

### A Quick Review:

**Chapters 1** - Introduction to Apokalypsis – The unveiling

**Chapter 2 and 3** – The messages to the Seven Churches

**Chapter 4** – John enters heaven and sets the scene – “Throne”

**Chapter 5** – The “Seal” and the “Lamb that was slain”

**Chapter 6** – The opening of six seals and the four horsemen

- White horse – making war
- Red horse – taking peace – make chaos
- Black horse – oppression and injustice
- Pale horse – death and hades
- Fifth seal – the cry of the martyrs – season of martyrdom
- Sixth seal – cosmic disruptions

**Chapter 7** – The sealing of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists and the appearance of the saints of God – serving God and being shepherded by Jesus Christ.

## I. The Seventh Seal is Opened (vs 1 – 6)

### Verse 1

When he had

opened the seventh seal

there was silence (sige = to command silence)  
in heaven

for about half and hour (only usage!)

The awesome moment that scroll is opened!

Silence (in heaven) not necessary on earth

Zech. 2:13 – “Be silent, O all flesh, before the Lord...”

Sige means to “hiss” - that a time of silence is commanded at this point.

“half and hour” is only used this one time in all the scripture.

Such a loud place is overcome with silence as if breathless!

### Verse 2

And I saw (horao)

the seven angels that stand before God

- According to Jewish tradition, there are seven angels that stand before God’s presence ready to go at his command.
- Possibly the “seven-fold spirit of God”.
- Possible the seven lamps standing before the throne.

and to them were given

seven trumpets (salpigx)

Trumpets were important to Jewish life:

- 1) call to alarm (army/attack)
- 2) call to assemble (worship/meet)
- 3) call to awareness (important events)



### Verse 3

Another (allos = another of the same kind) angel

who had a golden censer (libanotos),

- used in the OT temple (Ex. 30:1-9)
- Priest filled with live coals from the burnt offerings
- threw in incense to make smoke an aroma (Lev. 16)
- common use was brass – Day of Atonement was gold

came and stood at the altar.

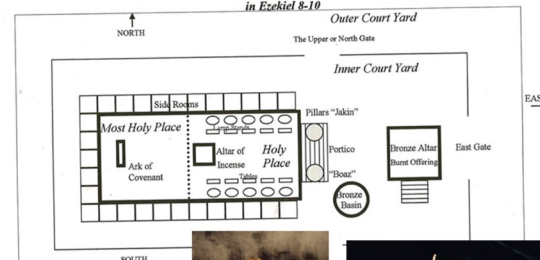
He was given much incense (thymiama) to offer,

with the prayers of all the saints,

on the golden altar before the throne

- incense = prayers = precious, pleasant, and pleasing
- prayer releases the trumpet judgements
- The “golden altar” = the “altar of incense” in the temple.

Solomon's Temple as seen in Jerusalem  
in Ezekiel's vision of 592 BC  
in Ezekiel 8-10



#### Verse 4

The smoke (12 x in Rev.) of the incense,  
together with the prayers (proseuche) of the saints,

Proseuche = earnest cries unto God

Mixed with incense – relationship to the covenant of God

“Saints” = all God’s people – not super Christians

There is not scriptural teaching that we should pray through “saints” of old.

We pray to The Father – through the Son – for He alone is worthy!

“**Imprecatory psalms**” (7,26,35,52,55,58...) = calls God to uphold His law and vindicate His people!

went up before God  
from the angel’s hand.



#### Verse 5

Then the angel took the censer  
filled it with fire from the altar [in heaven]  
and hurled it onto the earth;

The earthly temple is a picture of the heavenly one. (Heb. 8:5 – “They serve at a sanctuary that is a **copy** and **shadow** of what is in heaven.”)

The prayers of God’s people turn the tool of worship into a vehicle of judgement upon the earth

And their came

- 1) pearls of thunder,
- 2) rumblings,
- 3) flashes of lightening,
- 4) and an earthquake.

} God’s power  
and presence

#### Verse 6

Then the seven angels  
that had the seven trumpets  
prepared to sound them.

So, the seven seals opened – the scroll reveals more specific judgements through the trumpets and the bowls.

Two ways of viewing the trumpets compared to the seals:

- 1) Poetic – repeating with more clarification – more detail
- 2) Sequential – moving from one to the next

There is no way to be absolutely sure, but with John’s use of the term “**then**” so regularly, I am choosing to see these as more sequential events rather than repeated.

## II. The First Four Trumpets (vs 7 – 12)

#### Verse 7

The first angel

[The Earth]

sounded his trumpet,

- 1) and there came hail and fire  
mixed with blood  
hurled down upon the earth.

Reminds us of Sodom and Gomorrah, Joel 2:30 – “blood and fire” in the last days, and plagues of Egypt.

“Blood” = probably the color red – Or blood from the bronze altar – possibilities: Nuclear detonation, volcanoes, or meteors

- 2) a third of the earth was burned up,
- 3) a third of the trees were burned up,
- 4) and all the green grass was burned up.

#### Verse 8

The second angel

[The Sea]

sounded his trumpet,

- 1) and something like a huge mountain,  
all ablaze,  
was throne into the sea.

Not an actual mountain – but a large blazing mass - Possibly a meteor. Local or global?

#### Verse 9

- 2) a third of the sea was turned into blood,

Reminds us of the plagues of Egypt (Ex. 7)

- 3) a third of the sea creatures died,
- 4) and a third of the ships were destroyed.



Verse 10

The third angel [The Rivers/Fresh Water]

sounded his trumpet,

- 1) and a great star,  
blazing like a torch,  
fell from the sky  
on a third of the rivers (100 in the world)  
and on the springs of water

Verse 11

the name of the star is Wormwood (apsinthion)

“apsinthion” = undrinkable – sign of sorrow and bitterness

- 2) a third of the waters turned bitter,
- 3) many peoples died  
from the waters  
that had become bitter.

People die due to this “bitterness” which means that it is more than just taste.

Verse 12

The fourth angel [The Heavens]

sounded his trumpet,

- 1) and a third of the sun was struck,
- 2) a third of the moon,
- 3) a third of the stars,  
so that a third of them turned dark.
- 4) a third of the day  
was without light,  
and a third of the night.

This strikes the entire earth – the sun is the foundation of all life.  
Similar to the ninth plague on Egypt. (Ex. 10)

### III. The Woe! for the Rest (vs 13)

Verse 13

As I watched (horao),

I heard an eagle  
that was flying in midair  
call out in a loud voice:

“Woe! (ouai = exclamation of grief) Woe!  
Woe to the inhabitants (katoikeo = those who  
love/reside) of the earth,  
because of the trumpet blasts  
about to be sounded  
by the other three angels!”

You think things are bad now! Just wait – it is going to get  
personal!

## Prayer Concerns: