Book of Revelation – Prelude to the Seven Trumpets
(Revelation 8:1-5)

Series REV-12

Read Revelation 8:1-5 first.

The seals have been opened, the book on which they were placed is now opened (Rev 10:2), and seven angels having received trumpets are prepared to blow them. Starting in Revelation 1, we have moved from the holy place of the temple in heaven, through the reception of messages to seven churches. On next through a throne scene in the most holy signifying the beginning of the end as the "judgment of the living" reaches its first phase of completion in the form of seals as Christ checks out His remnant people/church. The Church is ready. The faithful have been shaken, purified and sealed. They are *now prepared to sound the messages* to the world along with the contents of the book which is now opened.

Before looking at the seventh seal, let's review the sixth seal. We recall that the sixth seal opens with signs on the earth and in the heavens, which have occurred in the fulfillment of Bible prophecy last 250 years. However, there is a spiritual understanding to these signs as we've seen. The chapter ends with a run up to the Second Coming and the question is posed, "who shall be able to stand?" Chapter 7 answers that question.

Now we begin Revelation 8, when the 7th seal is opened. It is worth noting:

- the opening of the six seals has tremendous impact on the church.
- the opening of the seventh seal has an impact on the heavenly host.

Revelation 8 (Rev 8:1-5)

So the question is asked, Where is the silence?" (vs.1) __Heaven____. This is a very unique phrase, for it is not mentioned anywhere else in Scripture. But it's quite interesting to note that this phrase is mentioned 66 times in SOP, mostly repeated in a number of books. {Feel free to do some research and share your findings with the group Monday night. The majority of times this phrase in the inspired writings, "*silence in heaven*" is mentioned is in reference to another event, as you will see and it's not the Second Coming.}

Over time, many books, articles and even Bible studies have been written to try and make this 'silence' tied to the Second Coming. Some misapply a couple SOP statements which refer to a period of 'awful silence" when at the Second Coming Christ enters our earth's atmosphere. But this is silence on earth, not in heaven. Further, it is entirely out of sequence to what we are studying here.

Let us look at what comes next:

Vs.2 & 6 have a matching theme: 7 __Angels___ and 7 __Trumpets_____.

In verse two we notice the word "stood". This word is mentioned 11 times in the book of Revelation. I've listed the first three, below. Take some time to look up the rest of the verses after it is mentioned here in verse 2. Then look the word up in Strong's Concordance and write down the meaning you think might be applicable here in these verses:

Rev 5:6 – In the midst…stood a Lamb as it had been slain

Rev 7:9 – Lo, a great multitude…stood before the throne

Rev 7:11 – And all the angels stood round about the throne

The word "stood" G2476 means: to cause to make stand, to put, to establish. It also can mean -to abide, appoint, continue, even covenant.

Then go back and look at all the verses again in the Revelation and see if something new comes to light. {Hint: There is a connection between Rev 5:6; 8:2,3; 14:1 where this word is used. Come prepared to share your findings in class.}

The Lamb stood (5:6), seven angels stood (8:2), an angel stood at the altar (8:3), and the 144,000 stood with the Lamb on Mt. Zion (14:1). What's the connection, seems obvious

The next three verses are full of meaning, let us study each in its own right:

Vs. 3 – *"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.*

What is going on in this verse: {answer in your own words} _____

Intercession is still in progress, for the world is about to be warned with 7 angels blowing 7 trumpets in a final latter rain about to be poured out.

Obviously, if mediation is still going on in heaven in this verse, probationary time has not closed and the "silence in heaven" in vs.1 could not refer to the Second Coming.}

A number of questions arise as we look closely at this verse:

1) a) Who is this angel that comes and stands at the altar with this golden censer? _____Jesus_____{Hint: If the golden censer only was used on Day of Atonement, who then might that individual be? (Look up 1888 Materials p.868.1,2)}
   b) What is represented by the "incense" in that censer? ___Christ's purity and righteousness_____.

2) Why 'much incense'? Does this have something to do with the counterpart of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2? ____Rev 18:1 reveals that the latter rain will result in a 'loud cry', lightening the earth with God's glory._____

3) He offers it with "the prayers of all saints"? All saints? Does this mean all who will be saved? If so, then this implies that the 'all saints' will need to go through what event which will enable them to "confess their sins" so that they can "go beforehand to judgment that they may be forgiven for Christ's sake, and that pardon may be written against their names"? {ibid}

_____ "the Investigative Judgment" _____.

The next verse is the follow through of the prior verse.

Vs. 4 – *"And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.*

As we have seen throughout this great book of Revelation, it is littered with Sanctuary language. Here is another phrase supporting this claim—the smoke of the incense.

Now we need to make this practical. To help us here, we will look at the next paragraph from that statement in 1888 Matl's p. 868.2

> *"Would you not feel that if Christ is praying for you, you can pray for yourself with an intensity of perseverance, and that all inferior aid is just what it is—finite and worthless? With Jesus as your Advocate, and you believing, confessing your sins with contrition of soul, and dying to self, would you not feel assured your suit is indeed gained? Would you not feel the evidence in your own soul that Jesus was* ***amply able to do all things for you****, and that the foot of the cross was the only place of safety for you?"*

Oh, isn't this a touching statement? How can any resist our Advocate Jesus who is "amply able to do all things for you," for each of us? Are we coming to the foot of the cross daily and there emptying ourselves, so that the Holy Spirit can fill us?

Vs. 5 – *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 thundering,s and lightenings, and an earthquake.*

What do you think this means for us today? Could it be a future event? _____ ___ Latter Rain _____.

This will provide a solid backdrop to our understandings of the Seven Trumpets.

Look forward to your findings which we will discuss in class.
May the Holy Spirit guide you into all truth as we explore these themes for the Glory of God and for our good.