



“God’s Mercy and Justice”

Revelation 8:1-7
September 6, 2026

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: [Rev 8:1-7]

"1 When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. 3 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. 4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. 5 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. 6 And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them. 7 The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up." [Rev 8:1-7 NASB95]

INTRODUCTION:

The signal to begin the great tribulation begins as the prayers of the saints goes up to God and the angel casts the coals of altar of burnt offering down.

Main point: The imprecatory prayers of the martyrs for justice, along with the prayers of all the saints accompanied with the fragrant aroma of the incense at the golden altar tells us God hears and will justly answer. The Old Testament imagery helps us to understand God’s prophetic plan.

Contextual point: There have always been natural catastrophes but during the seven year period of the tribulation the catastrophes will inflict global disaster and casualties like no other time since the flood.

Application: God answers prayers for injustice but He answers in His timing and often with delays.

The Opening of the 7th Seal proves that the love and mercy of God requires _____.

"1 When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour." [Rev 8:1 NASB95]

1. What is the significance of the _____?

1. The seven angels may refer to the angels of the seven _____.

"And I saw **the seven angels who stand before God**, and seven trumpets were given to them." [Rev 8:2]

2. Gabriel is identified as an angel that _____ before God

"18 And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." 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." [Luk 1:18-19 ESV]

3. Repetition of the number seven which often signifies rest is _____ in times of holy war?

"2 The LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king [and] the valiant warriors. 3 "You shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days. 4 "Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets." [Jos 6:2-4]

2. What does the priest angel before the throne of God _____?

"3 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," [Rev 8:3 ESV]

1. Angels have names and we will judge them yet they are _____. ("another angel"10xs)

"3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?" [1Co 6:3 NASB95]

2. **The angel priest mimics the _____ of the Levitical priests at the altar of burnt offerings.**
"3 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." [Rev 8:3 NASB95]

3. **He moves from the brazen altar to the altar of _____ to present the prayers of the saints.**
"4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand." [Rev 8:4 NASB95]

4. **He moves back to the altar of burnt offerings and filled his _____ and threw it to the earth.**
"5 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." [Rev 8:5 NASB95]

3. **What can we learn from the _____ to the trumpet judgments?**

"6 And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them." [Rev 8:6]

1. **The whole burnt offering made at the bronze altar...**

(1) **...was for _____ transferring our general sin nature to the animal.**

"4 'He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, that it may be accepted for him to make atonement on his behalf.'" [Lev 1:4 NASB95]

(2) **...was offered for our sin _____ the sin offerings for our personal sins.**

"2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma." [Eph 5:2 NASB95]

(3) **...and signified complete _____ of the tribulation martyrs.**

"18 "You shall offer up in smoke the whole ram on the altar; it is a burnt offering to the LORD: **it is a soothing aroma, an offering by fire to the LORD.**" [Exo 29:18 NASB95]

(4) **...signifies the fulfillment of the _____ of the kingdom to Israel.**

"41 "As a soothing aroma I will accept you when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered; and I will prove Myself holy among you in the sight of the nations." [Eze 20:41 NASB95]

(5) **...verifies the 144,000 have been raised up as first _____ for God's Holy War..**

"1 Then I looked, and behold, **the Lamb [was] standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand**, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads." [Rev 14:1 NASB95]

2. **At the altar of incense the prayers of the tribulation saints...**

(1) **...are added to the prayers of all the saints that _____ them.**

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.**

(2) **...like the prayers of the preceding saints are a _____ and acceptable sacrifice.**

"18 But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a **fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice**, well-pleasing to God." [Phl 4:18 NASB95]

(3) **...are offered as an _____ sacrifice to Holy God.**

"9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; 10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" [Rev 6:9-10 NASB95]

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3. The prayers of the saints...

(1) ...are accepted and _____ to God's throne.

"9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; 10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, **"How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"**" [Rev 6:9-10 NASB95]

(2) ...are venerated when the censer is filled with their sacrificial coals and _____ to earth.

"5 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." [Rev 8:5]

(3) ... _____ the trumpet judgments with the the angel casting down the censer of coals.

"6 And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets **prepared themselves to sound them.**" [Rev 8:6]

(4) ...are often answered generations after their _____ in God's economy.

"34 "Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, 35 so that upon you may fall [the guilt of] all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar." [Mat 23:34-35 NASB95]

CONCLUSION:

1. The duties of the Levitical priests in the Holy Place teach us much about God's _____ provision for the forgiveness of sin or His _____ penalty for sin.

"7 'The priest shall also put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of fragrant incense which is before the LORD in the tent of meeting; and all the blood of the bull he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering which is at the doorway of the tent of meeting." [Lev 4:7 NASB95]

2. We learn about God's gracious provision of _____.

"49 But Aaron and his sons offered on the altar of burnt offering and on the altar of incense, for all the work of the most holy place, and to make atonement for Israel, according to all that Moses the servant of God had commanded." [1Ch 6:49 NASB95]

3. We learn about the tribulation and the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ to judge the _____ and separate the sheep from the goats.

"31 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. 32 "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;" [Mat 25:31-32 NASB95]

"16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."" [Jhn 3:16-21]