

### Discussion Questions & Application:

1. Imagine being in heaven when Jesus opens the seventh seal. So far there has been loud noises, loud singing, shouting, and multitudes worshiping. The last seal is opened and there is silence for about 30 minutes. Why is it silent all of a sudden? What impact would this have on you? How would it prepare you for the judgments that are about to come? See Ps. 76:8-9; Hab. 2:20; Zeph. 1:7; Zech. 2:13.
2. Unlike all the other seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments, the seventh seal and the seventh trumpet (10:7; 11:15-17) do not describe a specific judgment. Why? How does that help us with the flow / structure of Revelation?
3. What was the altar of incense in the Old Testament tabernacle or temple? Where was it located? What was its significance in the daily worship of Israel? See Ex. 30; Is. 6:6; Ezek. 10:2. According to Rev. 5:8, what does the incense represent?
4. What were the saints praying for in Rev. 6:9-11? What does it mean when saints pray, “Maranatha”?
5. What is the connection between the prayers of the saints and what happens in verses 5-6 and ultimately through the rest of Revelation? See Ps. 141:2.
6. Some people say, “If God is sovereign and is going to do what He plans to do, why should I bother praying about it?” What evidence do we have in the Bible that our prayers play a part in the outworking of God’s plan?
7. God delights to hear and answer our prayers. They are like sweet smelling incense to Him. How much time do you spend daily in prayer? Is it a model for future generations?
8. Today is Father’s Day. How important is prayer in the life of a godly father? What are some things a father should pray about for his children? How can a father model the priority of prayer for his children? What does your daily prayer life look like? What would you like it to become this year? What steps will you take this week?

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*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*

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Rev. 8:1-6

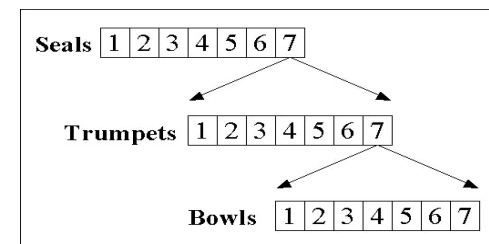
### **“The Things Which Will Take Place” – Part 10 “The Trumpets & The Prayers of the Saints”**

- I. The Things Which You Have Seen (1)
- II. The Things Which Are (2-3)
- III. **The Things Which Will Take Place After These Things (4-22)**
  - A. Vision of Heaven (4-5)
  - B. **Opening of the Seven Seals (6:1-8:1)**
    1. Seal 1: Peaceful Conquest (6:1-2)
    2. Seal 2: Warfare and Bloodshed (6:3-4)
    3. Seal 3: Widespread Famine (6:5-6)
    4. Seal 4: Death to a Fourth of Earth’s Inhabitants (6:7-8)
    5. Seal 5: Prayers for Divine Vengeance (6:9-11)
    6. Seal 6: Cosmic and Terrestrial Disturbances (6:12-17)
    7. Interlude: The Slaves of God (7:1-17)

### **8. Seal 7: Silence Before the Seven Trumpets (8:1)**

**<sup>1</sup> When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.**

**Silence** - Dr. Robert Thomas - Five proposals: (1) Silence at the beginning of the sabbatical rest or the Millennium. (2) Not literal silence because of the continuing heavenly songs, but is a brief cessation in judgment. (3) A temporary suspension of the revelations granted to John. (4) A pause in the heavenly praises to allow the prayers of the saints to be heard before the throne. (5) A dramatic pause to symbolize the awe and dread with which the heavenly hosts await the events about to happen.



## **C. Sounding of the Seven Trumpets (8:2-11:19)**

### **1. The Setting of the Trumpets: The Prayers of the Saints (8:2-6)**

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

Trumpets in the Bible (Num. 10:2, 9, 10; 1 Sam. 13:3; 1 Kings 1:34, 39; 1 Chron. 16:6, 42; Zeph. 1:14-16; 1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:16)

**<sup>3</sup> Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne.**

- Altar (Ex. 30; Is. 6:6; Ezek. 10:2)
- Golden censer / incense (Lev. 16:12-13; 1 Kings 7:50; 2 Kings 25:15; 2 Chron. 4:22; Jer. 52:18–19; Ex. 30:34-38)
- Prayers of all the saints (Rev. 5:8; Ps. 141:2; Rev. 6:9-11)

**<sup>4</sup> And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand.**

**<sup>5</sup> 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.**

- Prayers > judgment (Ezek. 10:2-7) – Sovereignty of God and prayer?
- Thunder / lightning (Ex. 19:16-19; Rev. 3:10; 4:5; 11:19; 16:18)
- Earthquake (Rev. 6:12; 11:13, 19; 16:18)

**<sup>6</sup> And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.**

**So What?**