on the Book of Revelation*, Rev. 8:2.

Isaiah 6:6-7 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar.

7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged."

- In the Old Testament tabernacle a censer made of copper, probably heavy to handle, was used to carry coals from the brazen altar outside the tabernacle to the altar of incense inside the Temple. ⁶
 - The censer would hold the coals, and a separate vessel would carry the incense which was to be poured on the coals once the altar was reached. **The resulting smoke was typical of prayer ascending before God.** ⁷

4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

Sweet incense ⁸ – the Lord wants it before Him 24 hours a day!

Exodus 30:7-8

7 "Aaron shall burn on it **sweet incense every morning**; when he tends the lamps, he shall burn incense on it.

8 And when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense on it, **a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.**

Jubilees 2:22 And He caused His commands to ascend as a sweet savour acceptable before Him all the days....⁹

Psalms 141:2-4

2 **Let my prayer be set before You as incense,**

The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

3 Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;
Keep watch over the door of my lips.

4 Do not incline my heart to any evil thing,

⁶ Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

⁷ Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

⁸ The Greek word for "censer" in this case is derived from the word for "frankincense," the main ingredient in the divinely-prescribed incense used in the holy tabernacle of Israel (Exodus 30:34), an incense so sacred that its profane duplication for sensual enjoyment was punishable by death. (Henry M. Morris, *The Revelation Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Prophetic Book of the End Times* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1983), 142-143.)

⁹ Robert Henry Charles, ed., *Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament*, vol. 2 (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1913), 15.

To practice wicked works With men who work iniquity;
And do not let me eat of their delicacies.

Revelation 5:8

8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, **and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.**

2 Corinthians 2:15 **For we are to God the fragrance of Christ** among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

- Come boldly with your fragrant prayers, every morning!

Hebrews 4:15–16

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

16 **Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,** that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 10:19–22

19 Therefore, brethren, **having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,**

20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,

21 and having a High Priest over the house of God,

22 **let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,** having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

- All this in response to the cries and prayer of us saints to our Father!

“All this occurs in answer to the prayers of the saints. There are those who think meanly of prayer, and are always asking: ‘What profit should we have if we pray unto the Almighty?’ (**Job 21:15**) The true answer is, ‘much every way.’

There is an eye that never sleeps
Beneath the wing of night;
There is an ear that never shuts
When sink the beams of light.

There is an arm that never tires
When human strength gives way;
There is a love that never fails
When earthly loves decay.

That eye is fixed on seraph throngs;
That arm upholds the sky;
That ear is filled with angel songs;
That love is throned on high.

But there's a power which man can wield,
When mortal aid is vain,
That eye, that ear, that love to reach,
That listening ear to gain.

That power is PRAYER, which soars on high,
Through Jesus, to the throne;
And moves the hand which moves the world,
To bring salvation down!"¹⁰

- **Noises** is φωναὶ [*phōnai*] which can also be translated as “voices” (ASV, KJV, YLT). It is translated as “noises” in Revelation [8:5](#) and by “sound” in Revelation [9:9](#). The noises (or “voices”), *thunderings*, *lightnings* and *earthquake* are all indicators of judgment. There is a direct cause-and-effect relationship between the prayers of the saints which were mingled in the censer before its contents were thrown to the earth and these indicators of impending judgment.
- Perhaps the most disastrous fire created by lightning was in **San Luis Obispo, California**, on April 7, 1926. It raged for five days, spread over 900

¹⁰ Seiss, *The Apocalypse: Lectures on the Book of Revelation*, 187.

acres, burnt nearly 6 million barrels of oil and destroyed \$15 million worth of property. Amazingly, only two people died. ¹¹

6 So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
Green grass and 1/3 of the trees are burned up. Rev. 8:7	1/3 of sea becomes blood; 1/3 of ships and sea life destroyed. Rev. 8:8-9	1/3 of waters turn bitter. Rev. 8:1-11	1/3 of sun, moon, and stars do not shine. Rev. 8:12	"Locusts" wield the Beast's military power. Rev. 9:1-12	200-million-man army; a third of mankind killed. Rev. 9:13-21	The Kingdom of God is declared. Rev. 11:15-19

¹¹Tan, P. L. (1996, c1979). *Encyclopedia of 7700 illustrations : [a treasury of illustrations, anecdotes, facts and quotations for pastors, teachers and Christian workers]*. Garland TX: Bible Communications.